

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School



Post 18 Decisions- Thursday 21st March 6 p.m.

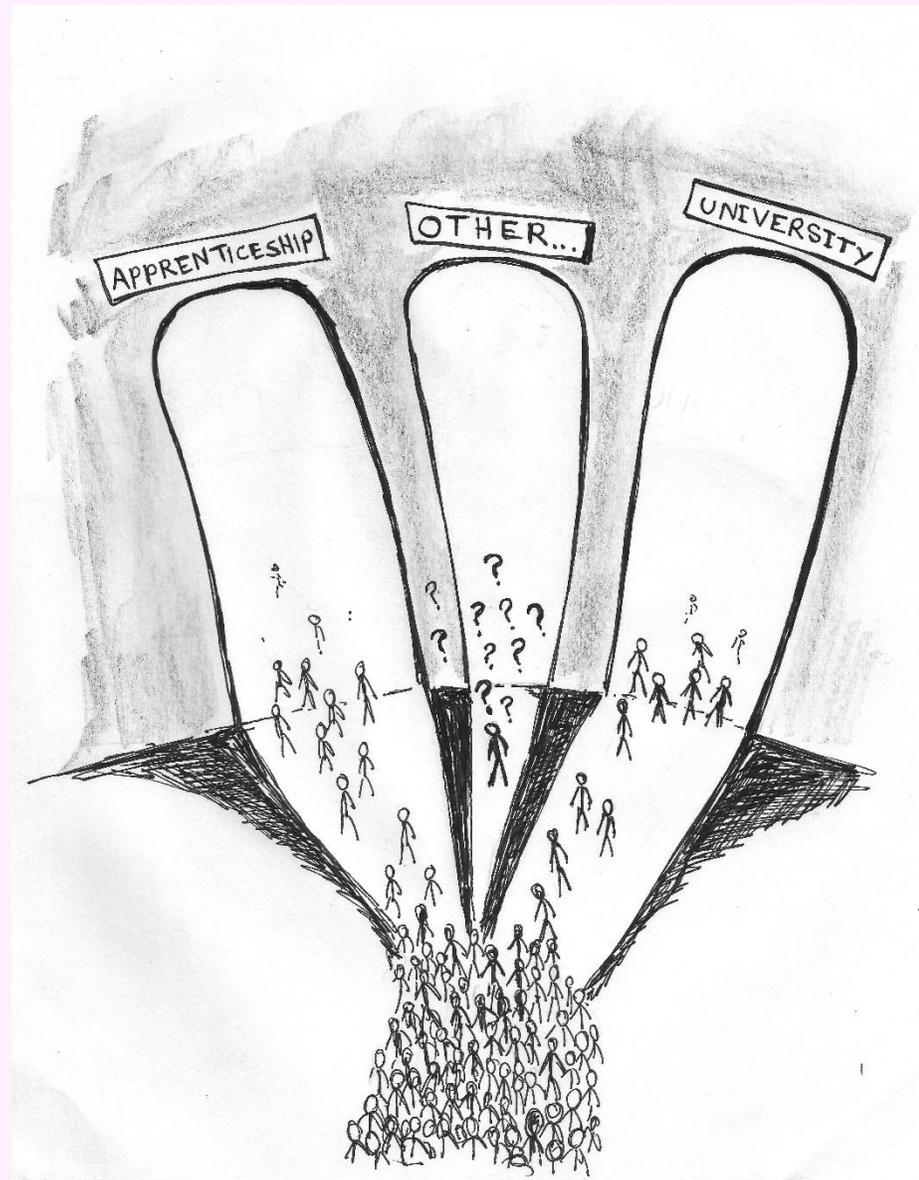
Speakers this evening

- Mr Larter - Introduction and School Information
- Current Yr 13 students - Maeve and Phoebe
- Isobel Emery - former Queen Elizabeth's student
- Susie Wilde - University of Kent



What are my options after 6th Form?





The Research Year... is about two things:

- 1) Discovery, growth and checking **your** ideas.
- 2) Making sure **you** are in the best position for **you**, to seize the opportunities out there in a competitive world.

Make sure you know **WHAT** you need to do and **WHEN**.



TOP TIPS: (preparing to fly)



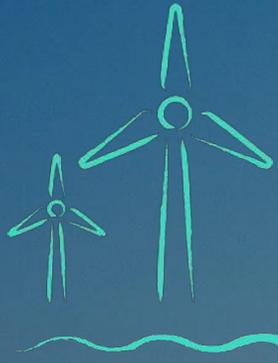
- **Explore** possibilities and don't make assumptions! **Get curious** about what is out there.
- Ask for help should you need it! There are lots of people available: Parents/Carers, Friends, Teachers, Careers Advisers.

Apprenticeships/WRT/Entrepreneurship:



- Book in early for insight events, work experience
- Make speculative applications
- Undertake interview preparation. Prepare for psychometric assessments.
- Be ready for applications from start of Year 13 for competitive apprenticeships.
- Start business planning (if applicable). Consider Supported Employment if needed.

RWE



RWE Offshore Wind

Post-18 Decisions Evening Year in Professional Practice

Isobel Emery

21st March 2024

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● My pathway

1

**Queen Elizabeth's
Grammar School**

2014 - 2021

GCSEs

A-Levels in:

Economics

Geography

Biology

Product Design

2

**University of
Kent**

2021 - 2025

BA Environmental
Social Science with a
Year in Professional
Practice

3

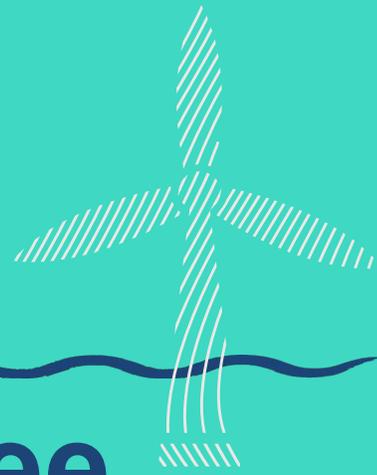
**RWE
2023/24**

Consents Intern for
the Awel y Môr
Offshore Wind Farm
in North Wales

4

**2025 and
beyond**

Final year of
university and
graduation!
Return to RWE?



Choosing my degree

Key Topics: Environment and Sustainability

Course structure and assessment method – some course were very scientific/technical based.

The BA Environmental Social Science offered at the University of Kent was one of the only degrees that was social science based.

Interests: I did Erasmus+, Girls into Geoscience and Global Offshore Wind Conference in 2020 which helped me figure out what areas I was and wasn't interested in.

Degree Apprenticeships

Alongside university applications, I also applied for several degree apprenticeships in **sustainable development**.

- Look early!
- Allow time for interviews, assessment centres etc.



University of
Kent

My top-tips for choosing a course

- 1 If you are unsure about what you want to do, figure out what you don't want to do!
- 2 Find something that you are genuinely interested in!
- 3 Don't stress about this being the deciding factor for the rest of your life – it isn't!
- 4 Do your research! Look into the course structure and assessment methods.



Student Life

Take every opportunity!

Join at least one society

The responsibility is yours – no one is going to force you to do the work, so take ownership of your own pathway

4

Year in Professional Practice

RWE



~15%
of UK electricity
generated



over 10m
UK homes powered



~15bn
15bn expected investment in clean
energy infrastructure by 2030



2,600
UK based employees

UK



In operation	MW ¹
9 Gas	6,929
33 Onshore wind	738
10 Offshore wind	1,914
1 Biomass	55
21 Hydro	78
3 Oil	253

Sites in operation	Total installed capacity ¹
77	9,968 MW

Under construction	MW ¹
Offshore wind	1,400



Scotland



Installed sites	MW ¹
10 Onshore wind	213
1 Offshore wind	174
1 Biomass	55
15 Hydro	33

Sites	Total installed capacity ¹
27	475 MW

England



Installed sites	MW ¹
8 Gas	4,748
20 Onshore wind	339
7 Offshore wind	1,407
1 Hydro	1
3 Oil	253

Sites	Total installed capacity ¹
39	6,748 MW

Wales

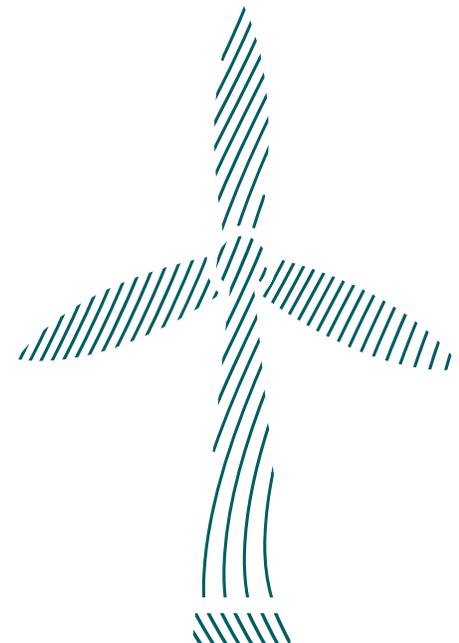


Installed sites	MW ¹
1 Gas	2,181
3 Onshore wind	186
2 Offshore wind	333
5 Hydro	45

Sites	Total installed capacity ¹
11	2,745 MW



RWE: one of the largest producers of electricity from renewable sources in the world



¹ MW: pro rata, based on equity share. Capacity as of 30 June 2022.

Site placing is approximate. Some locations have multiple assets. Numbers may not sum due to rounding.

My Experience

My role is a **Consents Intern** and I work for the **Awel y Môr (AyM) Offshore Wind Farm** project in North Wales.

- Planning management
- Stakeholder engagement
- Land management
- Supply chain
- Skills and Employability

However, I have also had flexibility in what I can get involved in:

- **Research** into marine biodiversity net gain, Great Crested Newt mitigation, and skills gaps in Wales.
- I have worked on other wind farm projects around the UK, such as **Rampion 2** (Brighton), **Five Estuaries** (Suffolk) and **Celtic Sea** (floating).
- I am part of the committee for the **SPARK Network** which is a programme for new starters in **RWE Renewables UK**.
- I have also worked with the **Skills Strategy Team** on AI projects, careers resources and research.

I was also selected to be part of RWE's **Green Pioneers Student Retention Programme**. I am provided with monthly training opportunities across the company, as well as a site visit in Germany.





DCO award celebrations



Clocaenog Forest Onshore Wind Farm and Dolgarrog Hydro Power Station in North Wales



Onshore Ground Investigations Site Visit





Representing RWE at career events



Marine Energy Wales Conference 2024



Offshore site investigations



Green Pioneers Student Retention Programme – week in Germany



Renewable UK Global Offshore Wind Awards



RWE



RWE Offshore Wind

Feel free to reach out if you
have any questions!

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How to Choose a Course and Uni

The UCAS Journey

Stand for ambition
[Kent.ac.uk](https://www.kent.ac.uk)



Contents:



Choosing your
course



Choosing your
university



How to Research

Choosing your course



Benefits of university

ACADEMIC

- In-depth study of topics
- Greater flexibility and choice
- Study with experts in their field
- Access to fantastic learning resources
- “Year in” study
- Opportunities to go abroad or get work experience
- Meet peers who share your interest

SOCIAL

- New experiences
- Opportunity to meet new people
- Opportunity to discover campus life
- Clubs and societies
- Independence and freedom

CAREER

- All degrees are attractive to employers
- Graduate schemes offer progression in a company
- Potential to earn more money with a degree
- Different initiatives available to help develop skills eg Kent’s Employability Scheme

Essential Skills

University not only gives you specific subject knowledge, but also a wide range of transferable skills too

Some degrees are more focused, while others might offer a more general skillset which can be used in a variety of areas

One of the most important skills is to understand how you learn and study best

Written and
verbal
communication



Planning



Organisation

Time
management

Independent
learning



What's important to you?

- Course content?
- Location?
- Accommodation?
- Social Life?
- Advice from friends & family?
- Career prospects?
- Living costs?
- University ranking?



**What most excites you about
the prospect of university?**

What subjects can you study?

There are over 350 institutions and around 35,000 courses to choose from on UCAS

You don't have to take something that you've already studied in the past

Kent alone has over 200 courses to choose from

People will choose courses based on lots of different criteria, for example:

- Specific course content
- Entry requirements
- Academic facilities
- Careers prospects
- University reputation



Make sure you look at the course content in detail- don't assume based on the title!

Entry Requirements

Each university will have different grade or subject requirements for a place on their courses

This can be for various reasons, such as the university's reputation or course content.

Make sure to check around for the right entry requirements to fit your expected grades.

Universities set their entry requirements based on how demanding they feel the course is. Choosing a course with appropriate entry requirements is your interest as well.

Comparison for BA History

Kent



- A Levels: BBB
- Must include a Humanities based essay writing subject such as history, philosophy or English

Birmingham



- A Levels: AAB
- Must include A Level History, Medieval History or Ancient History Grade A



Other things to remember

**Academic Support
Resources**

There are lots of ways to tailor a degree to your specific needs and make it a truly unique experience

Consider things like module choices, sandwich years and joint honours options to maximise your experience at university

Year Abroad

**Joint Honours
Programmes**

You can also expect to be fully supported on your course- look out for study skills training, academic advisers or student mentor schemes.

Year in Industry

**Inter-disciplinary
y years**



Choosing your university



Key questions to consider...

Choosing a university isn't just about the course, your experience outside the classroom is just as important.

It's vital you consider the non-academic side of student life as well when.

- Do you want a campus or city university?
- What kind of social facilities do you want?
- Are there societies or sports team to join?
- What are the student support services like?
- Which kind of accommodation do you want?
- How far from home do you want to be?
- **Can you see yourself living there for three or four years?**



Campus vs City Universities

Universities will typically be based on a campus, or spread around a city

- Campus – everything in one place
- City – everything spread around an area

Each model has advantages and drawbacks, depending on your preferences

Being a campus or a city university can have a big impact on the environment of the university and what it's like to live/study there.



Campus University

University of Kent (Canterbury Campus)

University of
Kent



Everything in one place



Exclusive university facilities



Self-contained student community



Easy to get around



Further from public facilities



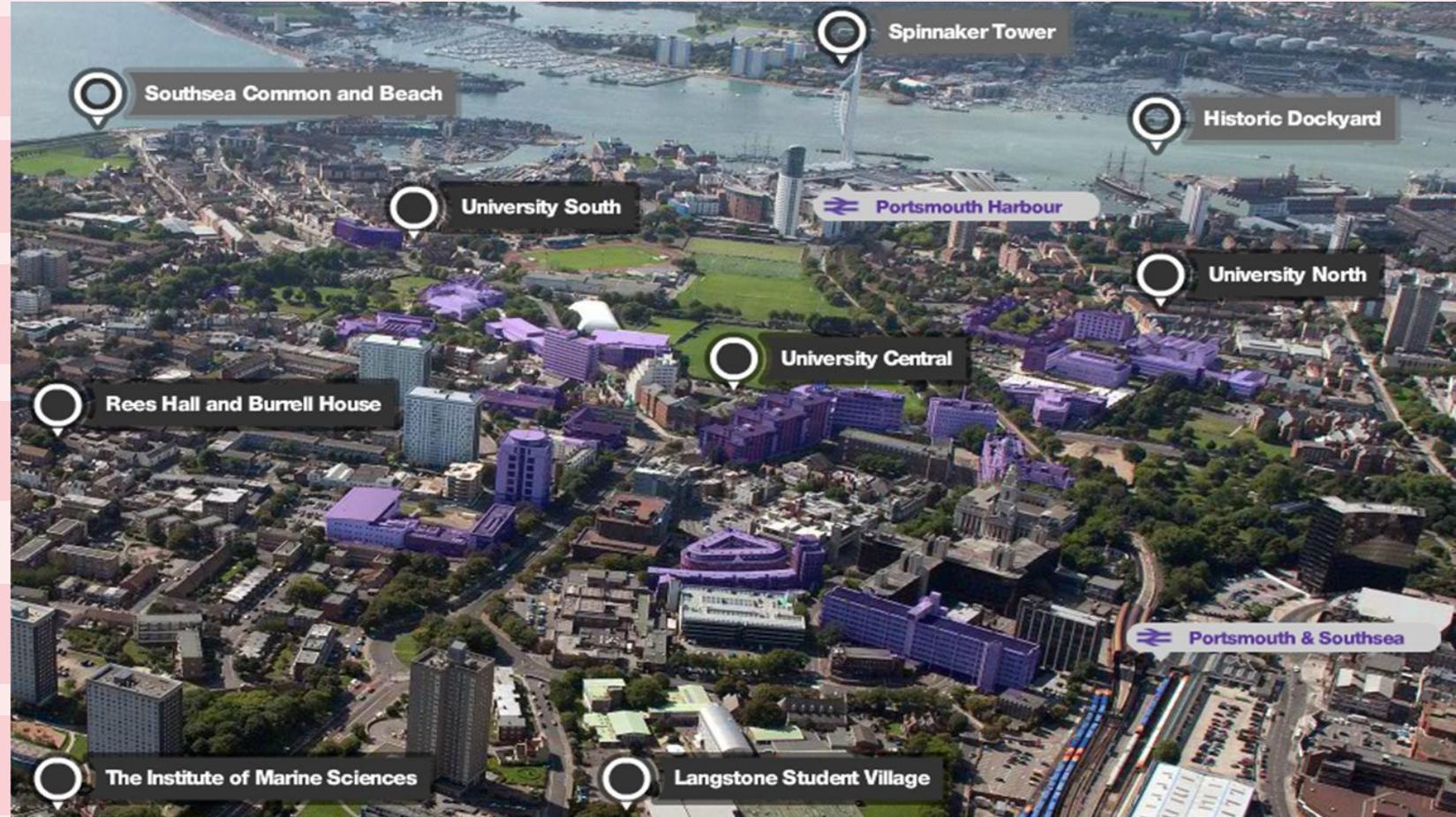
Less integrated with the local area



City University

Portsmouth (University buildings highlighted)

- +** Greater Range of Locations
- +** Easier access to public facilities
- +** More integrated into city community
- +** Better access to public transport hubs
- Harder to get around
- Less centralised student community



Accommodation

Many universities have first years living on campus – check whether this is guaranteed and where you can live in subsequent years.

Most universities will offer different types of rooms and accommodation styles to suit various preferences or budgets

- Ensuite
- Shared bathroom
- Self-catered
- Part-catered

Prices will vary, but typically range from £5,000 – 10,000 per year



Students Unions



- Exist independently of the university
- Facilitate a lot of the non-academic side of student life.
- Research Student Unions to get an idea of social life at each uni.
- Unions provide all kinds of support and services, from social activity to financial advice



Things to consider

Remember that university isn't just about your course, it's a full time undertaking with so much to experience

Look into extra-curricular activities such as sports, hobby groups and societies

Find universities with good social facilities e.g. cafés, bars, nightclubs, restaurants

Check what kind of support services each university offers its students for things like mental health, accessibility or career advice

If you might want a part-time job, investigate what kind of opportunities exist in the area and what help is available

Social Facilities

Societies

Sports Teams

Student Support Services

Part-time work opportunities

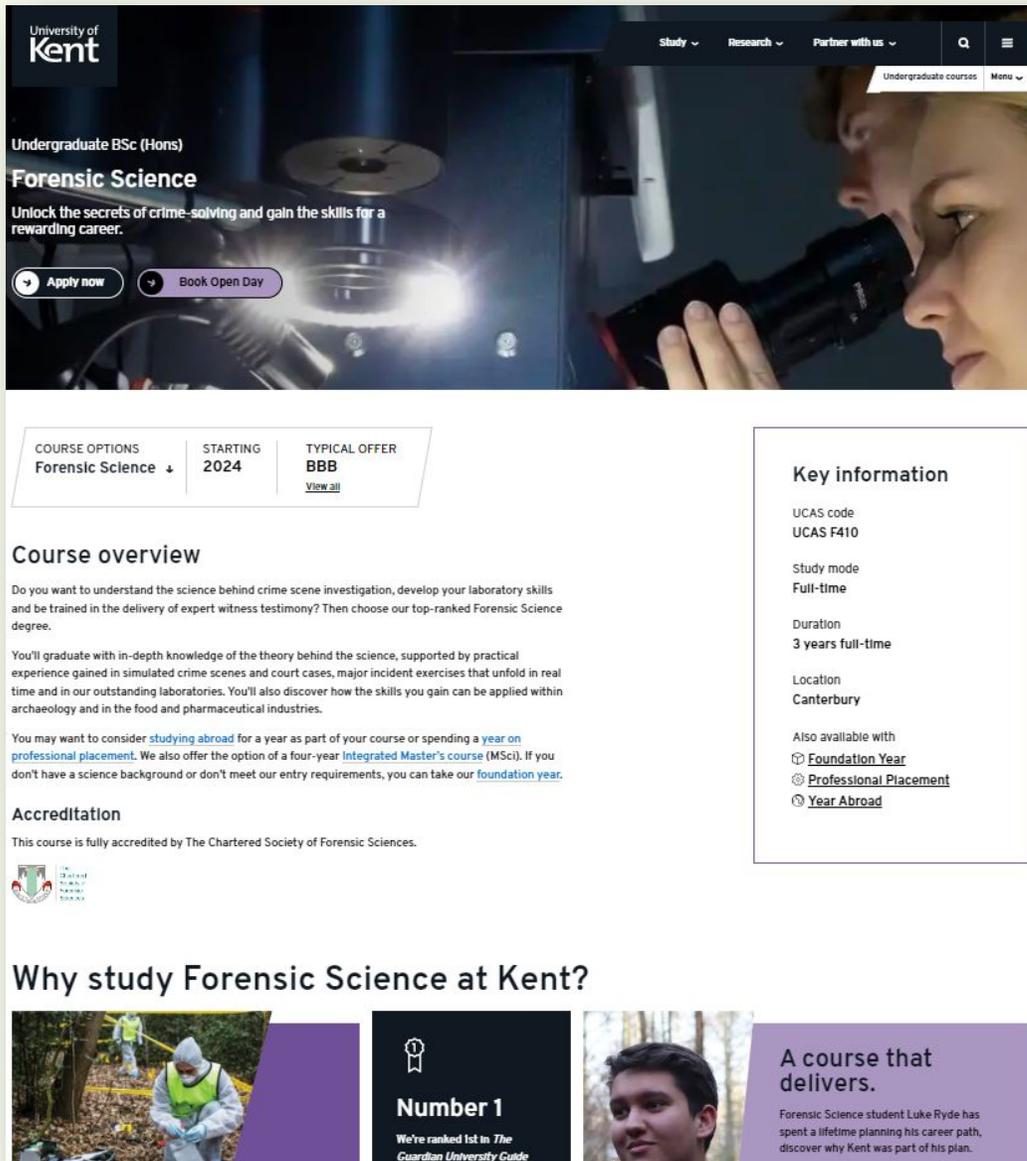
Careers Services

How to research universities

Stand for ambition
[Kent.ac.uk](https://www.kent.ac.uk)



Courses – things to look out for



The screenshot shows the University of Kent website for the Forensic Science course. The header includes navigation links for 'Study', 'Research', and 'Partner with us', along with a search icon and a menu icon. The main content area features a large image of a student looking through a microscope, with the text 'Undergraduate BSc (Hons) Forensic Science' and a sub-headline 'Unlock the secrets of crime-solving and gain the skills for a rewarding career.' Below this are two buttons: 'Apply now' and 'Book Open Day'. A 'Key information' box on the right lists details such as UCAS code (F410), study mode (Full-time), duration (3 years full-time), location (Canterbury), and options for Foundation Year, Professional Placement, and Year Abroad. The 'Course overview' section provides a detailed description of the program, including its focus on practical experience and laboratory skills. The 'Accreditation' section mentions that the course is fully accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Why study Forensic Science at Kent?' featuring a photo of a student in a lab coat and a badge indicating that the course is ranked 'Number 1' in the Guardian University Guide.

University of Kent

Study Research Partner with us

Undergraduate courses Menu

Undergraduate BSc (Hons)
Forensic Science
Unlock the secrets of crime-solving and gain the skills for a rewarding career.

Apply now Book Open Day

COURSE OPTIONS
Forensic Science

STARTING
2024

TYPICAL OFFER
BBB
[View all](#)

Key information

UCAS code
UCAS F410

Study mode
Full-time

Duration
3 years full-time

Location
Canterbury

Also available with
[Foundation Year](#)
[Professional Placement](#)
[Year Abroad](#)

Course overview

Do you want to understand the science behind crime scene investigation, develop your laboratory skills and be trained in the delivery of expert witness testimony? Then choose our top-ranked Forensic Science degree.

You'll graduate with in-depth knowledge of the theory behind the science, supported by practical experience gained in simulated crime scenes and court cases, major incident exercises that unfold in real time and in our outstanding laboratories. You'll also discover how the skills you gain can be applied within archaeology and in the food and pharmaceutical industries.

You may want to consider [studying abroad](#) for a year as part of your course or spending a [year on professional placement](#). We also offer the option of a four-year [Integrated Master's course](#) (MSci). If you don't have a science background or don't meet our entry requirements, you can take our [foundation year](#).

Accreditation

This course is fully accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences.

Why study Forensic Science at Kent?

Number 1
We're ranked 1st in *The Guardian University Guide*

A course that delivers.
Forensic Science student Luke Ryde has spent a lifetime planning his career path, discover why Kent was part of his plan.

- Module choices and details
- Specific subject requirements
- Foundation entry options
- Year Abroad and Year in Industry options
- Professional body accreditations
- Testimonials
- Graduate destinations and employability information

League tables

Universities in the UK and all around the world are ranked each year by various organisations. This can give a good overview of a universities quality, but there are important points to bear in mind:

- Don't rely on just one league table
- Don't just look at an overall university score, look at specific subjects and departments
- Check rankings based on your own important criteria
- Forget your preconceptions about different universities

QUICK VIEW		FULL TABLE						
University ranking	University name	Overall score / Max 1000	Entry standards / Max 209	Student satisfaction / Max 5	Research quality / Max 4	Research intensity / Max 1	Academic services spend / Max 2933	Faciliti spend / Max 20
1	University of Oxford VIEW COURSES →	1000 100%	201 96%	n/a	3.49 87%	0.95 95%	2748 94%	54 26
2	University of Cambridge VIEW COURSES →	995 99%	207 99%	n/a	3.53 88%	1.00 100%	2705 92%	10 51
3	London School of Economics and Poli... VIEW COURSES →	960 96%	193 92%	3.87 77%	3.53 88%	0.65 65%	1822 62%	80 39
4	University of St Andrews VIEW COURSES →	927 93%	209 100%	4.26 85%	3.31 83%	0.71 71%	2803 96%	70 34
5	Imperial College London VIEW COURSES →	913 91%	198 95%	4.05 81%	3.63 91%	0.80 80%	2855 97%	→
6	Durham University VIEW COURSES →	902 90%	187 90%	3.90 78%	3.34 83%	0.70 70%	2278 78%	98 47
7	Loughborough University VIEW COURSES →	876 88%	155 74%	4.06 81%	3.30 83%	0.71 71%	1981 68%	13 67
		867 87%	177	3.99	3.31	0.73 73%	1930 66%	79 38



Research tools



UCAS website interface with navigation tabs: All levels, Courses, Life & College, Apprenticeships, Advice, Events. A search bar prompts 'Search for courses, uni & colleges and information'. Promotional banners include 'STAND TILL', 'GET UPDATES FROM UCAS', and 'FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP'.



University of Kent Undergraduate courses page. Features a search bar 'Find your course', a filter menu (All subject categories, All locations, All study modes, All course options), and a list of courses including 'Accounting and Finance - BSc (Hons)' and 'Advanced Legal Practice - MA'. Navigation links include Courses, Student life, Your future, Applying, Fees and funding, Visit us, Student profiles, Parents, and More.

Uni & SU Websites

'Find a student group' directory website. Includes a search bar 'Search for a student group', a filter dropdown, and a grid of student societies such as 'Respect The Nil', 'UKCAGS', 'Arab Society', and 'UHCO'.

University of Kent Undergraduate Prospectus 2024 cover. Features the slogan 'WE STAND FOR AMBITION' and a photograph of a student.

Prospectus

University of Kent > Courses > Visit Kent > Canterbury Undergraduate Open Day

Nov 18 **Canterbury Undergraduate Open Day**

Dates and times
Sat 18 Nov
10:00 - 14:00

Open to
Potential undergraduates and their families and supporters

Who to contact
Recruitment and Events Team
opendays@kent.ac.uk

Open Days

The Student Room website interface. Features a search bar, navigation tabs (Home, Forums, GCSE, A-level, Reviews, Applying, University, Careers & Jobs, Relationships & Health, Student Finance), and a sign-up prompt 'Join now in 30 seconds'. A prominent 'UK University Community' banner is visible.

Student Forums

Social media content including a TikTok post from 'lancaster university' and a YouTube video titled 'Join our world' from the University of Kent. The YouTube video shows a student and text: 'Join our world in 2022. Make the correct one that matter. Join the University of Kent in Scotland and find your meaning at University. Share now to start your journey. Visit <https://www.kent.ac.uk/apply>'.

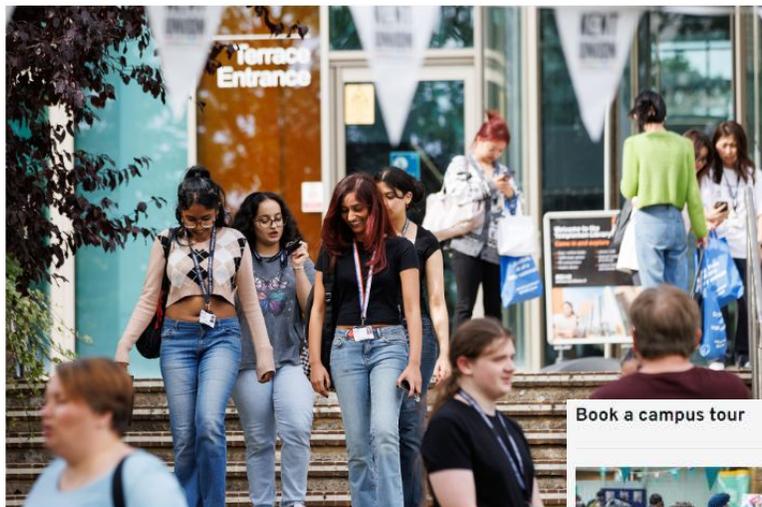
Social Media

Open days and campus tours

University of Kent > Events > Canterbury Open Day

Jul
6

Canterbury Open Day



Discover your place at our Open Day

Dates and times

Sat 6 Jul
10:00 - 14:00

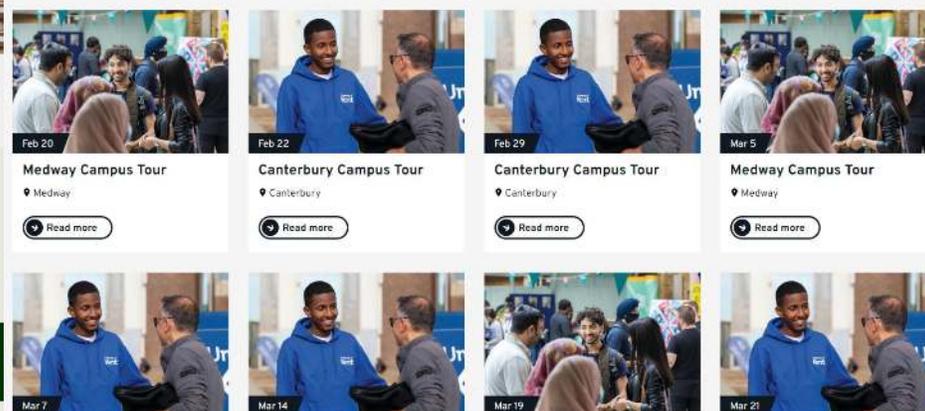
Open to

Potential undergraduates and postgraduates. Families and supporters are also very welcome.

Who to contact

Recruitment and Events Team
opendays@kent.ac.uk

Book a campus tour



Open-days and campus tours represent the best resources for university research

- See facilities in-person
- Tour the accommodation
- Talk to staff and students
- Visit the local area
- Experience the journey there and back

Open-days are free to attend and take place throughout the year

Visit opendays.com for a full list of all university open-days

Conclusion

- **Don't just look at course titles** - look at what is taught and how
- **Remember that university isn't just about studying** - you may also be living there for 3-4 years
- **Think about non-academic criteria** - consider the support available and opportunities outside your course
- **Don't rush** - take your time to research and visit the university if you can to build a sense of what it's really like.
- **You have 5 choices** – pick a range of options to give yourself the best chance of securing a place



Visit our campus



CAMPUS TOURS

Medway

Tuesdays

Canterbury

Tuesdays and Thursday

OPEN DAYS

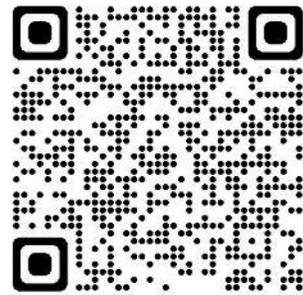
Canterbury

Saturday 20th April 2024

Saturday 6th July 2024

Medway

Saturday 22nd June 2024



Find out more:
www.kent.ac.uk





Questions?