

# TRAVEL INFORMATION

*for students travelling to Kent from outside the UK*



## Welcome to Kent!

**This leaflet and our Getting Started website has all the information you need to ensure a smooth journey to your new home at Kent.**

### Keep informed and stay safe while travelling

Please be aware that UK Government guidelines surrounding COVID-19 are subject to change. Routes and timetables are also subject to change by operators.

Remember to continually check the status of your journey and ensure you're familiar with which social distancing measures will be in place for your journey – for instance, you may be required to wear a face covering on public transport. You can find out more about social distancing for your journey by using the links in this leaflet.

If you have any questions, please contact the International team at [international@kent.ac.uk](mailto:international@kent.ac.uk) or by telephone at +44 (0) 1227 824904.

### Public transport

You can use public transport to travel to the University from Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick airports. We suggest that you do not use the licensed black taxis that wait outside each airport terminal. They are priced using the taxi meter and are usually very expensive.

For details on how to book a taxi in advance of arrival, please see [www.kent.ac.uk/getting-started/international-students](http://www.kent.ac.uk/getting-started/international-students)

### Travel by train to the campuses from Heathrow airport

You can travel from Heathrow to both the Canterbury and Medway campuses by train. The journey is not direct, and you will need to use the London Underground service (also known as the 'Tube') in order to cross London. Please be aware that there is very limited luggage space on the Tube service.

London is divided into travel zones: Heathrow is in zone 6 and the mainline railway stations are in zone 1. The high-speed service from London St Pancras offers direct trains to Canterbury West (for Canterbury) and Ebbsfleet International (for Medway). Journey times are approximately 55 minutes and 18 minutes respectively.

You can get a Tube map free of charge at the information points at airports and train stations, or by visiting [tfl.gov.uk/maps](http://tfl.gov.uk/maps). For the latest COVID-19 information concerning London public transport, visit [tfl.gov.uk/campaign/coronavirus?intcmp=63016](http://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/coronavirus?intcmp=63016)

### For the Canterbury campus

#### Heathrow – London St Pancras – Canterbury West

- Take the Piccadilly line (dark blue on the Tube map) from Heathrow to King's Cross St Pancras, (approximately 45 minutes). King's Cross St Pancras Tube station leads directly into St Pancras International and the route is clearly signposted throughout the Tube station.
- Follow the signs for Southeastern trains, the service between London and the county of Kent. From here, you will be able to catch a direct train to Canterbury West. Trains to Canterbury usually depart from platforms 11, 12 or 13.
- When you arrive at Canterbury West, turn right and walk to the end of the road. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and the bus stop is on the left. Catch the Uni 1, Uni 2 or the number 4 bus to campus.

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# TRAVEL INFORMATION (CONT)

## Heathrow – London Charing Cross – Canterbury West

- Take the Piccadilly line (dark blue on the Tube map) to Piccadilly Circus. Change to the Bakerloo line (brown on the Tube map) and take a train to Charing Cross station. From Charing Cross, catch a direct train to Canterbury West (approximately 90 minutes).
- This service sometimes divides at Ashford International so you will need to make sure you are sitting in the correct part of the train. Station staff will be able to direct you.
- When you arrive at Canterbury West, turn right and walk to the end of the road. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and the bus stop is on the left. Catch the Uni 1, Uni 2 or the number 4 bus to campus.

## Heathrow – London Victoria – Canterbury East

- Take the Piccadilly line (dark blue on the Tube map) to Earl's Court. Change to the District line (green on the Tube map) and travel three stops on the train to Victoria.
- Once you leave the Tube at Victoria, the directions to Victoria train station are clearly marked. From Victoria train station, you can catch a direct train to Canterbury East (approximately 85 minutes).
- When you arrive at Canterbury East, turn right straight outside the station (do not cross the bridge opposite the station) and follow the road to the bus stop. Catch the Uni 1, Uni 2 or the number 4 bus to campus.

## For the Medway campus and Pier Quays

### Heathrow – London St Pancras – Chatham

- Take the Piccadilly line (dark blue on the Tube map) from Heathrow to King's Cross St Pancras, (approximately 45 minutes). King's Cross St Pancras Tube station leads directly into St Pancras International and the route is clearly signposted throughout the Tube station.
- Follow the signs for Southeastern trains, the service between London and the county of Kent.
- You can catch a train directly to Chatham, via Ebbsfleet International. From Chatham train station, catch a bus (service 176) to Milner Road, the nearest stop to Pier Quays student accommodation.

### Heathrow – London Victoria – Chatham

- Take the Piccadilly line (dark blue on the Tube map) from Heathrow to Earl's Court. Change to the District line (green on the Tube map) and travel three stops on the train to Victoria.
- From Victoria train station, you can catch a direct train to Chatham (approximately 50 minutes). From Chatham train station, catch a bus (service 176) to Milner Road, the nearest stop to Pier Quays student accommodation.

### Heathrow – London Charing Cross – Chatham

- Take the Piccadilly line (dark blue on the Tube map) from Heathrow to Piccadilly Circus. Change to the Bakerloo line (brown on the Tube map) and travel one stop on the train to Charing Cross station.

From Charing Cross, you can catch a direct train to Chatham (approximately 75 minutes), which is the nearest station to the campus.

- From Chatham train station, take a bus (service 176) to Milner Road, the nearest stop to Pier Quays student accommodation.

### Train timetables and COVID-19 information

For the latest train timetables and fares, please check [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) and make use of their journey planner tool to check on the status of your journey.

Please visit [bit.ly/2DYYgVj](http://bit.ly/2DYYgVj) for national rail COVID-19 information.

### Travel by train to the campuses from Stansted airport

We recommend that you take the Stansted Express train from the airport to Tottenham Hale station. The railway station for Stansted Express trains is located directly below the main airport terminal building. Tickets may be purchased in advance online or at the station and the journey to Tottenham Hale takes approximately 35 minutes. Book tickets online at [www.stanstedexpress.com](http://www.stanstedexpress.com)

Once you arrive at Tottenham Hale, you need to change trains and travel nine stops on the Victoria line (light blue on the Tube map) to Victoria Tube station for trains departing from London Victoria train station.

If you want to catch a train from London Charing Cross, take the Victoria Tube line from Tottenham Hale and change at Warren Street. Change onto the Northern line (black on the Tube map) and travel four stops on the Tube to Charing Cross for trains departing from London Charing Cross train station.

If you are planning to catch the high-speed service from London St Pancras, take the Victoria line from Tottenham Hale and travel to King's Cross St Pancras. Follow the signs to St Pancras International; the route is clearly signposted.



### Travel by train to the campuses from Gatwick airport

Take the Gatwick Express train to London Victoria train station (the Gatwick Express rail station is located at the South Terminal, and is a few minutes from the North Terminal by a free shuttle service). Rail information and ticket desks are located in the station and in the arrivals areas of both terminals. Non-stop trains run to and from London Victoria every 15 minutes and the journey takes 30 minutes (35 minutes on Sundays).

For information and tickets call:

0345 850 1530 (UK)

(+44) 208 5282 900 (overseas)

To book tickets online: [www.gatwickexpress.com](http://www.gatwickexpress.com)

Email: [customerservices@gatwickexpress.com](mailto:customerservices@gatwickexpress.com)

### Getting to London Charing Cross train station from Gatwick

Take the Gatwick Express train to London Victoria train station. At London Victoria train station, you will need to take the Tube to Embankment station, which is the closest Tube station to London Charing Cross. Use either the District (green) or Circle (yellow) lines to Embankment station. London Charing Cross train station is a five-minute walk from Embankment and is clearly signposted.

### Eurostar services

Eurostar is the high-speed railway service connecting London with France and Belgium. All its trains traverse the Channel Tunnel between the UK and France.

### From France and Belgium to the Canterbury campus

Take the Eurostar to Ashford International:

- from Paris: 1 hour 50 minutes
- from Brussels: 1 hour 40 minutes
- from Lille: 1 hour.

There are regular train services from Ashford International to Canterbury West train station. When you arrive at Canterbury West, turn right and walk to the end of the road. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and the bus stop is on the left. Catch the Uni 1, Uni 2 or the number 4 bus to campus.

### From France (by rail, then road) to the Canterbury campus

Take Le Shuttle from Calais to the Folkestone Eurotunnel terminal. From the terminal, follow the road signs to Canterbury (M20/A20). Stay on the A20 until instructed to join the A260 (signposted Canterbury). Journey time is approximately 40 minutes.

# TRAVEL INFORMATION (CONT)

## From France and Belgium to Pier Quays (Medway)

Take the Eurostar to Ebbsfleet International.

- from Paris: 2 hours
- from Brussels: 1 hour 50 minutes
- from Lille: 1 hour 20 minutes.

Take the train from Ebbsfleet International to Chatham train station (the journey takes approximately 20 minutes), then an Arriva bus (service 176) to Milner Road, the nearest stop to Pier Quays student accommodation.

## From France (by rail, then road) to Pier Quays (Medway)

Take Le Shuttle from Calais to the Folkestone Eurotunnel terminal. From the terminal, follow the road signs to London (M20/A20). At Maidstone, take the A229 to Chatham and follow the brown anchor signs for Historic Dockyard and Chatham Maritime via the A278, A2 and A289 (Pier Road).

When you are travelling on Pier Road, go straight on at the roundabout. You will then need to be in the right-hand lane to turn right at the traffic lights adjacent to the main entrance for Pier Quays. You will see Pier Quays on your right (large red and grey building).

### More information:

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) (train timetables)  
[www.arrivabus.co.uk](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk) (bus timetables)  
[www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com)  
[www.eurotunnel.com](http://www.eurotunnel.com)

## National Express coach service

National Express is a company that operates bus, coach, train and tram services in the UK. For the latest timetable and prices, check [www.nationalexpress.com/airport](http://www.nationalexpress.com/airport)



Regular coaches run from Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick to Victoria Coach Station. From Victoria Coach Station you will need to board another coach for Canterbury Bus Station (for the Canterbury campus) and Gillingham (for the Medway campus).

[www.kent.ac.uk](http://www.kent.ac.uk)

## For passengers with restricted mobility

Many coaches are not wheelchair accessible, but most will carry wheelchairs for passengers who can board the vehicle unaided. Please call the Airport Travel Line on +44 (0)870 574 7777 and choose option 4 to speak to an adviser.

## Coaches from Heathrow airport

On arrival at Heathrow, follow the signs for the Central Bus Station, located between Terminals 2 and 3. The terminals are a few minutes' walk away from the Central Bus Station via underground walkways.

There is a travel centre at the Central Bus Station where you can purchase tickets for National Express coaches. The station is open 24 hours a day and the travel centre opens from 06.00 until 22.30. Baggage trolleys are available and there is a lift to the underground level.

If you are arriving at Terminal 5, you will find a National Express ticket office in the international arrivals area. A free transfer between terminals is available using the Heathrow Express, Heathrow Connect trains or one of the free bus services.

## Buying tickets online

You can buy tickets online (e-tickets). Do be aware that when you book an e-ticket, you usually have to select a specific coach departure time. Your ticket may become invalid if your flight is delayed and you miss your scheduled departure time.

## What if my flight is delayed?

If your flight is delayed and you do miss your coach, make your way to the travel centre in the Central Bus Station where you may be able to amend your ticket for the next available departure (there is a nominal charge for this service). In some cases it may not be possible to amend your ticket, and you will need to purchase a new one. We therefore recommend that you buy your coach ticket when you arrive at the airport.

## Coaches from Stansted airport

The bus and coach station is located opposite the main terminal entrance. Tickets may be purchased from the ticket desk in arrivals (open 06.00 – 01.00), in the coach station (open 24 hours a day, seven days a week) or on board the coach. Coaches depart from Stansted to Victoria coach station up to every five minutes and the journey takes approximately 90 minutes.

## Coaches from Gatwick airport

National Express ticket desks are located in both the North and South terminals. Journey time to Victoria Coach Station is approximately 80 minutes.

## Coaches to the Canterbury campus

Regular coaches run from Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick to Victoria Coach Station. From Victoria Coach Station you will need to board another coach for Canterbury Bus Station. We recommend that you catch the Uni 1, Uni 2 or the number 4 bus to campus from Canterbury Bus Station to the University. The buses stop at various locations on the Canterbury campus.

## Coaches to the Medway campus and Pier Quays

Regular coaches run from Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick to Victoria Coach Station. From Victoria Coach Station you should take a coach to Gillingham (known as the Hempstead Valley stop), then an Arriva bus (services 113, 116 or 132) from Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre to Chatham Bus Station. Please note that services 113 and 116 do not run on Sundays. On arrival at Chatham bus station, take another bus (service 176) to Milner Road, which is the nearest bus stop to Pier Quays accommodation.

### For timetable information:

[www.arrivabus.co.uk](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk) or call the Travel Line on +44 (0)871 200 22 33. For the latest COVID-19 information on National Express coaches please visit [www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/coronavirus-safety](http://www.nationalexpress.com/en/help/coronavirus-safety)

This leaflet was produced in July 2020. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, see: [www.kent.ac.uk](http://www.kent.ac.uk). Full details of our terms and conditions can be found at: [www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions](http://www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions).