

THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

OUR WORK WITH PARTNER COLLEGES





KENT'S OUTREACH PROGRAMME

At the University of Kent, we believe that anyone who has the academic ability to study at university should have the opportunity to do so.

Our outreach programme is designed to encourage people to embrace the value of higher education and help them to realise the important part it can play in their lives. We tailor the provision we offer to our partner colleges to meet the specific needs of their students.

The University has formal relationships with the East Kent Colleges Group, Mid Kent College and North Kent College. These relationships encompass outreach and progression activities, the development of higher and degree apprenticeships and the delivery of Kent higher education programmes (HE in FE).

Kent has some of the best teaching staff in the country and they support and challenge people to reach their full potential. Working closely with teaching staff and students within the University's academic divisions, we offer a rich and varied programme of subject-focused events to share our passion for learning and inspire students to go onto higher education. These activities are run according to interest shown, academic staff capacity and on identified dates throughout the year. Full details are available on our website.

For many students in colleges, the opportunity to progress into higher education within the college is a valuable option. All of our activities include details about the wide range of alternative routes into higher study, including HE in FE, foundation degrees, HNDs and HNCs, and apprenticeships, so that participants know about all the options available and can make informed and appropriate choices.

In addition to working directly with staff and students in colleges, we are also actively engaged in collaborative provision. The University is part of the Kent and Medway Collaborative Outreach Programme (KaMCOP) and we work together with other universities on a range of new and unique initiatives with FE.

“I particularly enjoy knowing that we make a difference to students every time we work. Observing their developing confidence and excitement in their own potential is wonderful.”

Kent Student Ambassador

OUR WORK WITH COLLEGES

Outreach for BTEC, A-level and T-level students

For students on BTEC, A-level and T-level courses at our partner colleges, our outreach programme provides an insight into what it is like to study at university and the subjects they could choose. Working alongside our student ambassadors, we help them to develop some of the skills they may need for their future, such as independent learning and self-motivation. By encouraging them to explore all the possibilities, we can help them to make important decisions about their next steps.

Outreach for Access students

We understand that returning to education can be confusing as well as exciting. Mature students may require extra support with the application process and choosing the courses and universities that are right for them. Our outreach provision for mature students on Access programmes is designed to increase their confidence in relation to applications for higher education and improve their knowledge of the courses available to them.

Our programme includes:

- talks and events that focus on the application and UCAS process
- individual and small group mentoring to support attainment
- transitional support.

Support from our student ambassadors

Much of our programme is delivered or supported by our student ambassadors, many of whom studied at our partner colleges before coming to Kent. Our ambassadors are great role models and their involvement in outreach work gives them the opportunity to put their learning into practice, gain vital skills that will be useful in the workplace and share their passion for learning. Our mature student ambassadors are especially well placed to provide your Access learners with moral support and a unique insight into life at Kent as a mature student.

"I wanted to say a huge thank you for all your efforts. You and your team of ambassadors provided our students with so much helpful information and advice... we are very grateful for your expertise and great enthusiasm."

EKC Group staff member

WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

Outreach for BTEC, A-level and T-level students		Outreach for Access students
Year 1	Talk: What is university? What do you want from your future? Considering the options for higher education	Progression talks focusing on UCAS and the application process, making the right choices and student finance
	Subject-specific curriculum support	Personal statement advice and guidance
	Subject-specific small group mentoring for attainment raising and confidence building	Your Future – Exploring University Options: a day providing insights into life as a mature university student (on campus)
	General university taster day	Students as researchers event (on campus)
	Subject-specific taster day	Subject-specific small group mentoring for attainment raising and confidence building
	Studying my subject at university (subject-specific talks)	Post-application monitoring and support
	Post-16 residential (on-campus residential held in the summer)	GCSE Maths mentoring support (limited availability)
	Talk: Application to university: next steps including UCAS	Post-offer support, UCAS Extra talks
Year 2	Talk: Student finance (can be delivered to parents/carers and/or student groups)	Head Start transition support for students coming to Kent
	Personal statement writing support	Get to know Kent: on-campus event supporting students that have made an application to Kent
	Work-ready interview support	
	Studying my subject at university (subject-specific talks)	
	Head Start: transition support for students coming to Kent	
	Get to Know Kent: on-campus event supporting students that have made an application to Kent	

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Scholarships and funding

We offer a range of scholarships and funding support. Partner Scholarships are worth £1,000 for each year of study and are available only to students applying from our partner schools and colleges. Applicants who are interested in becoming involved in outreach work may also apply for Student Ambassador Stipends of £1,000 per annum. (The number of awards available is limited; eligibility and selection criteria apply.)

In addition to the funding available exclusively to applicants from partner schools and colleges, we also offer:

- mature student bursaries
- Kent Scholarship for Academic Excellence
- Kent Financial Support Package.

See www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships for more details.

Contextual offers

Partner college students who make an application to study at Kent may be eligible for a Kent contextual offer, see www.kent.ac.uk/applicants/policies/contextual-admissions-policy

Transition support for college students

Our Head Start programme provides support pre-Welcome Week to those students coming to study at Kent from our partner institutions. The day event is designed to give an insight into the support services available at Kent, the changes in learning and teaching students will experience and tips on finance. There is also an opportunity to meet and talk with current students from right across the University. All of which helps to give our partner students a head start to their future at Kent.

“We were all very nervous but the ambassadors were cheerful, helpful and welcoming, and answered all our questions. They promoted higher education... and gave us information and helpful tips about university life.”

Access student after a campus visit

EVALUATION

We monitor our work and its outcomes very closely to assess its impact.

Kent works closely with a national monitoring and outreach service called the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT, www.heat.ac.uk) We collect data from your students during outreach activities, which enables us to track their educational journey through HEAT. Through our data analysis, we can see:

- which of our activities are most helpful in inspiring students
- how well outreach participants do in their school qualifications
- whether they enter higher education
- how well they perform at the end of their university course.

To support you, we can share outcome data and insights about your students with you.

Based on the data we have collected over the years, and the insights this has given us, we have designed our outreach programme to maximise its impact.

Our outreach delivery is further enhanced by the support of our fantastic team of student ambassadors, all current Kent students, many of whom previously attended our partner schools.

Contact us

We have a dedicated member of staff to support progression from FE colleges:

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FIND OUT MORE

You can contact us at:

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www.kent.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/outreach



This brochure was produced in August 2022. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide education services as described. However, these services may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information see www.kent.ac.uk/outreach

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