

# Thriving at Kent - An International Student Guide

2025



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# Welcome

Welcome to the University of Kent, and welcome to Canterbury! Kent is known as the "Garden of England" due to the beauty of its nature, abundant parks and great sightseeing locations.

We are members of the <u>International Student Advisory Board</u> and have produced this guide based on our own experiences. We hope that this will give you a head start, so that you can focus on making friends and enjoying your experience both now and throughout your student journey.



I joined the International Student Advisory Board during my second year, where I engaged in the pre-arrival guide project. The goal was to take what was discussed and pass the information on to incoming international students to aid in their transition over to the UK and Canterbury specifically.

Sidra Ahmed - LLB - Canada



Moving to a new country can be challenging at first, but once the paperwork and logistics were out of the way, I found myself settling in and enjoying my student experience at Kent.

Maria Barbola Zapater – PhD Drama - Spain

# Now you've arrived

# **Getting out and about**

Travel in and out of Canterbury

**Bus Stops and Routes** 



There are numerous <u>bus stops throughout campus</u> that will take you into the city centre. You will see a pole with a sign indicating that it is a bus stop. There will be a timetable for all buses that service the stop you are at attached to the pole.



All bus stops within the campus are serviced by the uni1 and uni2 buses that provide a direct route to the city centre. The Keynes College bus stop is serviced by the 400 bus line in addition to the uni1 and uni2 buses, which provides a route from the city centre to Whitstable and back. This bus stop is also serviced the latest amongst all bus stops on campus. If you plan to travel in the late evenings or early mornings, familiarize yourself with this stop in particular.

<u>Please note:</u> Due to ongoing roadworks at Westgate Towers, bus numbers 400, 401 and uni1 have a revised timetable until at least 21 October 2025. Be sure to check out the Stagecoach website for updates.

Canterbury Bus Service Updates - Are Canterbury Buses Running Today? | Stagecoach



As well as the uni1, uni2, and 400 bus routes, there are numerous other bus routes throughout Canterbury that can connect to numerous destinations in and out of town! There are many buses available from Canterbury bus station that service other nearby cities such as Whitstable (400, 401), Folkestone (16, 17), Margate (8A, 8X) etc. This provides a cheap route to explore the surrounding sites!

For more information about bus timetables in the area please visit <a href="https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables">https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables</a>.

#### **Buying Bus Tickets**

You can buy a ticket on the bus or in advance through the Stagecoach app. There are <u>discounted tickets</u> available for students to purchase. Always remember to keep your student card on you, otherwise you will not be able to purchase or use a student discounted ticket. We recommend downloading the Stagecoach app, which provides routes, live updates, full-year/ term passes, and more!

# **Tip - Student Day Pass:**

Be careful using a student day pass as you might not be able to return using the same ticket If you leave the zone permitted on the ticket.

A student day pass ticket is cheaper than two single ones.

#### **Travelling on foot**

Canterbury is incredibly accessible by foot. You can walk to the city centre in ~35 minutes from campus. The easiest way to do so is by following along the Eliot Footpath. This pathway is located behind Eliot College. To get to Eliot footpath from the city centre, make your way to St. Michaels Road and follow the signs posted.

#### **Train Travel**

Canterbury has two Train Stations, Canterbury East and Canterbury West. Canterbury West is the nearest train station to the University and the one you should use for the High-Speed Service into London St Pancras. Train travel can be expensive, particularly If using the high speed service, so you may want to get a <u>Railcard</u> if you travel regularly which can save 1/3 on ticket costs, or book In advance.

<u>Canterbury West Railway Station</u>: This station is approximately a 25-minute walk from the campus. Has regular trains to Margate, Ramsgate, Whitstable and London St Pancras.

<u>Canterbury East Railway Station</u>: This station is approximately a 45-minute walk from the campus. Has regular trains to Dover and London Victoria.

These stations are operated by <u>Southeastern Rail</u>. You can also buy tickets and check travel times via <u>National Rail</u>. If you book In advance you can sometimes save money on <u>Trainline.com</u>. However, do check prices as Trainline will charge a small booking fee.

If you want to travel to Europe from the UK during breaks from your studies, you can use the <u>Eurostar</u> to travel to Europe from Ebbsfleet, Ashford, London St Pancras International to Brussels, Paris, Amsterdam and Lille.

Important: Do check any visa restrictions as you may need a Schengen visa to travel. <u>UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)</u> has further advice and you can also speak to the <u>Kent Student's Union Advice Service</u>.

# **Shopping for those essentials**

#### **Groceries**

#### **Supermarkets**

- The UK has several supermarket chains with different price ranges. <u>Aldi</u> is the cheapest one and has two locations in Canterbury. <u>Waitrose</u> is the most expensive one.
- <u>Sainsbury's</u> and <u>ASDA</u> are two of the biggest supermarkets in Canterbury.
- M&S, Tesco, Sainsbury's Local and Waitrose are located in the city centre.
- Two Co-op shops are located on University's Campus (Central Campus and Parkwood).
- Most supermarkets offer free membership schemes. You can log in and enjoy some discounts and collect points interchangeably for money.
- Supermarkets such as Sainsbury's and Morrisons have a cheaper range of products. It is also common to find "Aldi price match" stickers indicating that the price of that product is the same at Aldi.
- Please note that you have to bring your own bags. There are bags available in the supermarket, but you will have to pay a small fee. Additionally, most supermarkets have selfcheckout tills. There is usually no internet connection in supermarkets. It is possible to do your grocery shopping online and it will be delivered to your accommodation for a fee.



We have done a price comparison of a large weekly food shop in different supermarkets for you, with Aldi coming out as the cheapest:

Aldi	Sainsbury	Tesco	ASDA	Morrisons	M&S	Waitrose
£43.39	£47.97	£50.24	£50.92	£53.64	£58.97	£60.18

### **Specialised shops**

- Thais R Us Oriental Grocers: Asian Grocery Shop. 20 Lower Bridge St, Canterbury CT1 2LG
- Garden Of England: Grocery with African and Asian produce. 19 St. Dunstans St, Canterbury CT2 8BH
- Canterbury, Asian groceries: Grocery with African and Asian produce. 29 Wincheap, Canterbury CT1 3RX
- Starry Mart: Asian Grocery Shop. Unit 2, Broad Oak House, Broad Oak Rd, Canterbury CT2 7PX. Unit 12, the Riverside, Sturry Rd, Canterbury CT1 1BU.
- Asian Food Market Indian Groceries Canterbury: Grocery with Indian, Nepali, Sri Lankan and Afro Caribbean produce. 254 Sturry Rd, Canterbury CT1 1DT
- Balkan food Canterbury: Eastern European Grocery Shop. 19 Castle St, Canterbury CT1 2QJ
- Kent Food: Grocery shop with international food. 56 Dover St, Canterbury CT1 3HD
- Supermarkets usually have international sections. Lidl (located in Herne Bay) and sometimes Aldi have weekly offers dedicated to foods from different countries.
- You can find the location of many of the grocery stores and shops listed on the <u>Nexus Student Guide to</u> Canterbury Google Map.

## **Campus food**

The Canterbury campus has a number of restaurants, cafés, and bars, which can be found on the <u>Food and Drink at Kent webpage</u>.

# Other food tips

- Bars and restaurants might ask you to pay a service charge, but you can opt out.
- Supermarkets are usually open from 8.00am to 10.00pm Monday through to Saturday. They are also open on Sundays and Bank holidays, but with restricted opening times.
- Look out for the yellow stickers in supermarkets. These are products sold at a reduced price because their best before date is approaching, but they are still safe to consume.
- In the UK, breakfast is usually between 7.00 and 9.00am, lunch is between 12.00 and 2.00pm, and dinner is between 6.30 to 8.00pm.
- Most supermarkets offer meal deals that include one main (a sandwich, or salad), one side (a bag of crisps or another snack) and a drink.
- Eating out: Canterbury has a great variety of international restaurants.
- You must be aged 18 or over to buy alcohol (in bars and shops), so be sure you carry your ID with you.
- You can order take-aways using apps such as Deliveroo, Just Eat or Uber Eats.

# **British produce and dishes**

British food has a rather bad reputation, usually described as bland and boring. However, there are plenty of traditional delicious meals:





Pictures: Cauliflower, broccoli, and carrots (top left); Brussel sprouts (top right)

- Local Produce: brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, kale, parsnip, cabbage, swedes, leeks, asparagus, spinach, onions, pumpkin, apples, pears, berries, plums.
- Traditional Dishes: full English breakfast, Sunday roast, fish and chips, chicken tikka masala, meat pies, black pudding, scotch egg, shepherd's pie, bangers (sausages) and mash (mashed potato), Yorkshire pudding, crumpets, scones, toad in the hole (sausages baked in a Yorkshire pudding), Cornish pasty, pie and mash, trifle, sausage rolls, beef wellington, Eton mess, Victoria sponge cake, sticky toffee pudding.





Pictures: Sunday Roast dinner with a Yorkshire Pudding (top left); Cream Tea of Scones, jam and cream (top right)

# **Household and Stationery**

Regardless of where you choose to live, you will likely need to purchase some household items such as bedding or appliances. It is possible to order items through online retailers and get things delivered to campus. If you'd rather purchase in person, there are quite a few stores in town to consider:

- Argos -> provides a click and collect service. Buy your items online and collect at Sainsbury's in town. Sells appliances such as rice cookers, air fryers etc. (£) ~20 minute bus ride from campus.
- Tesco -> has a small home section in store, providing good basics such as utensil sets and cleaning supplies.
   (£) ~15 minute bus ride from campus.
- Dunelm -> UK's leading home store. Shop for bedding, curtains, kitchen products, etc. (££) ~ 30 minute bus ride from campus.
- Flying Tiger -> unique items including kitchen utensils, stationary, and other goods. (£) ~15 minute bus ride from campus.
- Oliver Bonas -> shop for homeware and gifts at this independent UK lifestyle store. (£££) ~15 minute bus
   ride from campus
- Ryman -> shop for affordable stationary items (and get things printed!), likely cheaper than options on Amazon. (£) ~15 minute ride from campus.
- Poundland -> has a large selection of homeware and stationery, with very affordable pricing. (£) ~15 minute bus ride from campus.
- Primark -> has a home section located on the top floor with bathroom and kitchen products. (£) ~15 minute bus ride from campus.
- Fenwick -> has a home section on the lower floor (££££) ~15 minute bus ride from campus)

Prices vary significantly across these stores. Please ensure you conduct your own research using the online links provided or by walking through town to find suitable options.

#### **Hair and Nail Salons**

There are numerous barbers and hair salons throughout the city. Visit The Black student guide to Kent - Student life - University of Kent to find information on specialist hair salons! Along with the numerous hairdressers, there are many nail salons too. Simply search nail salon on your map or walk through the city centre to find different options.



#### **Student Discounts**

Shopping can become quite expensive fast, especially in those first few weeks after arrival. Make sure to capitalise on the student discounts available by having your student card with you everywhere you go. Many restaurants throughout town will provide a small discount to students. If it is not immediately advertised, don't be shy to ask! But the savings don't just end there, here are some other ways to get access to student discounts:

- Sign up for UniDays and StudentBeans online to gain access to discounts across 1000's of stores.
- Many subscription services such as Amazon Prime and Spotify offer student discounts as well be sure to check any subscriptions you currently opt into.
- Points and loyalty cards also provide access to savings that quickly rack up! Most grocery stores, like Tesco and Sainsburys, will have membership/point cards that are free or cheap to grab these cards are scanned when purchasing and provide savings on selected items (The Co-Op Membership is just £1, which you will get back almost every time you shop!). Many stores, like Boots Pharmacy, allow student cards to be linked to their point cards to provide an automatic student discount on purchases!
- Many retailers will also have apps available that provide offers and discounts. For instance, Cafe Nero (conveniently located on campus) allows for student cards to be linked to accounts through their app, giving you access to discounted purchases.
   "I feel so privileged to have free access to one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites
- Sign up for an <u>International Student Identity</u>
   <u>Card</u> for discounts in the UK and home countries. (Note: ISIC is £12 to sign up).
- The <u>Student Art Pass</u> offers amazing discounts in many museums and galleries.

"I feel so privileged to have free access to one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites simply by showing my Student Card. Don't forget to take advantage of the many benefits your Student Card offers!"

As you can tell there are numerous ways to get discounts across a variety of purchases. Be sure to research stores not specifically mentioned here to see If they offer any student discounts or points/loyalty cards.

# Finding a Bank | Banking in the UK

There are many banks available for you to open an account with. However, most of these options do require proof of address, meaning you will need your tenancy agreement or a utility bill on hand. If you would like to open an account but do not yet have your accommodation you can open an account through providers such as Wise, Revolut or Monzo.

• Wise -> you can create a Wise account using your home country address\* by downloading their app. Once you make an account you can get a digital and physical card. The app allows you to transfer money from your home bank into your Wise account and convert into your desired currency. Wise's conversion fee tends to be cheaper than other currency exchange providers.

#### Quick Checklist:

- 1. Choose a bank
- Download your student status
   letter from Kent Vision
- Check you have the required documents

We recommend opening a Wise account and transferring some money into your account before arrival, to allow you to spend in GBP without worrying about your home banks conversion fees!

 Monzo -> MONZO is an online UK bank, providing a fully regulated UK account, accessible through an easyto-use app. You can receive a physical and digital card for free and do not need to provide proof of address.

Canterbury has numerous banks located within the City Centre. If you would like to open an account with one of these banks, please ensure you conduct research online regarding requirements. Here are some banks to choose from:

Bank	Type of Account	Documentation Needed	Money Transfers
HSBC	International Student Account	Valid passport + UK Student Visa + Proof of UK address + University Acceptance/Enrolment Letter	Receiving money from outside of UK: £5 fee Sending money outside the UK: £5 fee (except other HSBC accounts)
Lloyds Bank	Classic Account	Valid passport + UK Student Visa + Proof of UK address	Receiving money from outside UK: no fee for Euros, £2 for up to £100 transfer, £7 for over £100 transfer.  Sending money outside the UK: £0
NatWest	Everyday Current Account	Valid passport + UK Student Visa + Proof of UK address	Receiving money from outside the UK: no fee for Euros, £1 for up to £100 transfer, £7 for more than £100 transfer. Sending money outside the UK: no fee
Santander	Basic Current Account	Valid passport + UK Student Visa + Proof of UK address or letter issued by the University that confirms your UK study (letter must include your name, course details, and address might be less than 12 months old)	Receiving money from outside the UK: no fee  Sending money outside the UK: £25 for international payments.

See also <u>How to open a UK bank account</u>.

# **Phone Service**

Please note that you might not have phone service in the city centre. This is because it is difficult to install masts due to the city's layout and protection regulations as Canterbury Cathedral has UNESCO World Heritage status.

 Lebara: £5 per month with 5 GB data, unlimited calls and texts to Lebara UK numbers and 1000 minutes and texts to other UK numbers, 100 international minutes to over 50 countries and EU roaming. (30-day plan)

<sup>\*</sup>New Zealand and Japan have some special requirements

- Smarty: £6 per month with 5 GB data, unlimited calls and texts, EU roaming (30-day plan)
- Voxi: £10 per month with 20 GB data, unlimited calls and texts, and unlimited use of social media apps. (30-day plan)
- Vodafone: £19 per month with 5GB data, unlimited UK calls and texts (12-month plan)
- ID Mobile: £6 per month with 4GB data, unlimited calls and texts, roaming to 50 different countries (12-month plan)
- Three: £19 per month with 4GB data, unlimited calls and texts (1-month plan)
- O2: £15 per month with 20 GB data, unlimited UK calls and texts, EU roaming (24-month plan)
- EE
- TescoMobile

#### Healthcare

#### Registering with a GP

To get medical attention, you must register with a GP Surgery. A GP surgery is a medical practice where General Practitioners, also called family doctors, nurses and other health professionals provide primary healthcare services. They are the first point of contact for individuals with health concerns. GPs will refer patients to a specialist if needed.

You can choose the surgery where you want to be treated (follow this <u>link</u> to see GP surgeries in Canterbury). There is one GP surgery on campus (**University Medical Centre**, Giles Ln, Canterbury CT2 7PB). The GP surgery registration is free and can be done through the <u>NHS website</u>. You will have to provide a series of details, such as your full name and date of birth. The system will ask you if you have an NHS number. If you do not have an NHS number, proceed with the application selecting the option "No, continue without". Your NHS number will be assigned to you during the registration process, and you'll receive it via postal letter or through your GP. Please note that it will take 5 days to be registered with the GP surgery.

Once you are registered, do not forget to download the NHS and MyGP Apps to access healthcare services and book appointments.

- NHS App is a government app that offers a range of services such as access to your health record, ordering repeat prescriptions or booking and managing appointments.
- MyGP is a third-party application that focuses on appointment booking and prescription ordering.

The University of Kent also has a **University Nursing Service** (UNS). It offers a walk-in service Monday to Friday 7am-10am and 5pm-midnight and weekends 7am-midnight during term times. You do not need to be registered with a GP Surgery to use this service. Appointments can be booked for Monday to Friday from 10am to 5pm. Tel: 01227 823503.

#### **Emergencies**

Call **111** if you are not in a life-threating situation but need medical help, such as help for symptoms or injury, dental or mental health help, a prescription or medicines information, help with an existing medical condition. You will talk with someone who will ask you about your situation and suggest a plan of action (Whether it is in-house treatment, booking an appointment with your GP, buying pills, etc.). It is available 24/7. If you prefer not to talk with anyone but need help for symptoms, you can complete a questionnaire on the NHS app (please note that it might suggest talking with a nurse when you complete the questionnaire).

Call 999 for life-threatening emergencies. If you are on campus, call Campus Watch emergency line 01227 823333.

A&E (accident and emergency) services are hospital departments that provide immediate care for people with serious injuries and life-threatening emergencies. The closest A&E services are in Ashford and Margate

- William Harvey Hospital (Ashford): Open 24 hours. Kennington Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent, TN24
   0LZ. Tel: 01233 633331
- Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital (Margate): Open 24 hours. St Peters Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 4AN. Tel: 01843 225544

Urgent treatment centre's (UTCs) provide medical help when it's not a life-threatening emergency. They can help with skin infections and rashes, stomach issues, injuries and cuts, or mental health concerns. You do not need an appointment or to be registered with a GP to use this service. There is one UTC in Canterbury located in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital (Ethelbert Road, Canterbury, CT1 3NG Tel: 01227 864244). The unit is open 24 hours a day but operates as a walk-in minor injuries unit outside the hours of 8am to midnight.

If you need healthcare but you are not registered yet, you can use the University Nursing Service, call 111, or visit an Urgent Treatment Centre.

#### **Mental Health and Student Support**

The University of Kent has a <u>Student Support and Well-being</u> service, offering a wide range of resources. They are located In Eliot Extension on the Canterbury Campus, and you can contact them for any mental health concerns, disability and neurodiversity support, specialised support on sexual assault or bullying and inclusive learning plans (ILPs).

#### **Sexual Health**

The <u>Gate Clinic</u>, located in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, is a sexual health clinic providing confidential counselling, testing and treatment for sexual transmitted infections (STIs) and other sexual-related issues. Call 0300 123 1678 to book an appointment.

#### **Medicines**

It is possible to buy certain medicines, such as pain relievers, medicines for a cold, the flu or allergy relief, sleeping pills and condoms from most supermarkets. Alternatively, you can go to <u>Boots</u> or <u>Superdrug</u> (Both stores have an in-store pharmacy). To buy certain medicines, you will have to go to a pharmacy, and the pharmacy staff will advise you on what medicine to take. Go to a pharmacy for prescription-only medicines as well. There is a pharmacy next to the University Medical Centre (Giles Lane, Canterbury CT2 7PB).

For further information see My Kent – Student Support – Register with a doctor

# What to do and where to go

# In and around Canterbury



- Canterbury Cathedral: visit England's first Cathedral, founded by St Augustine in 597 AD and now UNESCO World Heritage Site. (University of Kent students enjoy free entry)
- St Augustine's Abbey: part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site alongside the Cathedral, this Abbey was one of the most relevant monasteries in England during the Middle Ages.
- St Martin's Church: dated from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, this is the English-speaking world's oldest church still in use. Free entry for everyone.



- The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge: this 19<sup>th</sup> century building holds a museum and art gallery. It is also the home of Canterbury's public library and Canterbury's Visitor Information Centre.
- Canterbury Roman Museum: visit the remains of a Roman Town House and one of UK's remaining in situ Roman pavements.
- Gardens: visit Westgate Gardens and Solly's Orchard.

"Micro Roastery Coffee House is by far, in my opinion, the best place to get coffee (and this is coming from someone who does not like coffee). You can also grab a Vietnamese styled iced coffee from Sumo Donuts, which is something I recommend trying!"

# **Explore Kent**

There are many beautiful cities to explore in Kent, from seaside's to beautiful villages. Check out <u>Kent's</u> <u>destinations</u> for more detailed information on all the destinations nearby! Here are some of our top picks to give you a taste of what Kent has to offer:



#### Dover

Home to a must-see sight - the Dover White Cliffs. Walk along the cliffs (considered to be an easy to moderate walk, taking about 1 ½ hours to complete) and be sure to stop by the White Cliffs of Dover Museum afterwards. Stop by Dover Castle or even visit the many great museums like Crabble Corn Mill, the Dover Museum and the Dover Transport Museum. Its 800-year-old Town Hall, Maison Dieu, is also worth visiting. Take the Southeastern train from Canterbury East to Dover Priory

(~30 minutes) and then walk to the start of the trail by the White Cliffs of Dover Museum.



#### Whitstable

A charming seaside town, known for its Oysters, and just one bus away from Canterbury! Has been dubbed the 'Pearl of Kent', filled with seafood restaurants, art galleries, and boutique shops. Check out The Forge for amazing fish and chips and fried doughnuts! Visit one of its pebbled beaches and wander along to the colourful Fisherman Huts. Drop by Harbour Street for shops, antique boutiques and cafes. Stop by Whitstable Castle and wander around its gardens. You can get to Whitstable by foot following the Crab and Winkle Way that passes through the University. Alternatively, hop onto the 401

or 400 bus route!



## Margate

There's plenty to do in Margate - head over to Margate Main Sands, known for its golden sands and lively atmosphere for a beach day or make your way to the iconic vintage amusement park dating back 100 years, Dreamland. Take the uni1 or uni2 bus to Canterbury Bus Station and then switch onto bus no. 8 for about an hour.



#### London

With the high speed trainline getting Into London takes just over an hour. There are lots of places to visit, such as Buckingham Palace, Museums, Galleries, Theatres and shopping opportunities.

Additionally, the Chaplaincy organises day trips to Bodiam Castle, Chartwell, Oxford or Cambridge.

# **General and Cultural Tips**

# **British Culture and Culture Shock**

You might experience <u>culture shock</u> when coming to the UK. Moving to a new country means adapting to new cultural norms and lifestyles. <u>Social etiquette in the UK might</u> be different from your country. <u>UK houses might</u> also have different appliances from your house.

You can find further details In the links here and below, but do also reach out to the <u>Student Support and Wellbeing</u> service as well, who can offer guidance and support.

Further details on British Culture and Culture Shock from My England Visit.

#### **Cash or Credit Card?**

While carrying some cash can be convenient, most businesses now accept credit cards, and card-only payment policies are becoming more common. Be sure to keep your credit card handy, as it will likely be your primary method of payment.

# Public Houses also known as 'Pubs'

Head to this link to know more about the UK's pub culture. Remember that while most people order beer, there are many non-alcoholic options to choose from <a href="https://www.trustinns.co.uk/a-guide-to-british-pub-etiquette-dos-and-donts/">https://www.trustinns.co.uk/a-guide-to-british-pub-etiquette-dos-and-donts/</a>

#### **Bank Holiday's**

A bank holiday in the UK is a public holiday when banks and many other businesses are closed. These holidays offer a break from the usual work routine, allowing people to relax or engage in leisure activities. When are the UK bank holidays <a href="https://www.gov.uk/bank-holidays">https://www.gov.uk/bank-holidays</a>

# Common Festivals and Holidays celebrated in the UK

<u>Visit Britain</u> has a great guide to annual and seasonal events celebrated In the UK. Don't forget about all of the University and cultural events being celebrated too by checking the <u>Student News page</u> and <u>International Student Support page</u>.

# **Thriving At Kent**

#### **Student Life**

The University of Kent offers a vibrant <u>student life</u>. You can join a range of <u>societies</u>, meet students from your country at your country's society or meet students with similar interests as yours. Make sure to check <u>Kent Union's website</u> to discover all the societies at the University. If you like sports, there are also <u>sports clubs</u> and an on campus <u>Gym</u>. If you stay on-campus, <u>ResLife</u> organises a great variety of activities, some of these are open to students living off campus as well.

<u>Nexus</u> (located in the Templeman Library) is the place to resolve your queries. Kent Union also offers a free, impartial and confidential <u>Advice Service</u>.

<u>Student Support and Well-being</u> service, offer a wide range of resources. They are located In Eliot Extension on the Canterbury Campus, and you can contact them for any mental health concerns, disability and neurodiversity support, specialised support on sexual assault or bullying and inclusive learning plans (ILPs).

You can also get involved in activities aimed at improving international students' experience: International Students Network: <a href="https://ksu.co.uk/networks/international">https://ksu.co.uk/networks/international</a>

<u>International Student Advisory Board</u>: join this group of international students to provide feedback and create initiatives to improve your student experience at the University of Kent

<u>Global Hangouts:</u> these events are a great opportunity to meet new friends, participate in fun activities and enjoy some refreshments and entertainment.

Check out the <u>Global Learning Opportunities</u> website to learn more about the different opportunities available to you.

"Joining ISAB and attending Global Hangouts has broadened my understanding of different cultures and realities. I love that the University of Kent provides countless opportunities to develop skills beyond the classroom."

The <u>Chaplaincy</u> organises day trips but also provides spiritual support and facilities for students of all faiths and none. The Chaplains lead worship and run social and educational events. Also see the <u>Religious Observance Guide</u> for details of Multi-Faith Prayer Rooms.

<u>Kent Student's Union</u> is a charity that looks after Kent students' welfare. They are independent from the University and offer support and services to students at the University of Kent. Kent Students' Union is run by students and supervises the societies and student representatives. They also offer a free, impartial and confidential <u>Advice Service</u>, a campus pantry and run some of the food outlets across campus, such as Campus Coffee located in the Library.

Where to find the location of many of the grocery stores and shops on the <u>Nexus Student Guide to Canterbury Google Map</u>.

#### Where to find further information

A Black Student's Guide to Kent is a Black-centric guide to navigating student life at Kent.

# **Student Support Policies**

On the EDI Policies and Procedures page you will find information about Kent's policies, particularly Respect at Kent, Exams and Ramadan, LGBTQ+ and Trans Student policy and support, and the Religious Observance Guide. EDI Policies and Procedures - Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity - University of Kent

# UK Council for International Student Affairs (<u>UKCISA</u>)

UKCISA is an independent, UK-based charity and membership organisation committed to supporting international students and the educators, institutions, and organisations that work with them. Through education and advocacy their aim is to ensure that every international student in the UK enjoys a positive experience.

They have a great guide to living and studying in the UK.

#### Note

We've done our best to check the information here, but some details may change over time. A few of the websites and resources have been recommended by other students, so we can't guarantee everything will always be accurate. If you spot something that doesn't look right, please let us know so we can update it.

#### Acknowledgements and how to contact us

Thank you to the members of the International Student Advisory Board for putting together this guide, and to Tracey Binney for the London Sunrise photograph.

If you have any feedback or other Items you would like to see Included In the future, please contact us by emailing GlobalExperience@kent.ac.uk.



Student Life, Templeman Library, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NU

