

THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Working in partnership with local further education colleges



Kent's Outreach Programme

At the University of Kent, we stand for ambition. We are proud of our collaborative work to support students from all backgrounds to access, progress into and succeed in higher education.

We recognise the transformational power of an outstanding university experience. Our further education (FE) college outreach programme is designed to support your students to understand the value of higher education (HE), and to make informed decisions about their future. Our provision can be tailored to meet the specific needs of our FE college partners.

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

Kent has some of the best teaching staff in the country who support and challenge their students to reach their full potential. Working closely with our academics and student ambassadors, we offer a rich and varied programme of subject-focused events to share our passion for the subjects we teach, our world-class research and to inspire progression to HE. 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 HE 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 students can make informed choices that support their future ambitions.

We are also proud to be a partner in the Kent and Medway Progression Federation (KMPPF), a collaboration of local HE providers, colleges, schools and community groups who support students to reach their potential. In addition to our direct work with colleges, we are working together to co-create a range of innovative initiatives for FE colleges.

// 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

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

Our outreach programme provides an insight into what it is like to study at university and the subjects students can choose. Working alongside our student ambassadors we help students to develop skills for the future, such as independent learning and self-motivation. By encouraging them to explore all of their options, we can help them to make important decisions about their next steps.

Activities 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 aims to increase their confidence in relation to applications for higher education, improve their knowledge of the courses available, and the funding in place for them.

Our programme includes:

- talks and events that focus on the application and UCAS process
- talks on understanding and applying for student finance, scholarships and bursaries
- 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 who studied at our partner colleges before coming to Kent. Our student ambassadors are great role models and their involvement in our outreach work allows them to share their journeys to university and their experiences as a current student. Our mature student ambassadors are especially well-placed to provide 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



Our offer to you

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

Activities for Access students

Year 1

- Talk: What's Next After College? Exploring options for progression into higher education, apprenticeships or work
- Subject-specific curriculum support
- Subject-specific small group mentoring for attainment raising and confidence building
- General university taster day
- Spotlight on... Subject-specific taster day
- Studying My Subject: Student ambassador-led subject-specific session
- Talk: Value of HE and How to Fund it. Twilight session exploring university and student finance for parents/supporters and students

- Progression talks focusing on UCAS and the application process, making the right choices and student finance
- Personal statement advice and guidance
- Your Future – Exploring University Options: A day providing insights into life as a mature university student (on campus)
- Subject-specific small group mentoring for attainment raising and confidence building
- Post-application monitoring and support

Year 2

- Talk: Applying to University: Demystifying the UCAS and student finance process
- Personal statement writing support
- Work-ready interview support
- Talk: Studying My Subject: Student ambassador-led subject-specific session
- Talk: Your Next Steps: Transition support from FE to HE in college
- STEM subject-specific support (on campus and in college)
- Talk: Studying My Subject: Student ambassador-led subject-specific session
- Head Start: Transition support for students coming to Kent (on campus)

Transition support

- Talk: Your Next Steps: Transition support from Access to HE
- Head Start: Transition support for students coming to Kent (on campus)

Additional support

Scholarships and funding

We offer a range of scholarships and funding support:

- Kent Access to HE Ambition Scholarship
- Kent Ambition to Succeed Scholarship
- Kent Financial Support Package
- Sports Scholarships
- Music Scholarships



Eligibility and selection criteria may apply. For further details see: kent.ac.uk/scholarships/undergraduate

Contextual offers

As part of our ongoing commitment to widening participation at the University of Kent, we have a contextual admissions policy. We use data and indicators to help us build a more rounded view of an applicant's achievements and potential and we are keen to ensure we are able to identify talent using a range of applicant information in addition to prior attainment. We are also committed to ensuring that each applicant is fairly assessed.



For more information see: kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/apply/contextual-offers

Head Start: Transition to HE support for college students

We recognise that progressing to university or on to a higher education course in a college can be a confusing, exciting and anxious time and we provide support for this important transition as well as sharing tips from current students. Our Head Start programme provides support pre-Welcome Week to those

“ 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

students coming to study at Kent from the local Kent and Medway area. The one-day event on campus will give an insight into the support services available at Kent, the changes in learning and teaching and tips on finance. Parents and supporters are encouraged to attend and there is an opportunity to meet and talk to current students from right across the university.

In addition, supported by our student ambassadors, we provide one-off talks – ‘Your Next Steps’ – for students who are progressing to other institutions, to encourage discussion on moving away, or staying local, how university study will be different and what support can be expected.

LGBTQIA+ myth busters

The ‘LGBTQIA+ myth busters’ are student ambassadors who share their unique journeys and experiences of university life, providing a supportive space to discuss sexuality and/or identity.

Care-experienced and estranged students

The University has designated members of staff for care-experienced and estranged students. Please get in touch to find out about individual support for your students who may be thinking about university, looking to apply, or transitioning to higher education.



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, 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 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.

Contact us

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

Ruth Westbury
E: R.N.Westbury@kent.ac.uk
T: 01227 824147

For more general queries, contact outreach@kent.ac.uk



The Ambition to Succeed Programme



Ambition to Succeed

From October, we invite applications from year 12/year 1, Level 3 students* to join a multi-school/college cohort for a programme of online and in-person activities, culminating in a residential stay on our Canterbury campus. From February to July in the first year of the programme, students will engage in a programme incorporating information, exploration and experience. It offers an introduction to HE level study, extra-curricular activities and a broad exposure to subjects available. Midway through, students will choose a subject 'strand' to focus on for the remainder of the programme. In year 13/year 2, Level 3, students are invited to join a programme of online drop-in sessions to support onward progression.

Ambition to Succeed Scholarship

Students who attend Ambition to Succeed and are successful in an HE application to the University of Kent will be eligible for our Ambition to Succeed Scholarship. For more information visit: kent.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/outreach

Kent Ambition Scholars Programme

Once enrolled at Kent, Ambition to Succeed Scholarship holders will be invited to join this flagship enrichment programme. Students will receive targeted support and development opportunities throughout their student journey, as well as being invited to apply to become a Student Ambassador.

*Subject to eligibility criteria

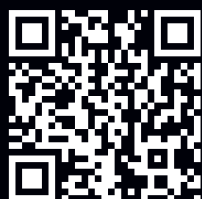
FIND OUT MORE.

You can contact us at:

T: +44 (0)1227 824149

E: outreach@kent.ac.uk

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



EXPLORE
↩ SCAN ME

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This brochure was produced in June 2024. 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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