

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

*Advice, help and information offered by
the Careers and Employability Service*



ADVICE, HELP AND INFORMATION

This leaflet is intended as a starting point for international students. It should help you with your career planning and to outline some of the ways that The Careers and Employability Service (CES) can assist you. To discuss your individual career plans, please talk to an adviser.

The CES aims to help students make decisions and obtain information about their next step after graduation. We can provide guidance and advice to students of all subjects and nationalities about postgraduate study, choosing a career and obtaining employment, placements and work experience.

Working whilst you study

Work experience will strengthen your CV and is something that graduate employers in the UK and other countries look for in a potential employee. You will find it very difficult to get graduate employment in the UK without work experience. Work experience will help you develop essential graduate attributes such as confidence, creativity, innovation and resilience.

Part-time jobs

Part-time work is available on campus and elsewhere in the local area. Jobshop can help you to obtain part-time work. To apply for part-time jobs you normally need a CV and a covering letter. In many cases you will also need to complete an application form and attend an interview. Our quick advice sessions can help with this or you can read our *Making Applications* and *Interview Skills* booklets, available on our website.

Jobshop

<https://kentunion.co.uk/jobshop>
Register with Jobshop to access job opportunities whilst studying.

Quick advice sessions

Book an appointment for a quick advice session regarding CVs covering letters and applications. To book visit <https://careers.kent.ac.uk>

Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to gain experience and help an organisation. This will be unpaid but the organisation may offer some expenses. You can volunteer in a number of ways including fundraising, campaigning, client facing roles, IT roles... The list is endless! Find out about opportunities to volunteer at Kent: www.kent.ac.uk/kent-extra

Kent Union and GKSU

Both have volunteering opportunities
<https://kentunion.co.uk/volunteering>
<https://gksu.co.uk/your-experience/volunteering>

Do IT

A national database of volunteering opportunities
<https://doit.life>

Internships

An internship is a fixed length period of work experience offered by a recruiter, usually during university vacation time. Most internships take place during summer but spring and winter internships are also available. Summer internships with graduate recruiters are popular and competitive so you will normally need to start applying during the autumn term of your second year. Internships will help you to gain relevant skills and experience in a particular field.

Applying for internships is a competitive process which may involve psychometric testing, a CV, covering letter, application form, interview and assessment centre. Our quick advice sessions can help with this or you can read our *Making Applications* and *Interview Skills* booklets. We run a number of workshops addressing these areas throughout the year. Book on Target Connect: <https://careers.kent.ac.uk>



For further information see:

Prospects

www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/work-experience-and-internships/internships

Target Jobs

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/internships>

Milkround

www.milkround.com/jobs/internships

Placements

Many courses at Kent come with the option of doing a year in industry (also known as a placement year) between the second and final year of your degree course. Some courses (both undergraduate and postgraduate) also include shorter placements. Further information about placements can be obtained from your Academic School.

International students with 'student permission' (previously 'Tier 4 student leave') are permitted to undertake a work placement as long as it meets certain conditions. You can find out more about these conditions on the UKCISA website here:

www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Student-work#layer-5430

Work and Opportunities Fund

You can apply for a bursary from the CES to help with travel expenses for short-term unpaid work experience and for training/networking activities related to your career development.

For more information see www.kent.ac.uk/ces

Important information

It is your responsibility to check your visa to see how many hours this permits you to work/volunteer whilst you are studying. Kent Union Advice Centre at Canterbury and GKSU at Medway can assist you with this.

Kent Union Advice Centre

<https://kentunion.co.uk/welfare/advice>

GKSU

<https://gksu.co.uk/advice-and-support>

Student Immigration Compliance Team

www.kent.ac.uk/studentimmigration
E: visacompliance@kent.ac.uk

UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs)

www.ukcisa.org.uk

Has advice on their website and a telephone advice line

Please note that CES staff are not trained in visas and are therefore unable to assist with enquiries.

Extracurricular activities whilst studying

Extracurricular activities are valued by employers and will help you gain additional skills and in some cases meet new people and help you settle into life at Kent.

ADVICE, HELP AND INFORMATION (CONT)

The university offers a number of ways to get involved in extracurricular activities:

Join a society

<https://kentunion.co.uk/activities/societies>

<https://gksu.co.uk/your-experience/societies>

Study Plus

www.kent.ac.uk/studyplus

Employability Points

www.kent.ac.uk/employabilitypoints

Careers Award

The link to the current Moodle module can be found on www.kent.ac.uk/ces

Graduate and Researcher College skills training (for postgraduate students)

www.kent.ac.uk/graduate-researcher-college/skills-training

Kent Global Passport

www.kent.ac.uk/global/education#passport

For more information on extracurricular activities, see the Kent Extra website: www.kent.ac.uk/kent-extra

Working in the UK after you complete your studies

Visa and sponsorship

It is important to check your visa eligibility when considering working in the UK after you complete your studies.

Information is available from:

GOV UK

www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas

UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs)

www.ukcisa.org.uk

Has advice on their website and a telephone advice line.





Kent Union Advice Centre

Can assist with visa enquiries.
<https://kentunion.co.uk/welfare/advice>

GKSU

Can also assist students at the Medway campus.
<https://gksu.co.uk/advice-and-support>

Please note Kent Union and GKSU Advice Centres cannot give detailed advice on visa applications or help you with your application.

Please note that CES staff are not trained in visas and are therefore unable to assist with enquiries.

Visa requirements change frequently so you need to be aware of current rules. Please note that employers and CES staff may not always be aware of recent changes.

There are a number of routes available and the most common are described below.

The graduate route

Available from 1 July 2021, this route allows international students to stay in the UK for two years (for those completing a bachelors or masters course) or three years (for those completing a PhD) after graduation. This route does not require an employer to be a licensed sponsor.

Find out more:

www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies#layer-6809

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/14/fact-sheet-graduate-immigration-route>

Skilled worker visa (formerly Tier 2)

Launched on 1 December 2020, this route allows you to work in the UK in jobs that meet minimum skill and salary levels. The employer needs to be a licensed sponsor.

Find out more: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

Register of licensed sponsors:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers

For any of the visa routes it is very important to read the policy guidance to make sure you understand the criteria, the application process and fees you will be required to pay. If you are not sure whether you meet all the requirements, consider consulting an immigration adviser.

For further information on the range of visa options, please see:

UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs)
www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies

ADVICE, HELP AND INFORMATION (CONT)

Finding and applying for jobs in the UK

The graduate recruitment cycle in the UK starts early in the academic year with a number of graduate schemes for summer entry opening from the previous September onwards. A number of schemes are only open for a short time period. Therefore you need to be thinking about making applications at the beginning of your final year or at the start of your master's year.

Not all graduate roles in the UK are graduate schemes. Graduate schemes tend to be offered by large recruiters and offer a structured programme of work and training. Graduate schemes tend to last between 1 and 3 years.

There are many other jobs that are graduate level offered by large recruiters and SMEs. These jobs will be advertised throughout the year.

You can find out more about graduate schemes here: <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/career-planning/473800-what-is-a-graduate-job>

The Careers and Employability Service runs the annual Employability Festival which is attended by graduate recruiters and SMEs who offer advice and support to students interested in applying to them. Please note that graduate scheme application procedures often include video interviews, assessment centres and psychometric tests all of which we offer advice on throughout the year. www.kent.ac.uk/ces

The following websites are useful for searching for graduate scheme vacancies:

Student Circus
<https://kent.studentcircus.com>

A job search platform for international students looking for jobs in the UK – register and log in with your Kent details.

Target Jobs
https://targetjobs.co.uk/search/all/focus/ad_vacancy

Prospects
www.prospects.ac.uk/graduate-jobs

Milkround
www.milkround.com

Target Connect
Our portal for students to find volunteering, internship, graduate and placement vacancies and to book for careers guidance appointments and careers events. <https://careers.kent.ac.uk>

Jobs suitable for graduates will also be advertised on individual company websites, social media and LinkedIn.





Finding and applying for jobs outside of the UK

Find out more about where you could go and what you could do.

GoinGlobal – Employment resources for over 120 worldwide locations.

www.kent.ac.uk/ces/protected/GoinGlobal.html

Target Jobs country profiles
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/working-abroad>

Prospects country profiles
www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/working-abroad

GradLink www.gradlinkuk.com

Applying for postgraduate study

Postgraduate study is a big commitment, both of time and money. If you would like to discuss postgraduate study please book an appointment with a careers adviser.

You can also read more about postgraduate study here
www.kent.ac.uk/ces/student/furtherstudy.html

Target Postgrad has information for students planning postgraduate study in the UK.
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/postgraduate>

Prospects has a study abroad section covering over 30 countries.

www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/study-abroad

For information about postgraduate study at Kent please refer to www.kent.ac.uk/courses

Please note that nothing in this booklet constitutes legal advice. Although every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, the Careers and Employability Service cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the contents or for any errors or omissions. Regulations governing international students and employment are complex and change frequently. We recommend that you take independent qualified advice before making any visa application.

VISIT US ONLINE

www.kent.ac.uk/ces

Canterbury

 @unikentemploy

 University of Kent Student Employability

 unikentces

Medway

 @ukmemploy

 University of Kent at Medway
Student Employability

 MedwayCareers

The Careers and Employability Service

University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7ND

T: +44 (0)1227 823299 E: careerhelp@kent.ac.uk

University of Kent, Gillingham Building, Chatham Maritime ME4 4AG

T:+44 (0)1634202996 E: medwaycareers@kent.ac.uk

www.kent.ac.uk/ces

University of
Kent