

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND DIGITAL ARTS
POSTGRADUATE STUDY
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Overview

Why undertake a postgraduate taught programme?

Some good reasons:-

To learn more about the subject you enjoy, perhaps with a view to working in that area and pursuing a PhD.

- To gain an edge when applying for jobs. A lot of people have Bachelor's degrees. An MSc helps you stand out from the crowd.
- To prepare yourself for jobs that involve technical leadership, whether in business or industry.
- Some jobs require a postgraduate qualification (eg teaching, cutting-edge research and development posts).
- To update, deepen or broaden your knowledge of key technologies.
- To develop advanced intellectual and other transferable skills.

Our Programmes

What taught programmes do you offer?

We offer the following Postgraduate taught programmes:-

Engineering

- Advanced Electronic Systems Engineering
- Broadband and Mobile Communication Networks
- Embedded Systems and Instrumentation
- Information Security and Biometrics
- Wireless Communications and Signal Processing

Digital Arts

- Computer Animation
- Digital Visual Effects

Multi-disciplinary

- Engineering with Finance
- Mobile Application Design

Detailed information regarding programme structure and entry requirements for each programme can be found via our Postgraduate opportunities web page <http://www.eda.kent.ac.uk/postgraduate/default.aspx>.

Which of your taught programmes are accredited? Who by?

The following postgraduate taught programmes were recently put forward for IET accreditation for the first time and were successful in gaining recommendation for accreditation by the visiting panel:- Advanced Electronic Systems Engineering, Broadband and Mobile Communication Networks, Embedded Systems and Instrumentation and Wireless Communications and Signal Processing.

We see accreditation as an indicator of the standard of our programmes. It also demonstrates that the programme you are undertaking has been assessed to the highest professional standards within the industry.

What research programmes does the School offer?

The School offers the following research degree programmes:-

- Electronic Engineering (MSc, MPhil, PhD and EngD)
- Digital Arts (MSc, MPhil and PhD)

As a postgraduate research student you will join one of our 3 research groups:- Communications, Instrumentation, Control and Embedded Systems and Intelligent Interactions. Please see our web site for further information about the research groups <http://www.eda.kent.ac.uk/research/default.aspx>.

Current projects can be viewed on our Research Project Opportunities web page http://www.eda.kent.ac.uk/postgraduate/projects_funding/pgr_projects.aspx. Alternatively, students may wish to suggest an appropriate self-selected PhD topic and consult the School for further discussion.

The School provides 'research-led-teaching'. Our academic teaching staff also undertake research in their specialised subject area. The University of Kent was judged to have world-leading research in all subjects submitted in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. We were ranked 21st in the UK for research intensity and 98% of the research submitted was judged to be of international quality.

This research feeds directly into our teaching meaning that you hear about the latest cutting-edge technology and techniques.



Why should I come to study a Postgraduate programme at The School of Engineering and Digital Arts?

We are a very special School recognised both for the quality and impact of our teaching and research. We offer a warm and caring environment in which to learn and develop. To this end we offer a unique blend of two diverse subjects culminating with an exciting range of 9 taught masters programmes in the areas of engineering, digital arts as well as a mixture of multi-disciplinary programmes.

Our staff and students work in a friendly and supportive teaching environment offering an inspiring and challenging student experience with an emphasis on teaching transferable and employability skills. We prepare our students for a wide range of possible careers and we develop students' skills even further to include communication, technical aptitude, career motivation, analytical skills, business awareness, numeracy, technical knowledge, time management, team working, problem solving, initiative and leadership.

Why should I come to the University of Kent?

Again, there are many reasons. For more information on the 'Kent Experience' see: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/studying/why>

Or why not watch the winning entry of the University of Kent's 2014 YouTube Challenge by Adam Latham (Multimedia Technology & Design graduate 2014) from the School of Engineering and Digital Arts <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsc0TWBQDFw>



The School and Employment

Where are your postgraduate programmes based?

The programmes are run by the School of Engineering and Digital Arts on the University of Kent's Canterbury Campus.

The School's website contains the latest information about all aspects of our activities: <http://www.eda.kent.ac.uk>

What facilities does your School have?

Our students have access to the very latest, state of the art facilities including a recent refurbishment package of over £1.2 million. A wide range of laboratory and computing facilities and specialist industry-standard software packages for teaching and research support are available. Students have recently benefitted from a new engineering laboratory suite, extensive computer rooms and a well equipped mechanical workshop.

Our engineering facilities comprise of experimental laboratories and workshops. The main anechoic chamber has just been completely refurbished at a cost of £650,000. The School has invested a huge sum to provide state of the art multimedia equipment and facilities.

What are the main strengths of your School?

We have an excellent employability record with dedicated careers support. Our strong industrial input ensures that all our programmes are relevant to employers' needs.

What type of careers/jobs do students go in to after graduating?

We are very proud of our graduates who have gone on to achieve great success in leading global organisations. Some former Computer Animation and Digital Visual Effects graduates have showcased their world class expertise by working on major Hollywood films including Oscar winning "Gravity" and "Interstellar" and Oscar nominated "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" and are now employees of a leading film and visual effects company. Other Digital Arts graduates have found roles as graphics and web designers, software developers/programmers as well as a range of teaching roles. Our engineering graduates find employment with world leading companies and have established careers such as design, electrical, network and systems engineers, Broadcast Engineer, Research & Development Engineer, Integration Manager, Development & Support Manager, Manufacturing Engineer, Automotive Engineer, Electronics Engineer, Embedded Systems Design Engineer to name a few.

Why should I come to Canterbury?

The University sits on a hill over-looking the City of Canterbury and its world renowned Cathedral. Canterbury is situated in the South East of England about 50 miles (80km) away from London. Canterbury is well connected by both road and high speed rail (less than an hour to central London) and is within easy travelling distance to airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted), international railway stations (Ashford) and ports (Dover). Internationally famous for its history, Canterbury today is a major city for tourism with Canterbury Cathedral alone attracting approximately 1.2 million visitors per year. It is quite a small town despite its extensive facilities with a population of around 55,000.

Canterbury is a friendly, safe and welcoming place, with very high student population (one of the highest student numbers per head of population).

For further information see:

<http://www.canterbury.co.uk/>

What do your present students think?

They like what we offer. In the recent Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), the School received 100% for overall satisfaction in the subject area of Electronic and Electrical Engineering. Other highlights included:-

- 90% satisfaction for Teaching
- 96% satisfaction for Resources and Services
- 94% satisfaction for Skills Development



How many staff and students are there in the School?

We currently have 32 academic staff, 30 professional services staff, 10 research staff, 117 postgraduate students and 460 undergraduate students.

Studying at Kent

Can I start your programmes at any other point of the year?

Our only 'entry' point is September for our taught programmes. There is more flexibility for starting our research programmes.

What will be the exact dates of terms at the University of Kent?

Term dates can be found at:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/about/termdates.php>

How much contact time with lecturers and tutors should students expect?

Our students typically have over 20 hours of contact time per week. Additionally students are expected to work in their own time such that they are spending at least a full working week.

How many computers do you have?

The School provides around 240 PCs solely for teaching our own undergraduates. The PCs are very high specification to cope with the demands of our programmes - indeed they are among the best specified PCs on campus. This number gives a very high ratio of PCs to students. We also have a range of specialist computing equipment such as audio and video studios and a green screen production suite.

What computing facilities do you have for students?

As a member of the University you will be given your own computer login which will enable you to use the Internet, email and range of software packages on University machines. In addition to the PCs found in our building, the University provides over 600 public computers for student use across campus. Printing, web access, virtual private networking (VPN) and many other facilities are available to all students at Kent.

Would I be advised to buy my own computer?

Most students now bring their own computers to help them do coursework at a time that suits them. Very nearly all student accommodation on campus has a network connection to provide access to University facilities and the web beyond - most students take advantage of this. Of course, with the number and specification of computers available in the School and across campus, you should not feel that you must buy your own PC or laptop.



Applying to Kent

What is the application procedure?

Applications should be submitted online:-

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/apply/>

Once we receive your application and you have satisfied (or look likely to satisfy) our entry requirements then we will make you an offer.

The offer will be either:

CONDITIONAL on you achieving particular grades. You may also need to obtain other pre-requisites such as 2 satisfactory academic references.

Or:

UNCONDITIONAL – usually made to candidates who have already taken examinations.

What support will I receive if I receive an offer?

Upon receipt of your application, you can be assured of a dedicated professional service together with access to our virtual buddy scheme <http://www.eda.kent.ac.uk/postgraduate/buddies.aspx>. Starting a postgraduate course can be somewhat daunting, so we have a team of trained student volunteers known as buddies who are on hand to help and advise you. All our buddies are postgraduates themselves and have great insight into life in the School of Engineering and Digital Arts. We know that course content is very important to you, and our buddies can answer your questions about a typical study day and answer questions about life at Kent, advise on living costs, where to shop, the best student deals and making the most of our excellent links to London and Europe.

What if my first language is not English?

For up to date information of our English language entry requirements please refer to our web page <http://www.kent.ac.uk/ems/eng-lang-reqs/ielts.html>. For our postgraduate taught programmes please refer to “School of Engineering and Digital Arts – Taught programmes” and for our postgraduate research programmes please refer to the “General Postgraduate Programme” entry requirements

Are there any bursaries/financial assistance available?

Yes. The University provides a number of awards. Please see our scholarships web site for more details <https://www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/postgraduate/index.html>.

Can I visit the School and the University?

There are several ways of visiting the University. Firstly, we hold various Open Days when you can have a look at all the University’s courses and facilities <http://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/openday/pgevents.html>. If you are unable to attend any of the formally organised events you are more than welcome to arrange a ‘personal’ visit to the School. Please contact the Admissions Officer (eda-admissionspg@kent.ac.uk) to arrange a convenient time.

Living at Kent

Where can I find out about student accommodation?

Campus study bedrooms at the University of Kent are available in Woolf College. Full information on costs and services is available at:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/accommodation/canterbury/apply/index.html>

Does Kent provide Internet access from student study bedrooms?

All study bedrooms contain an internet connection to the free broadband academic network. The University Computing Service provides connection kits and guidance for networking your own PC.

Can I bring my car if I am a student at Kent?

Owing to space restrictions, students cannot bring a car onto campus if you are resident in a College or accommodation building OR if you live in particular post-code districts. For full details see:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/estates/transport/parking/students.html>

The University is served by a regular bus service into town.

What if I am disabled?

The University meets the requirements of current legislation that states no student should be prevented access to HE because reasonable adjustment has not been made. We request that applicants with disabilities disclose this on their application form to allow us to prepare adequately. The University Disability Support Unit coordinates support with the various university schools.

What facilities does the University provide for students?

The University provides a range of facilities for students including sporting, recreational, arts, music, clubs and societies and jobs and volunteering. For further details see:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/studying/where/canterbury/index.html>

There is also a wide range of academic support including Computing Service, Careers Advice, Personal Support, Library, Student Learning Advisory Service and Student Support and Wellbeing.

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/locations/canterbury/support/index.html>

Visiting Us

How do I get to Canterbury?

Full travel details can be found at:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/locations/canterbury/directions.html>

A downloadable guide is available at:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/maps/canterbury/canterbury-campus>

(The School of Engineering and Digital Arts is building H3 on the campus map).

Some useful links in travelling to Kent:

Trains:

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

<http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/>

Buses:

<http://www.stagecoachbus.com/>

Roads:

<http://www.rac.co.uk/web/routeplanner/>

Where can I park my car when I visit the University?

Parking is very restricted on the Canterbury Campus. There is a visitors' car park on Giles Lane which operates a 'Pay and Display' scheme. This is shown on the downloadable guide above.

If you require special parking access to the School for a visit we can reserve a place for you outside the building. Please contact the Admissions Officer to arrange this.

How can I contact the School's Admissions Officer?

Email: eda-admissionspg@kent.ac.uk
Phone: (+44) (0)1227 827535
Mail: Postgraduate Admissions Officer
School of Engineering and Digital Arts
Jennison Building
University of Kent
Canterbury
Kent, UK
CT2 7NT

Note: The details in this document were correct at the time of going to press. Changes may have to be made to our programmes at a later date and these will be communicated via our web pages.