

KENT GLOBAL

International minds with global impact

www.kent.ac.uk/global



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INTRODUCTION

Based in Canterbury, Medway, Tonbridge, Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome, the University of Kent is a leading UK university that makes a major economic, social, and cultural contribution regionally, nationally and internationally. We do so by providing excellent opportunities in higher education, by undertaking world-leading research, and through a host of education, innovation and enterprise, and creative activities.

The University is committed to internationalisation and is part of a number of European and international networks, as well as having partnerships with 388 international institutions to encourage our collaboration between staff and students. Our latest Internationalisation Strategy aims to improve, expand and increase our commitment to internationalisation and is complementary to the University of Kent's Institutional Plan. Our European study centres continue to go from strength to strength in four capital cities across Europe. Our world-wide impact has also continued to expand including overseas partnerships for mobility purposes and the delivery of Kent degrees in locations such as Hong Kong.



Dr Anthony Manning
Dean for Internationalisation

INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

At the heart of Kent's Internationalisation Strategy is an understanding of the importance of actively embedding and infusing Internationalisation, or globally-focused values, into the development and realisation of all aspects of Kent's activity. In achieving this, it is believed that educational strategy will be better connected with the global context and intercultural competences. These ambitions also respond to the pervasive nature of internationalisation, as it is embedded across each of the three main strands of Research, Education and Engagement, in the University's Institutional Plan.

The Internationalisation Strategy's objectives are to:

- Raise the profile and increase international esteem of the University of Kent and its research
- Embrace, learn from and respond to cultural diversity and embed cross-institutional internationalisation
- Champion and extend the University's unique position as the UK's European university
- Further develop and enhance partnerships and networks in the wider international world
- Continue to increase and support international student recruitment

In addition to the main Internationalisation Strategy, each school and department has its own Internationalisation Strategy or action set. There are also major sub strategies focusing on international recruitment and international partnerships.



GLOBAL EDUCATION



The University was awarded a gold rating, the highest, in the UK Government's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) in June 2017.

An education at the University of Kent involves studying in an international community of students, representing 158 nationalities from all over the world. 10.9% of students are from the EU and 16.1% are from overseas. Our academic staff are also internationally minded and experienced, with 41% of our academic staff coming from outside the UK.

As a research intensive university, with 97% of our research being world-leading, this has an impact on the international positioning of the education which we provide. At Kent we have one of the highest percentages of students studying under the Erasmus scheme of any multi-faculty UK university.

We also offer a wealth of European and international opportunities for study, work and travel in a stimulating and effective learning community. Kent is the only UK university with specialist study centres in four European capital cities.

In a recent survey of graduating students 82% of respondents noted that they have been exposed to a globally-minded environment while at Kent.

Global Engagement Modules (GEMs) –

These are wild modules and courses with an international dimension. They cover a diverse range of subjects from global histories and religions to environments and cultures.

Curriculum Internationalisation – The University of Kent recognises that curriculum internationalisation is an essential component of the internationalisation of higher education. The impact of curriculum internationalisation will be more profound if this involves internationalising learning outcomes, content, teaching and learning activities and assessment tasks.

It is recognised that in order to be successful, the approach taken needs to go beyond isolated optional subjects, experiences and activities for a minority of students and should focus on all students' learning. Importantly, the process needs to be undertaken in a planned, systematic and sustainable way. With this in mind, Kent has now embedded an element of curriculum internationalisation with all new and revised modules.

GLOBAL RESEARCH



Kent was ranked 17th in the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) for research intensity. We have world-leading research in all subjects and 97% of our research is deemed to be of international quality.

At Kent, we share our ideas and expertise to tackle global challenges. From age discrimination to viral epidemics, our research is responding to 21st century problems. The University's Internationalisation Strategy takes into account key aspects of the University's Research and Innovation Strategy and seeks to engage with research agendas, agencies and funding streams. This activity helps us to enhance further our European and international research collaborations and partnerships.

Research Services – Research Services support researchers at Kent to engage and participate in global and European projects such as Horizon 2020, Grand Challenges and the Newton Fund.

Global Research Opportunities Workshop (GROW) – GROW, a joint venture by International Partnerships, Research Services and the Dean for Internationalisation – provides information sessions to assist staff in identifying and harnessing ventures which support international research.

Visiting Academic Fund – This fund was set up to support and encourage academics from our partners and other international institutions to visit the University of Kent. The fund also supports Kent academics visiting international partners.

International Partnerships – International Partnerships support staff in progressing and identifying international research collaborators or institutions.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



The University of Kent has long-standing partnerships and collaborative links covering teaching and research with a large number of prestigious European and international Higher Education Institutions. Kent's international links allow students and staff to share and broaden their experience and enhance their skills through contact with many different countries, cultures and experiences all over the world.

Visits to our international partners provide fantastic opportunities to exchange ideas and good practice, gain insights into the Higher Education/business culture in other countries, and acquire an increased understanding of the needs and experience of international students who come to study at the University of Kent.

The University is an active member of international higher education networks, which strengthen our presence in the European Higher Education Area and further afield.

Students studying at the University of Kent continue to undertake placements or other academic activities in many countries throughout the EU, as well as in North and South America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

In addition to the international aspects of our research and education, which are led by our schools and faculties, there are a number of University level projects which highlight and foster key areas of our internationalisation. A series of these global engagement activities include:

Think Kent videos – presenting examples of Kent's internationally positioned research for access by audiences all over the world.

Global Skills Award – An internationally focused lecture series and set of opportunities for postgraduate taught students.

International visits – At Kent we recognise the importance of maintaining academic connections with institutions across the world. We welcome incoming academics and colleagues and proactively visit with partner institutions across the world.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE



The University of Kent is committed to providing an internationalised experience to all students. There are a wide range of opportunities for students at Kent to help maximise the benefits of our vibrant and international community. Our outstanding student support has been recognised in sector, through gaining a THE Award’.

Kent Union, the University of Kent’s Students’ Union also provides a wide range of co-curricular opportunities for students including around 190 student societies, over 40 of which are cultural societies, over 50 sports teams and nearly 100 volunteering opportunities.

The international student experience is in the top 15% in the UK with 92.4% of international students saying they were satisfied with their overall experience at Kent. Kent was also ranked the highest in the UK by international students for managing research. In the National Student Survey (NSS) final year undergraduate students gave the University of Kent a 90% overall satisfaction rating.

79% of students agree studying at Kent has prepared them for the idea of working in an environment of social and cultural diversity.

Global Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Programme – Each year the Dean for Internationalisation, offers undergraduate students the opportunity to apply to take part in a specially designed leadership development programme and become a student Global Officer at Kent.

Kent Global Passport – a tool for students to use to identify and reflect upon the international experience and skill acquisition from within their studies.

World Fest – The University hosts World Fest every year at our Canterbury and Medway campuses which aims to celebrate cultures from around the world. Celebration include an international food fayre, Diversity Fayre, national dress day and the International Showcase.

Global Hangouts – ‘Global Hangouts’ is a series of free global networking events arranged throughout the academic year. With a fun and relaxed atmosphere, the hangouts’ include interactive activities, refreshments and live music and performances.

International Opportunities – The ‘International Opportunities’ website highlights a range of activities which all students can take advantage of to help internationalise their student experience www.kent.ac.uk/global/opportunities.html

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT



International Recruitment is an activity which impacts the whole University. It is recognized that it is imperative to work collectively in partnership with students, colleagues, representatives, stakeholders, the sector and with governments and their agencies to continue to attract the brightest and best students to Kent.

These features have been a key aspect of the success in International Recruitment at Kent to date. The International Recruitment Directorate plays a pivotal role in positioning, realising and supporting the University of Kent's global impact and strategic aims.

Principles of partnership, alliance and cooperation remain central to the strategic aims of International Recruitment. Our values are based on Quality; Integrity; Innovation and Collaboration.

The Strategic objectives for the International Recruitment Directorate are:

- to deliver the University's ambitions to meet institutionally agreed international student recruitment targets
- to increase awareness of the University of Kent brand internationally and reputation as a valued partner and world ranked provider of quality education
- to support the building of strategic alliances and partnerships between Kent and educational institutions, representatives and government agencies
- to provide comprehensive market intelligence and guidance to support Senior Management, Academic Schools and Professional Services to achieve and meet the requirements of their international agenda.

The International Recruitment Directorate works closely with Schools and departments across the University to recruit international students through a year-round programme of UK and International events. These include online and digital marketing, work with international schools in the UK and overseas, international conferences, UUK initiatives, embassies, ministries and funding agencies and through the University's global network of official representatives. Tiered country priorities have been established, in order to focus international recruitment efforts to ensure diversity, efficiency and risks mitigated.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



International Partnerships play a pivotal role in positioning the University of Kent's international impact as the institution it seeks to drive forward to meet its strategic aims and objectives using our in-house Global Engagement Partnership Index (GEPI).

The International Partnerships Directorate supports the University in realising its strategic objectives through enhancing and deepening international partnerships with institutions that share Kent's founding principles and values and are strategically advantageous for Kent's advancement. We also are responsible for enhancing the student experience through innovative international ventures.

International partnership and network development is an activity that cuts across all sections of the university and needs to be sustainable and mutually beneficial in order to have lasting cross-border impact. International Partnerships encompass a broad range of activities which directly support the University's Internationalisation Strategy 2015-2020.

The sector, and indeed Kent, broadly defines International Partnership activity to include:

- staff and student (study and work) mobility through inbound and outbound study abroad and/or Erasmus exchange arrangements
- overseas delivery of an institution's programme/s through an Academic Centre
- transnational Education (TNE) including: overseas, collaborative provision (ie, validation, franchise, articulation arrangements 2+2, 1+3), dual/joint awards
- massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and other electronic forms of mass engagement
- research projects
- summer Schools
- partnerships with business, as well as educational institutions (such as enterprise, innovation, training and knowledge transfer alliances)
- bilateral institutional visits
- academic and non-academic international networks
- International Training, Capacity Building and Funding Projects such as Erasmus+.

As part of our ongoing engagement activity with our students and international partners, we have introduced a series of initiatives including: International Partners Week, Global Learning Online, the Global Engagement Partnership Index (GEPI) and the Go Abroad Awards.

Kent currently has over 500 links with institutions across 5 regions of the world (North America, South America, Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa) around the world and are proud of our excellent international reputation and of our interaction with partners overseas. As the UK's European university we have a strong engagement with Europe. Kent is the only UK university to have specialist postgraduate centres in four European capital cities: Athens, Brussels, Paris and Rome.

ENGLISH AND WORLD LANGUAGES



The Centre for English and World Languages (CEWL) plays a key role in the University's internationalisation strategy by addressing the linguistic, academic and cultural needs of both home and international students.

Specialising in the delivery of modules, programmes and short courses in English and a wide range of other major world languages, CEWL also offers a range of academic access routes into Higher Education for international students under the brand of Kent International Pathways. CEWL therefore seeks to offer an international dimension to all at Kent, supporting student and staff mobility through the learning of languages and courses on intercultural communication, and helping international students make the most of their time at Kent.

The Centre also coordinates the University's overall Summer School provision, providing students with an opportunity for a truly international academic experience in Brussels, Canterbury or Paris.

International Pathway Programme – CEWL offers a range of academic pathway programmes for access to both undergraduate and postgraduate study. These programmes include the International Foundation Programme, Pre-Master's GDip and a series of Pre-sessional Programmes.

World Language Modules – CEWL is also the provider of credit bearing modules in world languages which do not already fit with existing language-related degree programmes at the University of Kent. At present the credit-bearing modules that we offer are in Arabic, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and Russian.

Language Express – Language Express offers either 20 week or 10 week courses in a range of languages from French and Spanish to Arabic and Mandarin. These courses are open to everyone, not just University of Kent students. These courses run in Canterbury and Medway.

Study Plus – Study Plus enhances the student experience through providing a chance to learn new skills alongside your degree. Study Plus courses are non-credit bearing; however, students will be eligible for Employability Points and attendance at Study Plus courses can appear on their Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

Summer School Opportunities – Summer schools are offered at different levels, from secondary school through to PhD and early career researchers. You can study for interest, credit, professional training or as preparation for further learning. Summer schools are offered in a wide range of subjects across Kent and Europe.

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT



The Development Office works closely with other areas of the university to secure and support our international profile.

Our alumni community stretches around the globe with more than 160,000 members in 200 countries. Some 25% of our contactable alumni are based outside the UK and we have alumni groups in North America, Asia, Africa and Europe. An online mentoring platform allows alumni to mentor Kent students from wherever they are in the world any many alumni give their time to support and advise students in person and online.

The University has philanthropic supporters around the world, with donors from a wide range of countries creating scholarships, helping to alleviate financial hardship, supporting research excellence and funding capital projects, including the new state-of-the-art Wigoder Law Building.

The Innovation in Academia Awards were launched in our 50th anniversary year and support the development of the University's research profile around the world. In 2015 and 2016 the awards were linked to North America and in 2017 the awards were extended to staff in Europe, with a second event taking place in Athens.

To support the Internationalisation Strategy and to extend the University's relationships with stakeholders worldwide, a programme of events is organised by the Corporate Events team in partnership with colleagues around the University. Recent events have taken place in Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, the Middle East, the USA, Canada, Japan and Nigeria. These '360 degree' events support student recruitment and conversion, enable the development and maintenance of university partnerships, and increase stakeholder engagement by including guests from a range of groups including alumni, prospective and current students, and friends of the University.

Events linked to each of the University's European Centres are also held annually at prestigious venues in Paris, Brussels, Rome and Athens, including a joint graduation ceremony with the Athens University of Economics & Business (AUEB).

The University of Kent has numerous international alumni associations across the world. The groups host networking opportunities and events for Kent alumni living or working in these countries. Currently there are seven global alumni associations in America, Belgium, France, Greece, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Nigeria.

THE UK'S EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



With study centres across Europe and strong European links in teaching and research, the University of Kent is ideally positioned to serve as a European gateway to the wider world. Within our global community, we attract a high percentage of European students and staff who help to create an atmosphere of cultural and academic exchange.

European Education – The University's European centres in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome offer programmes that draw on these cities' strengths as sites of cultural, political and historic significance. These complement the strong European focus of our UK programmes in areas such as culture and languages, drama, politics, law, economics, business, social policy and migration. Many of our programmes offer dual UK and European qualifications (international double awards) at Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral level, and Kent is the only UK University selected to have hosted two prestigious Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral programmes.

European Research – Kent's researchers have been highly successful in securing European funding, which has amounted to £16.1m over the last five years. Not only is EU funding important as a source of revenue but EU research grants demand and foster collaboration across borders, between European and international partners. Kent also actively collaborates with European and international partners through a range of other research support initiatives including the Newton Fund and the UK sponsored Grand Challenges Research Fund.

European Engagement – Over the past thirty five years, strong bilateral links with institutions across Europe, established through student and staff mobility agreements, have broadened to form consortia; close groupings of institutions with the common objective of opening up opportunities for inter-institutional cooperation: exchange of best practice; capacity building, internationalisation of the curricula, and joint initiatives covering both research and teaching. The University has been part of the European Commission's Erasmus programme since its inception in 1987; an engagement that has facilitated the University's collaboration with a large number of prestigious Higher Education Institutions in mainland Europe.

As the UK's European university, we pledge to:

- continue to develop our European centres as gateway to the wider world
- monitor, review and develop current European focused programmes
- increase European Doctoral collaborations (cotutelles)
- explore further the potential for the creation of additional strategic partnerships in Europe
- build on our position in Europe as the gateway to the wider world
- maintain, and where possible, increase mobility opportunities for students and staff
- engage further with European alumni groups
- participate actively in European networks and initiatives in order to harness the benefits to our provision and our European focus.

#ALLINTERNATIONAL



At the University of Kent, we believe that we are #allinternational, in a variety of different ways.

Our student body is made up of 27% international students representing 150 different nationalities.

Our staff are internationally experienced too with approximately 40% of our academic staff coming from outside the UK.

Alongside our internationally-relevant programmes, we have more than 140 global engagement modules and courses which can add more international dimensions to your degree.

For students who are looking to gain international experience outside the UK, there's an extensive study abroad programme which connects students at Kent with over 170 universities in 33 countries.

There are also options to study ten different languages which are currently taken up by a large number of students, staff and members of the public.

As part of our commitment to international collaboration, we have over 500 agreements with 388 universities across the world.

Recent comments from our students highlighting their views of global citizenship are included below:

"Being a global citizen make us more tolerant of different cultures and instils values within us. We become a citizen of the world, not just the country we are from."

Shaqeeb Zishan

"Local citizens align to their own cultures. Global citizens share local culture on an international level helping to develop understanding and tolerance."

Inga von der Stein



COLLABORATING OR WORKING WITH KENT

If you would like to find out more information about our international activity or would like to get involved please get in touch.

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