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University of
Kent



THE CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Canterbury

/ Graduate
study



INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Child Protection (CCP) was launched in October 2012 and from the beginning has aimed to get to the heart of child protection training by using innovative ideas and the latest technology.

It combines contemporary research with an online, multi-professional advanced MA, and cutting-edge child protection simulations.

The Centre creates diverse learning opportunities for professionals involved in child protection and is inclusive of all disciplines. Our resources are easily accessible, and promote innovative and contemporary approaches to the study of child protection. In particular our courses offer opportunity to develop skills in advanced communication, reflective analysis, the realistic and critical use of research, and promote a confident use of direct skills with adults and children.

Academic excellence

The Centre is led and informed by a team of experts in the field of child protection, who have many years' experience of working with traumatised children and young people. CCP is a centre of excellence and innovation in training, research and practice. It is designed for the full range of professionals involved in child protection.

Research

The Centre has a strong research focus, developing child protection simulations and innovative eye-tracking technology to help interpret the games' effectiveness as a training tool. It has attracted significant external research and grants, including: a research project for the Department for Education (DfE) on how young people in care use technology; a European Erasmus+ grant on social work education across Europe, led by the University of Stirling; Home Office grants for our high-profile work on radicalisation.

Child protection simulations

The Centre breaks new ground by giving participants a chance to reflect on their practice skills within complex scenarios using simulations. These simulations provide opportunity for professionals to consider choices, discuss and make decisions and assess the impact in a safe environment.

MA in Advanced Child Protection and standalone modules

This is a distance learning programme which runs on a part-time basis for two or more years. The programme is for experienced professionals and is fully accredited by the University of Kent. It gives a 360-degree perspective on child protection, introducing the viewpoints of academics, practitioners, organisations,

parents, children and young people, integrated with contemporary research theory and policy. The impact that technology has on protecting children as well as the effect of the globalisation of the abuse and exploitation of vulnerable children is considered throughout.

The MA has attracted national and international students, all with a variety of experience in child protection. This combination of the opportunity for a diverse pool of knowledge, and a desire to question and excel, has made the MA a success.

All of our MA modules, as well as the Direct Work with Children module, are available on a standalone basis, including our new module, 'Support, Help and Intervention in International Child Protection'.

"I found this course to be fantastic. The content is varied and truly multi-disciplinary which, when allied with the diversity of students, means you get a truly expansive and refreshing perspective on all aspects of child protection... As a lawyer it has given me a much deeper insight into the everyday practice of child protection by other professions and allowed me to better understand the complexities of practice for front-line child protection professionals."

Barrister, 2019

STAFF PROFILES

Professor Jane Reeves

Jane is a Professor in Child Protection and Simulation Development at the University of Kent, Director of the Centre for Child Protection (CCP) and Director of Studies for the distance learning MA in Advanced Child Protection.

A qualified social worker, since becoming Co-Director of CCP she has worked in partnership with many stakeholders and led and co-written several immersive simulations which tackle complex inter-professional issues. These include sexual abuse (*Rosie 1*, 2011); neglect (*Rosie 2*, 2012); radicalisation and extremism (*Zak*, 2013; *Maryam and Joe*; *Behind Closed Doors*, 2017); paedophilia (*Elliot*, 2013); child sexual exploitation (*Looking Out For Lottie*, 2014; and *Rosie Goes to Court* 2015), co-written with the court advisory service, Cafcass, on court experience for professionals, parents and young people. The simulations are used widely across the UK and internationally by professionals and directly with young people. *Lottie* won *The Guardian* Award for Digital Innovation in 2016 and Jane and the team won the Higher Education Academy Award for collaboration (2017).

Research and publications include using eye-tracker and emotion-reader software to evaluate professional responses to the simulations, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of the simulations for developing critical analysis skills



in young people. She has led innovative projects funded by the DfE and Innovate UK, looking at the use of technology with vulnerable groups and has worked on an Erasmus project with the University of Stirling, protecting children across Europe through modernising the social work curriculum. Future projects include securing funding for simulations on the global sexual exploitation of children, gangs and county lines and global child labour.

Vanisha Jassal

Vanisha is a Lecturer and Acting Director of Studies for the MA in Advanced Child Protection and Senior Fellow with the Higher Education Academy. She joined the Centre at its inception, taking on an instrumental role in creating the online MA and teaching it. She has previously worked in a children's social care department, developing the skills and knowledge of frontline practitioners and managers.

She is studying for a PhD examining child sexual abuse among British South Asian communities and particularly the constructs of 'shame' and 'honour', and has been called upon by the Home Office and other related national projects for her expertise. She is a member of the School's MERB (Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Belonging) Research cluster, is a co-chair of the BAME Staff Network and has a keen interest in addressing inequalities in practice and research. Her other teaching area is around direct work with children and young people for which she has designed and teaches on, an MA level module and has developed a MOOC (a Massive Open Online Course) entitled 'Communicating Effectively with Vulnerable Children and Young People'. She will soon be qualified as a sandplay therapist, enhancing this area of expertise.

Dr Aravinda Kosaraju

Aravinda is a Lecturer in Advanced Child Protection. Prior to joining the Centre, she worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at Kent Law School on a project titled 'Crimes of child sexual exploitation in England – A socio-legal project promoting effective approaches to investigation and prosecution'. The project was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) South East Network for Social Sciences (SENS).

Aravinda is a qualified lawyer and social worker specialising in criminology and correctional administration and worked for many years with national and international non-governmental organisations including, Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE), Lawyer's Collective and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI). She has researched extensively into sexual exploitation of children, sex trafficking and was involved in various policy reform initiatives in India and the UK. She has also developed multi-agency practitioner training on safeguarding children from sexual exploitation.

Her research draws from critical perspectives in law and criminology, broadly engaging with issues of violence against women and children; criminal justice responses to sexual offending; and safeguarding children policy and practice. Her PhD thesis examined the process of attrition in cases

involving crimes of child sexual exploitation in England and Wales employing a Foucauldian Feminist theoretical framework. Her current research focuses on supporting sexually exploited children through criminal justice; effective investigation and prosecution of sexual offences against children; and working with children on the move.

Emma Soutar

The Centre for Child Protection trainer, Emma has many years' experience in the third sector and education, and now provides face-to-face training to spot the signs of child sexual and criminal exploitation and radicalisation.

The Centre's simulations are used in training sessions, delivered regularly at the University of Kent at our Canterbury, Medway and Tonbridge sites, as well as bespoke sessions across the UK to schools, colleges, universities, children's homes and third-sector organisations. The staff who receive this training are then able to use the simulations directly with young people individually and in groups.

Professor David Shemmings – Emeritus Professor

Professor David Shemmings OBE PHD is Emeritus Professor of Child Protection Research. David is also a visiting Professor of Child Protection Research at Royal Holloway, University of London, and was Professor of Social Work Research

at Middlesex University. He has written more than 60 articles, books and chapters on relationally based social theory, research and practice.

David has been an academic for over 30 years and has supervised to completion numerous PhD theses and MA dissertations. He has also been external examiner at seven universities. David leads child protection training within west London, involving eight London boroughs and directs the relationship-based practice training in over 50 child protection organisations across the UK. In 2018, David presented research findings to professionals in Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Hungary and Ireland.

In 2014, David was awarded an OBE for his contribution to child protection.

“The Centre for Child Protection offers new and innovative ways of training through the use of simulations and flexible learning. Our resources are now used across the UK and overseas by a variety of inter-professional child protection workers, managers and organisations.”

Professor Jane Reeves
Co-Director, Centre for Child Protection

SIMULATIONS

The Centre offers a suite of child protection simulations (serious games) for use in CPD.

These widely used, award-winning simulations allow professionals to encounter a variety of situations faced in practice, with an opportunity to discuss these issues in a safe environment. They:

- offer a more intense experience than paper-based case studies
- give a child's perspective
- provide research-based case studies
- offer opportunities to explore complex dynamics involved in professional assessments of risk
- offer a safe medium in which to explore child protection assessments
- promote discussion.

These simulations, unique to the sector, have firmly placed the University of Kent on the national/international radar for this innovative learning technique. They transform research findings into useable and interactive resources, tackling difficult practice issues. Products of collaborative working with local and national agencies, the simulations provide tools of excellence for multi-agency practice.

Rosie 1

The prototype introduces the McGraw family and offers professionals, at different stages of their careers, a unique way to evaluate child protection situations. The *Rosie 1* free download and worksheet is available from our website.

Rosie 2

Revisits the McGraw family five years on. It promotes the theme of inter-professional practice by exploring the boundaries and challenges of a joint visit by a health visitor and social worker.

My Courtroom – Rosie's family goes to court

A simulation developed with Cafcass for professionals and young people to provide an insight into the family court arena and its procedures. Rosie is now 11 years old.

Zak at University and Young Zak the Gamer

Developed with Kent Police (Special Branch) and Kent County Council, Zak is an engaging learning tool, based on a social-media-style interface that increases staff confidence and raises awareness of radicalisation and online grooming. Due to demand, an additional option *Young Zak the Gamer* has been included to look at over-sharing information through gaming.





“Rosie...is something new, different and innovative for practitioners and, given adequate time and space to play, should inspire reflection, discussion and important learning about child protection practice.”

Child Abuse Review Journal, 2015
v22, pp222-226

Looking out for Lottie

Developed with NHS Kent, Surrey and Sussex, and updated in collaboration with the NSPCC, *Lottie* is designed to raise awareness of, and to prevent, child sexual exploitation and grooming. It is styled to incorporate aspects of the latest social media apps to appeal to young people. Winner of *The Guardian* University Award for Digital Innovation 2016.

Visiting Elliot

Developed in collaboration with Kent Police and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company to train all professionals who visit sex offenders on licence in the community.

Maryam and Joe: Behind Closed Doors

The Centre's latest online interactive simulation, funded by the Home Office, to address routes to radicalisation and extremism on right wing and religious extremism.

Gangs, knife crime and county lines

The Centre's latest training looks at gangs, knife crime and county lines; using a contextual safeguarding* approach to inform practice.

*The approach of Contextual safeguarding was originally developed by Dr Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire's Contextual Safeguarding Network.

CPD workshops

Dates for CPD workshops using our CPD-accredited simulations are listed on our website and group discounts are available should you wish to host a session at your premises. Please email ccp@kent.ac.uk or call us to discuss your requirements.



ADVANCED CHILD PROTECTION MA AND STANDALONE MODULES

The Centre for Child Protection has created a child-centred distance learning MA, which focuses on the ‘welfare of the child as being paramount’ and provides practitioners with the knowledge, skills and confidence to ensure they take this perspective into their practice.

Entry requirements

A minimum of a second class honours degree. However, relevant practice and professional experience will be considered and these cases are assessed individually. In certain circumstances the Centre will consider candidates who have not followed a conventional education path. Please also check our general entry requirements (including English language requirements) – see p9.

Programme outline

The distance-learning MA runs over two years part-time and is awarded to participants completing 180 credits of study. After consultation with stakeholders in the statutory, independent and voluntary sectors, the modules have been designed to appeal to a multidisciplinary audience. In addition to the compulsory modules outlined below, you are required to write a dissertation on a key aspect of child protection.

Modules

- 1 Understanding Social Research (20 credits)
- 2 Definitions, Prevalence, Causes and Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect (20 credits)
- 3 Contemporary Child Protection Practice and Policies (20 credits)
- 4 New Perspectives on Assessment and Observation (20 credits)
- 5a Support, Help and Intervention – what ‘works’, how and when? (20 credits) **or**
- 5b Support, help and intervention in International child protection (20 credits)
- 6 The ‘Unconscious at Work’: The Organisational Dimensions of Risk-Management (20 credits)
- 7 Dissertation (60 credits)

The Certificate and Diploma is now available. See www.kent.ac.uk/sspsr/ccp for more information.

Access and delivery

The MA is accessed via Moodle, the University of Kent’s web-based virtual learning environment. All the resources required to complete the MA are available via Moodle to maximise the learning experience within part-time hours. These include key books and contemporary articles linking theory, research, legislation and policy to ‘real-world’ professional practice; expert video lectures from leading academics, honorary lecturers and expert practitioners; key external child protection resources.

Tutors and forums

Reading is guided each week, supported by online forums hosted by experienced mentors to promote and develop reflective practice. The strength and diversity of our multi-agency forums also give professionals from different agencies a chance to learn from each other. MA participants are allocated a dedicated tutor.

MA standalone modules

Our online distance learning standalone modules are a great taster to Master’s-level study. All the resources, journal articles, specialist materials, and videos are available online. After successful completion of the assignment, the module is equivalent to 20 credits at Master’s level.

The design of these modules adheres to the Centre’s approach to innovative learning through use of interactive materials and video lectures from experienced professionals in the field, as well as other academically rigorous resources. All our MA modules are now available as standalone modules and more information is available on our website.

The Direct Work With Children standalone module focuses on the skills and knowledge required to help understand children and young people’s experiences, which is crucial at both the assessment and intervention stage.

APPLYING TO KENT

General entry requirements

If you wish to apply for a higher degree, you must normally have a first or second class honours degree in a relevant or appropriate subject, or the equivalent from an internationally recognised institution (for more information on requirements for international qualifications, visit www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent/country)

For specific entry requirements, please see p8.

English language

The University requires applicants to meet its minimum English language requirements. This is to ensure that your spoken and written English is at the required level for postgraduate study. All students need an appropriate score in an approved English language examination.

UK students

For UK students, this usually means a grade C/4 or above in GCSE English language or equivalent.

International, EU and non-visa students

Please see the English language requirements section of our website for a list of accepted qualifications: www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply



Making an application

You can apply for a Kent higher degree via our website at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/apply

Application deadlines

We strongly recommend you apply at least three months before your intended start date. For more information, please see: www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply

Tuition fees

For the most up-to-date information on tuition fees, visit www.kent.ac.uk/finance-student/fees

Further information

For specific enquiries about your chosen programme, please contact: The Centre for Child Protection, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7LR, UK
T: +44 (0)1227 827546
E: ccp@kent.ac.uk

GENERAL INFORMATION

The UK's European university

Kent is known as the UK's European university. Our two main UK campuses, Canterbury and Medway, are located in the south east of England, close to London, and we also have specialist study locations in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome.

We have a diverse, cosmopolitan student population with 159 nationalities represented. We also have strong links with universities in Europe, and from Kent, you are around two hours away from Paris and Brussels by train.

Research excellence

As a student at Kent, you are taught by leading academics, who produce research of international standing. Following the most recent Research Excellence Framework, Kent was ranked in the top 20 in the UK for research intensity in the *Times Higher Education*, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities.

Strong academic community

Kent's postgraduate students are part of a thriving intellectual community that includes staff and students from all our locations. In addition to lectures, seminars and one-to-one supervisions, you benefit from a rich and stimulating research culture.

A global outlook

Kent has a great international reputation, attracting academic staff and students from around the world. Our academic schools are engaged in collaborative research with universities worldwide and we offer a range of opportunities to study abroad and an approach that is truly global.

The Graduate School

As a postgraduate student, you also have the support of the Graduate School, which promotes your academic interests, co-ordinates the Researcher Development Programme and the Global Skills Award, and facilitates cross-disciplinary interaction and social networking.

Funding

Kent provides a variety of financial support opportunities for postgraduate students. These include research studentships, location-specific funding, sport and music scholarships, and funding specifically for overseas fee-paying students. For more details see www.kent.ac.uk/pgfunding

Enhanced career prospects

At Kent, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a challenging environment. During your studies, you acquire a high level of academic knowledge and specialist practical skills.

The Centre for Child Protection

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Applications

Online at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgrad/apply

Further information

For more details, visit our website at www.kent.ac.uk/sspsr/ccp

We also help you to develop key transferable skills that are essential within the competitive world of work.

Visiting the University

The University also holds Open Days and postgraduate recruitment events throughout the year. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays



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For the University to operate efficiently, it needs to process information about you for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons. Any offer we make to you is subject to your consent to process such information and is a requirement in order for you to be registered as a student. All students must agree to abide by the University rules and regulations at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations

COME AND VISIT US

To find out more about visiting
the University, see our website:

www.kent.ac.uk/visit