

The UK's European university

University of
Kent

UNIVERSITY
OF KENT
INTERNATIONALISATION
STRATEGY 2025





OUR VISION - BY 2025

This document presents the renewed approach to Kent's international strategic activity from 2019-2025. The strategic direction of Kent's internationalisation, as described in the 2015-2020 strategy document, has been adjusted in response to the University's refreshed institutional strategy and changes in the Higher Education landscape, which have shifted significantly over the last 5 years.

Some of the key aspects of the University's vision, to which this renewed strategy responds, involve the University's ambition to be internationally recognized for its transformative student experience and employability outcomes. With regard to research, the 2019-2025 internationalisation strategy emphasizes existing and new signature areas where Kent matches the best in the world.

In terms of engagement, the 2019-2025 Internationalisation Strategy will continue to maintain our distinctive stake in continental Europe, with a strong European dimension. The Strategy will also strengthen our impact and reach across the wider international world through our educational delivery, including face-to-face, online and alternative pathways to Higher Education.

As with previous international strategies at Kent, it is the work and good practice of our schools and professional service departments which will realise the strategic activity described in this document. It is also accepted that this strategy will need to continue to develop alongside the challenges and opportunities which the University encounters between 2019 and 2025.

OUR VALUES

As described in the *University of Kent Strategy 2025*, Our institution is outward looking, we embrace change and we are willing to do things differently and see things differently. Our university is based on equality, diversity and respect and we value each other. We are international through our community, outreach and academic action.

Our strategy is informed by the principles of comprehensive internationalisation. We recognise that we need to connect globally across all our missions in order to serve students, partners and society. Our approach is also closely coupled with the concept of Knowledge Diplomacy, which recognises the important role that international higher education, research and innovation can play in the strengthening of relations between and among nations.

We continue to appreciate that everyone at Kent has a role to play in developing and extending the impact of our European and international activity. The breadth of our engagement and impact is championed through our ongoing **#Allinternational** campaign and at: www.kent.ac.uk/global



AMBITIONS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to support Kent's institutional vision, the Internationalisation Strategy will continue to support the three pillars* of Kent's core activity which have been restated in the new institutional strategy document:

1. Education and student experience
2. Research and innovation
3. Engagement, impact and civic mission

Kent's particular objectives in internationalisation are as follows:

International Esteem

We will capture and communicate the esteem from Kent's international and distinctively European education and signature research in ways which are meaningful and relevant to our international, European, national and local stakeholders.

Cultural Diversity

We will continue to embrace, embed and enhance European and international cultural awareness and diversity, inside and outside the classroom, through the achievement of our globally-focused graduate attributes. We will support our commitment to knowledge diplomacy through transformative international education and research.

Global Partnerships

We will further develop and draw on local, national, international and European partnerships, networks and alumni groups to support and advance our international education and research activity.

Global Reach and International Recruitment

We will make use of key relationships and geographies in our international recruitment to increase the proportion of international students and to develop our international community. We will also actively seek to make use of new technologies and alternative pathways in order to give students across the globe wider access to Kent's world-class academic provision.

*On the pages which follow, each internationalisation objective is cross-referenced back to the 3 institutional pillars (1, 2 and 3). Objectives drawn directly from the institutional strategy are coloured gold.



INTERNATIONAL ESTEEM

In order to capture and communicate Kent's international esteem, we will:

- identify and invest in a number of signature research areas and themes that represent the very best of our work, address global challenges and can be used to raise the profile of Kent and research and innovation at Kent 2
- support and incentivise international collaborations and networks 2
- intensify support to increase our external research income generation to at least that of our peer group 2
- embed sustainability through building the UN Sustainable Development Goals into our research, education, leadership, operations, administration and engagement 3
- expand and grow our community of postgraduate researchers 2
- refresh (and develop) our (international) alumni relations strategy 3
- seek to maximize the impact of international engagement activity through events at our European Centres and the *Think Kent Global Showcase* series. 3
- continue to offer MOOCs and share examples of our world-class research and education through electronic media and in other ways which are meaningful and accessible to a large scale global audience 1,2,3
- identify additional opportunities to demonstrate local and national impact of international research and education ventures 1,2,3



CULTURAL DIVERSITY

In order to continue to embrace, embed and enhance European and international cultural awareness and diversity, inside and outside the classroom, we will:

- ensure our portfolio (of programmes) is viable and reflects the diverse needs and best interests of our (international community of) students 1
- embed our graduate attribute of Global/Cultural Awareness into our programmes and wider University experience 1
- enable students to contribute to their (international) curricular and co-curricular experience through co-production – building a sense of being part of an academic community enhancing student voice and engagement 1
- actively promote access to our campuses and resources, facilities, research and international expertise, open lectures and archives and building a sense of community and engagement with the University 3
- seek opportunities to support and enhance internationalisation at home and curriculum internationalisation 1, 3
- champion Kent as a global community of staff and students, alumni and partners where internationalisation is integral to our commitment to knowledge diplomacy 1,2,3
- continue to enhance and review mechanisms for supporting, sharing and developing Kent's approach to internationalisation within the University and across its schools and professional service departments 1,2,3



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GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

In order to develop and draw on Kent's global and European partnerships networks and alumni groups, we will:

- support and incentivise international collaborations and networks through continued engagement with international education and funding organisations 2
- expand the number of programmes that offer opportunities for a year abroad through designing a flexible international mobility experience which is fit for a changing student demographic 1
- continue to facilitate international partnerships with high calibre institutions who share our values and ethos, focusing on partnerships in regions of strategic institutional focus 1,2,3
- prioritise international relationships which lead to the establishment of multi-lateral strategic partnerships for cross- institutional engagement 1,2,3
- ensure our approach to international partnerships remains agile in a shifting national and international political landscape 1,2,3



GLOBAL REACH AND RECRUITMENT

In order to support our global reach and international recruitment ambitions we will:

- make use of key relationships and geographies in our international recruitment and increase the proportion of international students 1
- refocus our marketing and recruitment practices to respond to the rapidly changing environment 1
- expand the number of programmes that offer online learning (as a means of broadening global access) 1
- increase our external income for research and innovation 2
- enhance (international) pathways through education (at Kent through International Foundation Programmes, Pre-Masters Programmes and Pre-sessional Courses) 1
- ensure that we remain distinctive amongst our peers in operating with a major stake in continental Europe, with a strong European dimension in our academic activity 1,2,3
- develop degree articulation arrangements and agreements with overseas universities in order to provide innovative ways for students in different countries to benefit from Kent education and research 1,2
- enhance collaborative arrangements with overseas representatives and in-country officers 1,3





