

# KENT IN EUROPE

*Building the new regional  
and international future*

[www.kent.ac.uk/global](http://www.kent.ac.uk/global)





# INTRODUCTION

**The University of Kent has a long-established reputation in Europe. Our proud history includes contributing to the foundation of the Erasmus programme and establishing internationally recognised postgraduate teaching centres in Europe and a legacy as the UK's European university.**

Kent's regional location connects the University to the European continent: from the White Cliffs of Dover it is possible to see France and this regional geography also defines the social, political and economic issues that determine the identity and challenges of the area, which in turn shape the University's civic commitment and outreach.

Engagement with The Straits Committee (launched on the 5 February 2020) and work with Kent County Council links the University to European local government and business communities in Département du Nord (France), the Province of West Flanders (Belgium) and the Province of Zeeland (Netherlands). Beyond Brexit, the University of Kent will always have a special key regional link to Europe for its research, innovation and teaching.

Kent in Europe forms part of our wider Global Engagement Strategy, which includes Kent in Asia and other parts of the world, and part of the dynamic links of research, teaching and innovation, which make Kent a gateway for international opportunities.

## **Our strategic focus**

The University of Kent's engagement in Europe is built on six key strategic areas:

- postgraduate programmes taught in English in a location relevant to the subject; currently international studies in Brussels and arts and culture in Paris
- university partnerships across Europe
- research networks for shared knowledge
- civic engagement and innovation linked to regional business and local government
- support for staff carrying out research across the globe
- provision of a rich experience for international students.

# BRUSSELS SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

[www.kent.ac.uk/brussels](http://www.kent.ac.uk/brussels)

Founded in 1998, Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS) has been a flagship of transnational education, recognised by Universities UK International (UUKi) in case studies of good practice, held up by the British Government as an example of excellent international educational practice and recognised nationally and internationally as a centre for postgraduate education in international studies.

BSIS offers Master's and PhD programmes in politics, international relations, law, and economics, with students encouraged to take an interdisciplinary approach to their studies. Its location gives students the opportunity to

apply for internships in many of the organisations in Brussels, including NATO, the European Commission, other European Union institutions, the European Court and many leading NGOs.

BSIS has full-time academic and professional service teams and a strong community, supported by an active student union, which hosts its own events and conferences, and a partnership with its near neighbour the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. It attracts strong students and has a large alumni network, many of whom work in key roles in influential organisations around the world. It is located in its own building in the university area of Brussels.







# PARIS SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CULTURE

[www.kent.ac.uk/paris](http://www.kent.ac.uk/paris)

Founded in 2010, the Paris School of Arts and Culture (PSAC) offers programmes from within the arts and humanities, these include: Architecture and Urban Design, Creative Writing, Film, History and Philosophy of Art, and Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

Throughout its history Paris has been an inspiration to writers and artists and our Paris programmes take full advantage of the facilities available in one of the most culturally rich cities in the world. As well as access to Paris' leading museums and art galleries, students become members of the American Library in Paris and France's premier research library, the

Bibliothèque nationale de France. PSAC also hosts the Kent-Paris Research Institute as a research platform for work within the humanities.

PSAC is situated in Reid Hall, the building of the University of Columbia Global Center. PSAC is supported by a small professional service team and part-time academic staff. It has an active student society, which produces a journal of its work each year and hosts a postgraduate conference. Students benefit from PSAC's links to the University of Columbia and also close ties to Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, also known as Paris III.



# EUROPE, GATEWAY TO THE WORLD



**Kent has been building relationships in Europe for many years. These, alongside our own European centres, have created a raft of opportunities for our students and for the students of our European partners.**

Kent's connections with Europe play a pivotal role in developing our links with the rest of the world. Through our networks and partnerships with our European neighbours, Kent has broadened and deepened its global relationships. We value highly the connections that we have created and the benefits that they bring to the University: overseas study opportunities for our students, teaching exchange and international research collaboration.

Our presence in Brussels and Paris has enhanced co-operation with partners in these locations. For instance, students at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel are able to study abroad by 'crossing the street' and taking courses at our Brussels School of International Studies and our students are able to do the same in return. In Paris, we have a similar agreement with Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris III through which our Paris School of Arts and Culture students are able to take their courses in English.

Our European centres also allow for exciting study options. For instance, postgraduate students studying at Kent's Brussels centre can take advantage of our Two Capitals Exchange, which gives them the opportunity to study in Washington DC or at the prestigious China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing as part of their Kent degree: collaboration that has resulted from strong partnerships.

In addition our European centres extend our ability to support our own students, as undergraduate students studying with partners in France and Belgium are able to reach out to our European centres should they require additional Kent support.



# OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS AND NETWORKS

**Kent is at the heart of European university networks that encourage collaboration across institutions, disciplines and borders.**

## The 3i University Network

3i brings together higher education, local and regional business and governmental organisations, to identify strategies and approaches to respond to shared cross-border regional challenges.

## SGroup Universities in Europe

Kent is a member of the SGroup which fosters collaboration to support world-leading research, strengthen connections and share best practice with universities across the world, while benefiting students through initiatives such as summer schools and study abroad opportunities.

## Erasmus+ funding

Erasmus+ extended its competitive funding opportunities to cover most countries in the world in 2014. Kent won funding to support a number of International Credit Mobility projects including the first ever UK-Belarus mobility programme. Funded study placements for Kent students in Colombia and Thailand, exchange opportunities for staff and capacity building with partners in Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria and Israel are among the other outcomes.

As Erasmus funding ends in 2023 we will continue to build on our co-operation with our international partners within the Turing Scheme,

the UK's new international mobility programme, which will support our students on study and work placements throughout the world.

## Research success

Kent has been highly successful in securing European funding; £27.2m over the last five years with £26.6m coming from EU-funded projects. 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 works with its partners through initiatives such as the Newton Fund and the UK sponsored Global Challenges Research Fund. We look forward to participating in the EU's Horizon Europe programme in the future. Read about our success in winning European Research Council grants.

## CASE STUDY



In 2019, Kent ran a week-long capacity building programme for teaching staff from the Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike (AE-FUNAI) in Nigeria as part of an Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility project. AE-FUNAI was established in 2011 by the Federal Government in Nigeria as part of an initiative to establish universities in areas where higher education provision was lacking. The project aims to help AE-FUNAI develop its research and PhD supervision capacity. Kent's connections with Nigeria are long standing, with a large student and alumni network and this project helped to consolidate these.

# OUR EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMES

**Our relationships with our partner institutions provide unique programmes of study for our students, some leading to dual awards. The experience of living in another country enriches both their academic studies and their personal lives.**

Here are some examples of how our partnerships have expanded opportunities for students, giving them the chance to make connections of their own.

## **Politics and International Relations (Bi-diplôme) BA (Hons)**

**in collaboration with Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Lille**  
[www.kent.ac.uk/ug/33](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug/33)

On this challenging and rewarding bilingual and binational programme, you spend two years studying at Kent and two years in Lille.

## **MA in International Relations**

**in collaboration with Higher School of Economics in Moscow**  
[www.kent.ac.uk/pg/46](http://www.kent.ac.uk/pg/46)

This programme links the general study of international relations to specific questions about Eurasia in world politics and the international economy. You spend your first year in Kent and your second in Moscow, where you are taught in English. You gain two Master's in two years

## **MA Peace and Conflict Studies (International Joint Award)**

**with Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany**  
[www.kent.ac.uk/pg/49](http://www.kent.ac.uk/pg/49)

This two-year interdisciplinary programme focuses on violent conflict as well as its prevention and management. You spend your first year at Kent and your second at Marburg, where you are taught in English.

## **Master 1 Droit international et européen and LLB in Law**

**Linked Award – with Aix-Marseille University (AMU), France**  
[www.kent.ac.uk/ug/3736](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug/3736)

If selected for this programme, you spend the first two years of your law studies at AMU, where you are taught in French. You then spend two years at Kent, graduating with French (Master 1 'Droit international et européen') and English (LLB) law degrees.

## **Co-tutelle options**

A cotutelle allows you to be jointly supervised by staff at Kent and a partner institution. You graduate with a PhD or equivalent title from each university. We have arrangements with top institutions across Europe including the universities of Ghent and Lille.



Sciences politiques Lille



HoGent campusSchoonmeersen



Alle Universität (Marburg)

Our partnerships in Europe include long-standing relationships with the universities of Lille, Ghent and Philipps-Universität Marburg.

# EUROPEAN STAFF AND STUDENT EXCHANGES

**Kent has a long and active history in exchanging staff and students with universities across Europe and was among the first participants in the Erasmus Scheme when it was launched in 1987.**

During the last 33 years, Kent's Erasmus funding has supported the exchange of over 10,000 students, teachers and professional staff with over 300 partner universities and other organisations in almost 40 countries.

The exchanges supported by the Erasmus Scheme have given students life-changing experiences that have developed their language skills and intercultural awareness, and enhanced their academic, personal and professional lives. Our students have enjoyed a range of opportunities including: teaching English in schools throughout Europe; studying at some of Europe's leading universities; and working in a wide range of public bodies and private sector industries.

Inspired by their experience and confident in their abilities our students thrive on their return. Research has shown that their academic attainment, transferable skills development and graduate employment prospects all improve.



*"I spent my year abroad in Madrid studying politics and sociology. It was one of the best years of my life."*

**Judith Sponselee**  
Liberal Arts

The positive effects our students and staff gain from travelling to study and work in Europe are complemented by the benefit Kent gains by hosting students and academic staff from our European partners.

Those who study with us often excel, making the most of their experience. Paul-Georg Ender came to Kent as an Erasmus student and went on to be named 2020 Student of the Year. The judges were impressed with his outstanding commitment and initiative in undertaking crucial work on digital and physical accessibility.

As the UK's relationship with the EU moves into a new phase, we remain committed to continuing to provide opportunities to our staff and students. While we are delighted that our current Erasmus exchanges and funding will be in place for academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23, we are also very pleased to be part of the UK's new Turing global mobility scheme. In this context, Kent staff and students will continue to benefit from our many partnerships with universities across Europe and beyond.

# KENT IN EUROPE

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[www.kent.ac.uk/global](http://www.kent.ac.uk/global)