

**HOW TO CHOOSE  
A COURSE AND A  
UNIVERSITY**  
**MAKING THE RIGHT  
CHOICE FOR YOU**



# WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

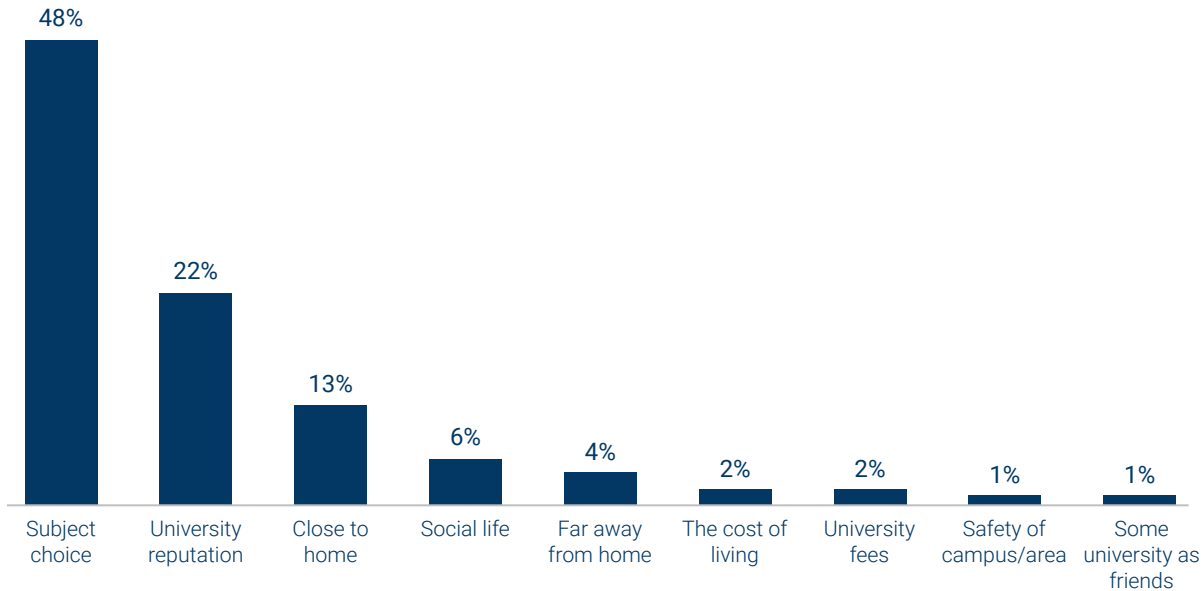
- Course content?
- Location?
- Accommodation?
- Teaching quality?
- Advice from friends & family?
- Career prospects?
- Living costs?
- University ranking?



# FACTORS AFFECTING UNIVERSITY CHOICE

What motivated you to choose to study at your university?

% Strongest motivation



Base: N=2656 respondents; Aberdeen (67), Aberystwyth (21)\*\*, Belfast (52), Birmingham (181), Brighton (80), Bristol (102), Cambridge (89), Canterbury (98), Cardiff (103), Coventry (100), Dundee (10)\*\*, Durham (51), Edinburgh (220), Exeter (41), Glasgow (90), Hull (49)\*\*, Leeds (117), Leicester (100), Liverpool (100), Loughborough (130), Manchester (142), Newcastle (111), Norwich (40), Nottingham (124), Oxford (80), Plymouth (54), Keele (70), Portsmouth (39), Reading (41)\*\*; Sheffield (100), Southampton (71), St. Andrews (35)\*\*; Stirling (22)\*\*; Swansea (53), York (70).

\*Taken from the Natwest Student Living Index 2020

Subject choice continues to be the biggest motivator for university choice in the UK, with university reputation being a factor for 1 in 5



# CHOOSING A COURSE

## A FEW PRACTICAL STEPS...

Visit the UCAS  
Website

Do a course  
search

Look at Entry  
Requirements

Order a  
prospectus or  
view it online

Visit the  
university if  
possible

Make your  
choices



# CHOOSING A COURSE

Your choice is not restricted by subject

There are over 300 institutions and over 37,000 courses to choose from on UCAS

With so much choice, how do you choose?

These four categories can help you narrow down your options:

- Course
- Content
- Campus
- City



# COURSE CONTENT

Studying a particular course will likely look different across different institutions, with different topics covered or levels of choice available.

Make sure you look at the details of the courses you're interested in, as they can be very different in practice.

Here's an example for BA History at Kent and at Birmingham:

## Birmingham

BA History 1<sup>st</sup> Year



### Compulsory Modules:

- Practising History (A): Skills in History
- Practising History (B): Skills in History
- People and Places A and B or approved foreign language module
- Discovering the Middle Ages
- The Making of the Modern World 1500-1800

### Optional Modules

- The Making of the Contemporary Modern World: Modern History c.1800 to the Present
- The History of Africa and its Diaspora

## Kent



BA History 1<sup>st</sup> Year

### Compulsory Modules:

- Making History: Theory and Practice

### Optional Modules

- Early Medieval Europe
- Later Medieval Europe
- Europe Transformed (1450-1750)
- Connected Worlds (1450-1750)
- A Global History of Empires: 1500-1850
- A Global History of Empires: 1850-1960
- War and Diplomacy in Europe c1850-2000
- Ten Technologies That Made Us Modern
- Victorian Britain: Politics, Society and Culture
- Revolutionary Europe 1700-1850
- War and Society in Europe c 1779-1990
- Modern British History
- Introduction to the History of Medicine
- The Emergence of America: From European Settlement to 1880
- The Rise of the United States Since 1880

# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Different universities will have different entry requirements for the same 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.

## 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





# SHAPING YOUR DEGREE

University can provide the opportunity to decide how you are taught and how you are assessed.

## METHODS OF STUDY

- Lectures vs Seminars
- Workshops vs Tutorials
- Self-study vs Contact Hours

## METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

- Coursework vs Exams
- Essays vs Practical Work

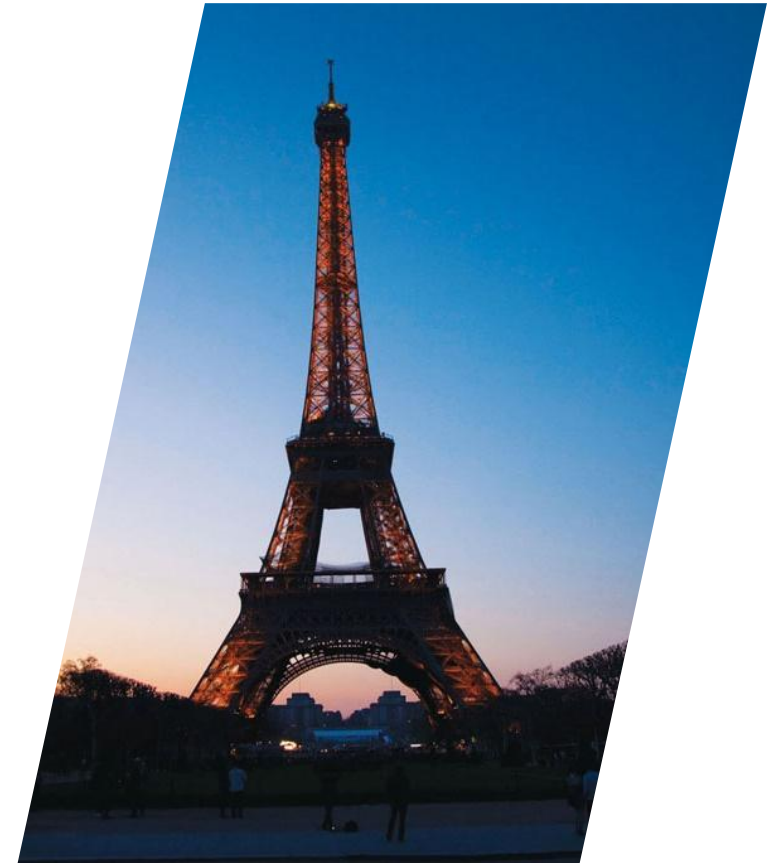




# OPPORTUNITIES TO GO ABROAD

## When choosing your course you may also wish to look at options for studying abroad

- Studying or working overseas can be a real advantage in the job market
- You gain confidence and flexibility in adapting to different cultures while also developing language skills
- Some courses (e.g. languages) typically require a year abroad.
- Research what opportunities an institution has. For example, Kent has partnerships with universities in Europe, Asia and the Americas

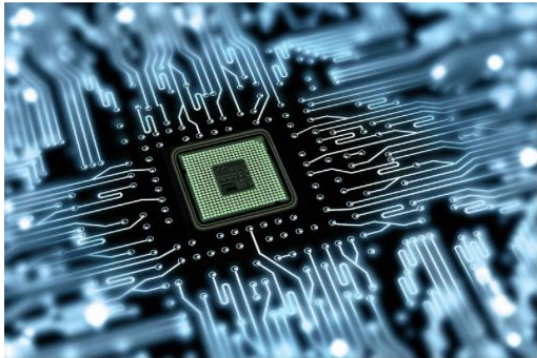


# YEAR IN INDUSTRY: EXAMPLE PLACEMENTS

COURSE	PLACEMENT
Biosciences	NHS, GlaxoSmithKline
Business	British Airways, Chanel, Ernst & Young, PricewaterhouseCoopers
Computer Science	IBM, Intel, Microsoft
Economics	Apple, British Telecom
Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research	HM Prisons, Police, Charity sector
Politics and International Relations	Coca Cola, British Chamber of Commerce
Drama and Theatre	National Theatre, Christian Dior
English and American Literature	House of Commons, News International
History	National Portrait Gallery, Lloyds of London
Anthropology	Deloitte, John Lewis Partnership, Grant Thornton LLP
Languages	British Council, Royal Bank of Scotland

# AND THERE'S MORE...

## YEAR IN COURSES



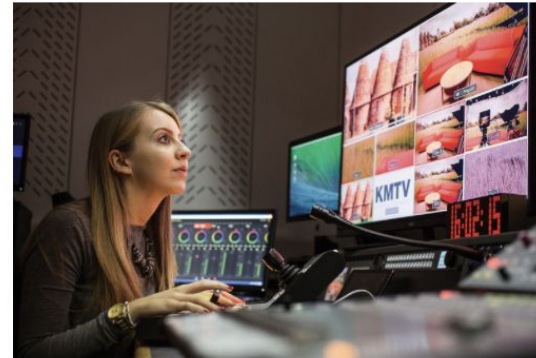
### Year in Computing >

Learn how to code and create computer systems that people want to engage with.



### Year in Data Analytics >

Get the skills you need to create and interpret data in the real world.



### Year in Journalism >

Learn the essentials of reporting, multimedia journalism and media law.



### Year in a Language >

Learn a new language to unlock a wide range of career opportunities.



# RESEARCH TOOLS




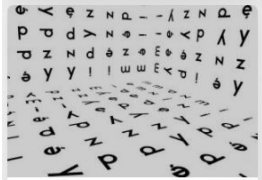



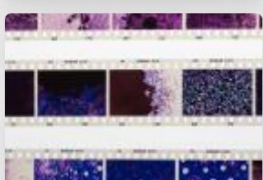






<p><b>BA (Hons) History and Philosophy</b></p> <p><u>The University of Kent</u> 1 Location: Canterbury</p> <p>Study mode: Full time Length: 3 year course Distance learning: Not Available Placement year: Not Available Year abroad: Optional Foundation year: Not Available</p> <p>Student Satisfaction +</p> <p>Entry information +</p> <p>Students continuing after 1 year of study +</p> <p>After the course +</p>	<p><b>BA (Hons) History and Philosophy</b></p> <p><u>University of Leeds</u> 1 Location: The University of Leeds</p> <p>Study mode: Full time Length: 3 year course Distance learning: Not Available Placement year: Optional Year abroad: Optional Foundation year: Not Available</p>
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**DISCOVERUNI.GOV.UK/**

# RESEARCH TOOLS

 <p><b>Applied Chemical Sciences - FdSc</b></p> <p>Full-time See overview</p>	 <p><b>Architecture - MArch - ARB/RIBA Part 2</b></p> <p>Full-time Canterbury</p>	 <p><b>Architecture - BA (Hons) - ARB/RIBA Part 1</b></p> <p>Full-time Canterbury</p>	 <p><b>Graphic Design - BA (Hons)</b></p> <p>Full-time or part-time Canterbury</p>	 <p><b>Health and Social Care - BA (Hons)</b></p> <p>Full-time or part-time Canterbury</p>	 <p><b>History - BA (Hons)</b></p> <p>Full-time or part-time Canterbury</p>
 <p><b>Art History - BA (Hons)</b></p> <p>Full-time or part-time Canterbury</p>	 <p><b>Art History and Film - BA (Hons)</b></p> <p>Full-time or part-time Canterbury</p>	 <p><b>Artificial Intelligence - BSc (Hons)</b></p> <p>Full-time Canterbury</p> <p><b>Also available with</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year in Industry</li> </ul>	 <p><b>History and Politics - BA (Hons)</b></p> <p>Full-time or part-time Canterbury</p>	 <p><b>Human Biology and Behaviour - BSc (Hons)</b></p> <p>Full-time or part-time Canterbury</p> <p><b>Also available with</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year Abroad</li> <li>Year in Professional Practice</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Human Geography - BSc (Hons)</b></p> <p>Full-time or part-time Canterbury</p> <p><b>Also available with</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year Abroad</li> <li>Year in Professional Practice</li> </ul>

[WWW.KENT.AC.UK/COURSES/UNDERGRADUATE/](http://WWW.KENT.AC.UK/COURSES/UNDERGRADUATE/)

# RESEARCH TOOLS

**University of Kent**

## JOIN OUR WORLD

Undergraduate Prospectus 2022

**TEF Gold**



## JOIN OUR WORLD

### A different way to learn

Amazing, exciting, life-changing – that's how our students describe Kent. Your university experience starts with your studies and expands as you get involved in societies, sports clubs and courses you believe in.

Our academic staff can help you to navigate your course and advise on module choices. Our Student Learning Advisory Service offers help with study skills, time management and more. There are lots of resources available online, so you can access them any time, or you can arrange a 1:1 appointment.

Our wellbeing team can help if you have a disability or need support with emotional or mental health issues. There are also support rooms in our schools, advice services run by our student unions, Kent Lines and UK Lines as well as faith communities, all ready to listen. We also run a library scheme which gives you the chance to ask one of our students about life at Kent.

Alongside excellent teaching, our support facilities and resources will inspire you, helping you to develop your ideas and to discover new ways of learning.

"The lecturers are passionate about their subject and very keen to engage with students."

**Aljazeera Aljazeera**, Comology with Quantities Research



"I couldn't ask for more supportive lecturers. If you email them, they reply really quickly. I feel they connect with me on a personal level, rather than treating me as just a student number."

**Abbie Clark**, Marketing

## Music and Audio Technology

Explore your passion for music at Kent's Centre for Music and Audio Technology (CMAT). Whether you are interested in producing or composing, performing or managing artists, sound design or orchestration, we can help you to achieve your goals.

If you choose to study music technology you learn how to use audio hardware and software to a professional standard and develop an understanding of event technology. On our other music degrees you develop creative production skills and can then opt to focus on the business side of the industry or to develop your composing and performance skills. All of our degrees give you the skills you need for a successful career in the creative industries.

- Key facts**
- Over 100 of music graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate employers were in work or further study within six months (DLF, 2017).
  - The University awards a number of Music Scholarships, see p.67.
  - Our industry expert facilities include 16 high-end recording studios with 1600 channels of analogue recording and mixing consoles. All our studios have state-of-the-art hardware and software. There are also a number of mobile performance venues.
  - Throughout your studies, you are supported by expert academic staff, highly qualified technicians and learning professionals.
  - Spent a year or a term in placement, gaining valuable experience before you graduate. Or spend a year or a term studying abroad.

"You can shape your degree to suit you. I study music business, music technology, music performance, music psychology, music journalism, all different kinds of things. You can specialise or branch out into different areas."

"When I arrived at Kent, I said I was a bassist, because that's what I played at college. But later I decided to give vocals a go. Vocals can make you feel insecure because there's no instrument, it's just you, but people at CMAT encouraged me to challenge those feelings. The results happened now, I feel that I'm becoming the person I want to be."

**Callin Fox**, Music Performance and Production

1 year abroad | 1 year industry

Programme	UCAS code	Length (years)	Typical offer	Entry B
Music Business and Production BA (Hons)	W002	3	BCC	128M
Music, Performance and Production BA (Hons)	W006	3	BCC	128M
Music, Technology and Audio Production BSc (Hons)	W022	3	BCC	128M

Further information: www.kent.ac.uk/ukd

Admissions enquiries: T +44 (0)1227 760000

## Music Business and Production

BA (Hons), Medway

You learn about the music business, including key areas such as marketing, management, copyright legislation, industry practices, finance and entrepreneurship. You also develop creative production skills using the latest technology.

### What you study

- Stage 1**
- You learn modules in music and contemporary culture, music event production, digital music production and the role of music in the creative industries and marketing communications in the music industry and creating music for performance.
- Stage 2**
- Taking modules focusing on contracts, copyright and label management, music business, music marketing (strategic and artist management) requires you to develop business-related skills. You study composition and production as well as music and sound for film and television. Optional modules cover songwriting, music in the community, and orchestration and production, sound design and music in the community.
- Stage 3**
- You complete an independent project and further develop your knowledge of the music industry by looking at how to develop a business plan. You also complete your dissertation on music management. You can opt to study for a year abroad in music performance or assess how music makes a contribution to your health and wellbeing. There is an opportunity to collaborate with fellow students on a project.

### Graduate destinations

- Composers
- Performers
- Producers
- Marketing and promotion
- Journalists
- Music management
- Music event production
- Other roles in the wider creative industries.

## Music, Performance and Audio Production

BA (Hons), Medway

You develop your creative skills in performance, composition and music production. You learn how to write and perform music in a range of styles using industry-relevant technology. You develop critical skills through the study of musical conventions and how these are used in contemporary and classical music.

### What you study

- Stage 1**
- You take compulsory modules in audio recording, editing, mixing and production techniques, as well as critical listening and contributing, and the science of sound. You are introduced to audio synthesis and take further modules on music in the performance and production project.
- Stage 2**
- Modules cover composition and production, ensemble performance, music for film, television and media, as well as music skills, songwriting, and orchestration and arrangement. Optional modules cover production, sound design and music in the community, orchestration and arrangement, songwriting techniques, and sound design and audio-based composition.
- Stage 3**
- You take a critical look at music in society, undertake an independent project and assess employment possibilities in the music industry. Optional modules cover individual and group performance, creating audio applications, social media and music production, audio sound design and composition, to suit health and wellbeing.

### Graduate destinations

- Audio engineers for musicians
- Composer music
- Event management
- Live sound for theatre and festivals
- Music education
- Music marketing
- Music event production
- Other roles in the wider creative industries.
- Work in video games

# WWW.KENT.AC.UK/COURSES/PROSPECTUS



# RESEARCH TOOLS

The screenshot shows the 'Visit Kent' website banner. At the top left is the University of Kent logo. To its right is the text 'Visit Kent'. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Undergraduate events' (which is underlined), 'Postgraduate events', 'Event calendar', 'Informal visits', and 'More' with a dropdown arrow. A search icon is located on the far right of the navigation bar. The main content area features the large heading 'Come and visit!' followed by the text 'Book for our next Canterbury campus Open Day on Saturday 20 November.' Below this text are two buttons: 'BOOK NOW >' and 'DISCOVER OUR COURSES >'.

**[WWW.OPENDAYS.COM](http://WWW.OPENDAYS.COM)**

**[WWW.KENT.AC.UK/COURSES/VISIT/OPEN-DAYS](http://WWW.KENT.AC.UK/COURSES/VISIT/OPEN-DAYS)**

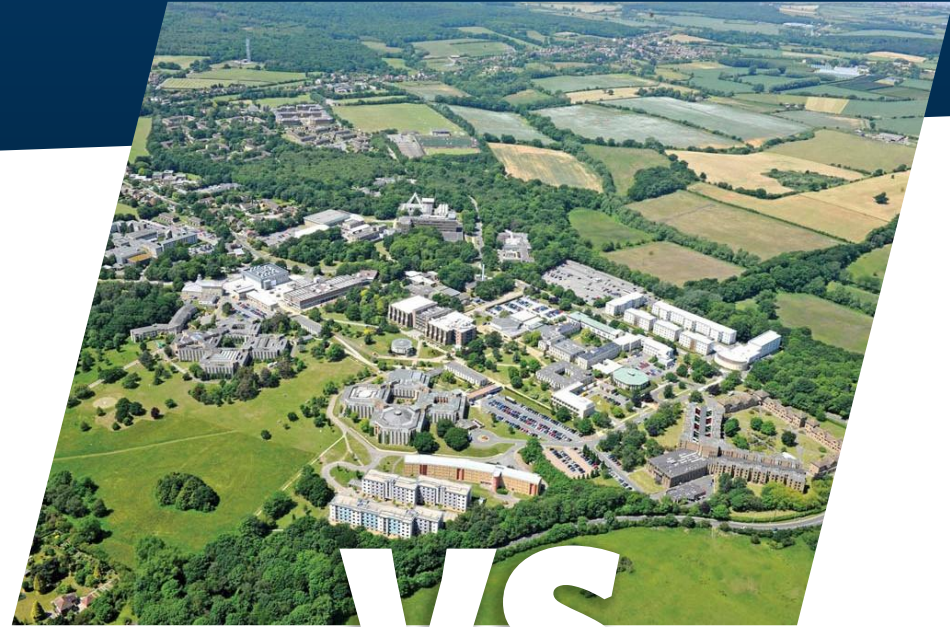
# **CHOOSING A LOCATION**



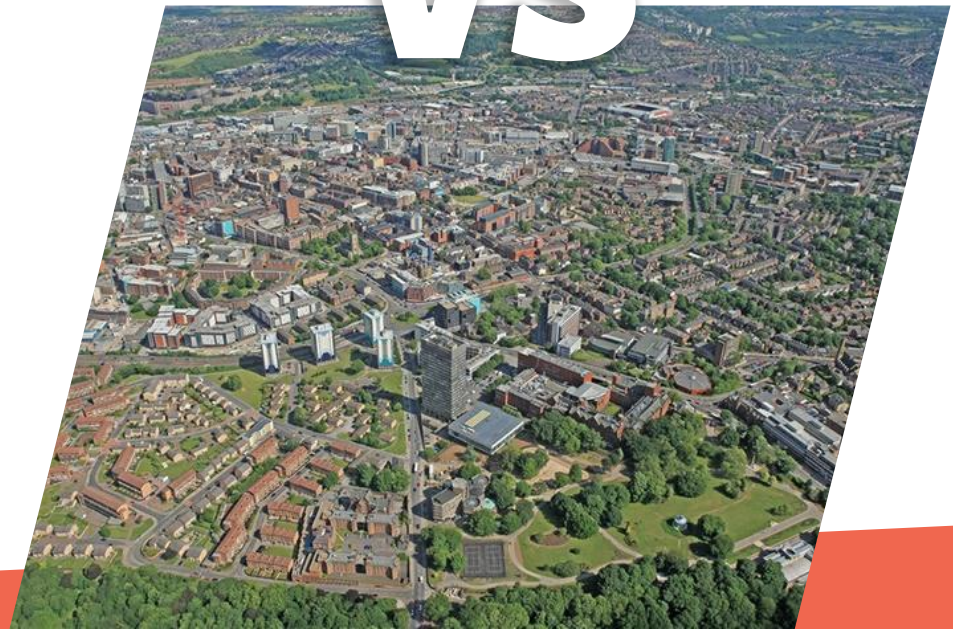


# CAMPUS VS CITY UNIVERSITIES

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



# VS





# CAMPUS

University of Kent (Canterbury Campus)

- + Everything in one place
- + Exclusive university facilities
- + Self-contained student community
- + Easy to get around
- Further from public facilities and attractions
- Less integrated with the local area



# CITY UNIVERSITY

- + Greater range of locations
- + Easier access to public facilities & attractions
- + Integrated into city community
- + Can be better for public transport hubs
- Harder to get around
- Less centralised student community

Portsmouth (University buildings highlighted)





# ACCOMMODATION

Many universities have first years living on campus – check what is available and whether this is guaranteed.

Your experience of accommodation can vary greatly between a campus or city university

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





# ACCOMMODATION COSTS

## SELF-CATERED ACCOMMODATION

Where	Facilities	Price per week
Park Wood 5 and 6 bed houses	Rooms with shared shower	£126.63 – 146.02
Park Wood flats	En-suite rooms	£191.94
Park Wood flats	8 twin rooms	£98.63 (per person)
Darwin College	Rooms with shared shower	£126.63 - £146.02
Tyler Court A	En-suite rooms	£180.46
Tyler Court B and C	En-suite rooms	£191.94
Keynes houses	Rooms with shared shower	£161.49
Keynes flats	En-suite rooms	£191.94 - £204.40
Turing College flats	En-suite rooms	£191.94 - £204.40
Turing College houses	Rooms with shared shower	£161.49

All of the above are 39-week contracts. includes winter and spring vacations. Residents may stay in their rooms during these vacation periods.

\*2020/21 prices given as an indication of current accommodation costs

## PART-CATERED ACCOMMODATION

Where	Catering package	Facilities	Price per week
Becket Court	Bed and Bistro	En-suite bathroom and shared kitchenette.	£237.02 - £264.32
Keynes College	Breakfast and dinner at Dolche Vita (Mon-Fri) and brunch and dinner in Rutherford College at weekends and bank holidays	Kitchenette has a fridge, kettle and microwave.	£237.02
Eliot College	Bed and Flex	Shared facilities	£143.29 - £159.60
Rutherford College	Allowance of £10 per day, seven days a week to spend in a variety of campus outlets	Two showers, a toilet and kitchenette with a fridge, kettle and microwave. Each bedroom has its own sink.	

Becket Court and Keynes College: 31 week contracts  
Rutherford and Eliot College: 37 week contracts

# VISITING A UNIVERSITY

Where possible, actually go to universities you are interested in to have a look around.

Universities host large-scale open days, but many also offer guided campus tours by appointment.

## WHILE YOU'RE THERE...

- Write a plan and write a list of everything you want to find out
- See how easy it is to travel there
- **Speak to current students**
- Consider **academic** and **non-academic** facilities
- Look at different types of accommodation
- **Take a walk through the local town or city**



# FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

## CONSIDERATIONS

- Can you get home easily/cheaply?
- Is it close to other family & friends?
- Is the campus easily accessible from the town?
- What is the cost of living?
- How safe is the area?
- **Is this somewhere I want to live for three or four years?**

## WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

- Close to home or move away
- Big city (e.g. London or Leeds)
- Medium city (e.g. Canterbury or York)
- Small city (e.g. Aberystwyth)





# WHAT ELSE MAKES A UNIVERSITY UNIQUE?

Good students' union

Societies and sports specialisms

Student support services

Student employability services

Locations and buildings

Notable staff or alumni



# STUDENT'S UNIONS

REPRESENTING STUDENTS AND RUN BY STUDENTS



## Advice and Support

- Academic, welfare, finance and housing advice
- On-campus services
- Buddy/ mentor schemes



## Employability

- Unions often employ students
- Will host recruitment and job fairs
- Advertise job vacancies in the area

## Social life

- Union bars/ nightclubs
- Social events including Freshers' Balls and Summer Balls
- Responsible for societies, sports teams and volunteering



# CLUBS AND SOCIETIES





# SPORTS



# STUDENT SUPPORT

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Skills workshops

Academic tutorials

Online and library resources

Staff-student ratio

## WELFARE SUPPORT

Physical disability support services

Learning difficulty support

Mental health support

Buddy/ mentor schemes

## CAREER SUPPORT

Careers and employability services

Job fairs and festivals

Part-time job opportunities

Graduate employment statistics

# STUDENT LIFE: KEY QUESTIONS

## CONSIDERATIONS

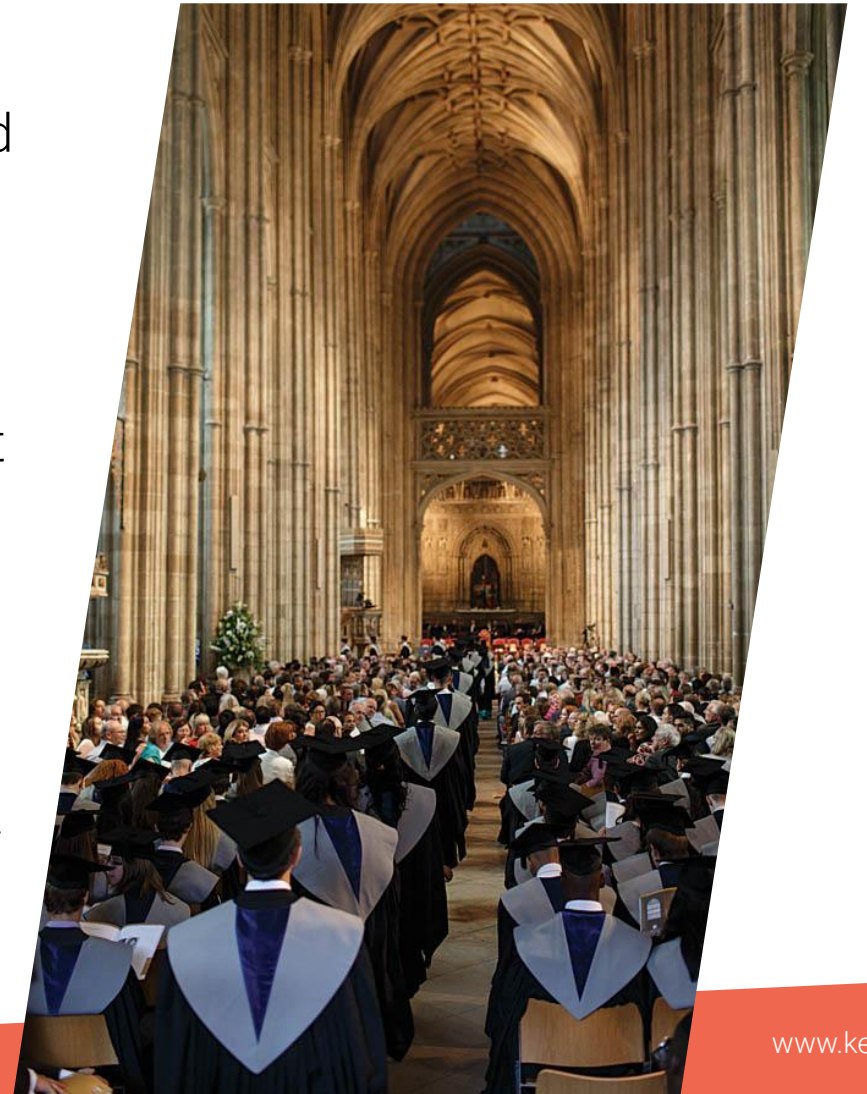
- Are the sport facilities suitable for you?
- Will you be able to continue existing hobbies?
- What opportunities are there to pick up new interests?
- Is there much nightlife in the area?
- Are student accommodation areas close to the social or sport scene?
- How cheap or expensive is the area?



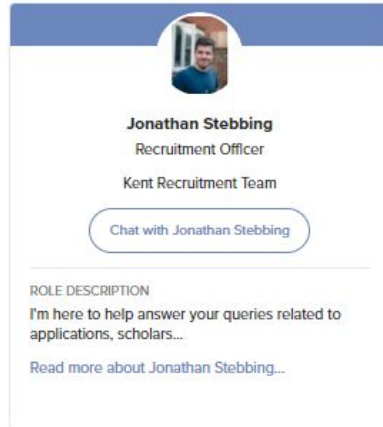


# CONCLUSION

- **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 social opportunities outside your course
- **Don't rush** - take your time to research and visit the university if you can. Build a sense of what it's really like.
- **Trust your instincts** - this is ultimately your decision, so make sure you choose the option you feel happiest about.



# IF YOU THINK OF ANY OTHER QUESTIONS



**Jonathan Stebbing**  
Recruitment Officer  
Kent Recruitment Team

Chat with Jonathan Stebbing

ROLE DESCRIPTION  
I'm here to help answer your queries related to applications, scholars...

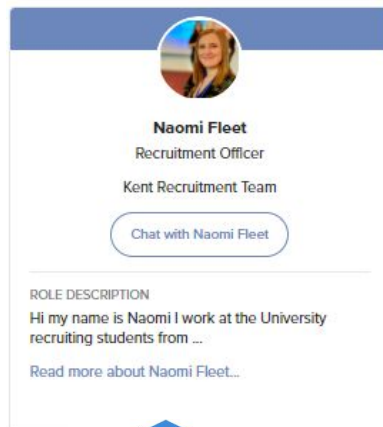
Read more about Jonathan Stebbing...



**COURSES:**  
[WWW.KENT.AC.UK](http://WWW.KENT.AC.UK)

**UNIBUDDY:**  
[WWW.KENT.AC.UK/UNIBUDDY/](http://WWW.KENT.AC.UK/UNIBUDDY/)

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**  
[WWW.KENT.AC.UK/EVENTS](http://WWW.KENT.AC.UK/EVENTS)



**Naomi Fleet**  
Recruitment Officer  
Kent Recruitment Team

Chat with Naomi Fleet

ROLE DESCRIPTION  
Hi my name is Naomi I work at the University recruiting students from ...

Read more about Naomi Fleet...



# OPEN DAYS

**JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN DAY**

**SATURDAY 23 APRIL,**

**10.00 – 14.00**

**CANTERBURY**



**BOOK ONLINE:**

**[www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/open-days](http://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/open-days)**



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