School of Computing

The School of Computing at Kent is a welcoming and supportive environment that has been recognised with a Bronze Athena SWAN award. We are a well-balanced, inclusive and diverse community that aims to further enhance our achievements and reputation in teaching, research and innovation.

The School is located on two impressive campuses at Canterbury and Medway. Both are safe, friendly, well-equipped and in desirable locations, with excellent schools and a wealth of cultural links and superb transport connections.

The Medway campus is home to the BSc Software Engineering, Computing, Business Information Technology and Computer Science for Health undergraduate programmes, as well as PhD degree programmes. We plan to deliver an MSc Advanced Computer Science (Cloud Computing and Big Data) from September 2019. Medway is a vibrant and modern campus just over half an hour from London by train, located in one of the most historic areas in the country. Medway provides outstanding research, teaching, learning and leisure opportunities for 3000 students under a unique co-location concept shared by three universities. As well as award-winning buildings and brand new facilities, the campus encompasses the Historic Dockyard heritage area, launch site of Admiral Nelson’s flagship HMS Victory which today provides a period backdrop for numerous films and television dramas such as *Call the Midwife* and *Sherlock Holmes*.

The Canterbury campus is home to Computer Science undergraduate, Master’s and PhD degree programmes. The campus houses some 16,000 students across all disciplines, with 125 nationalities represented, and has a very cosmopolitan feel. Founded in 1965, it is the University’s original site and is built on parkland overlooking the city centre with fast transport links to London and mainland Europe. The campus is self-contained and includes student accommodation, a library, sports centre, theatre, nightclub, cinema, places to eat and bars, shops and a medical centre.

**Teaching:**

Our undergraduate degrees offered at Medway all include the possibility of a year in industry between the second and final years. Our dedicated Placement Officers provide guidance throughout the whole process and support students while they are on their placements. Our students have an excellent record of employability. For full details of all our undergraduate degrees, see: [https://www.cs.kent.ac.uk/ug/degrees.html](https://www.cs.kent.ac.uk/ug/degrees.html)

A wide range of taught MSc programmes are offered in Canterbury and an MSc Advanced Computer Science (Cloud Computing and Big Data) is planned for Medway from 2019. These programmes offer flexibility in entry routes, content and format and are available full-time or part-time, with an optional industrial placement.

**Research:**
The School has internationally-recognised research in 5 broad research groups, full details of which are at: https://www.cs.kent.ac.uk/research/index.html

Staff and students are members of one or more research groups, on either campus. The Medway campus is home to the research group in:
- Data Science

Research groups predominantly based in Canterbury are:
- Programming Languages and Systems
- Computer Security
- Computational Intelligence
- Computing Education

The REF 2014 ranked us in the top quartile of 89 UK Computing departments, coming 22nd for Research Power and 12th for Research Intensity, and we anticipate improving on this in the next REF. Research income in the school tripled in the year 2015/16. The School currently has some 45 research students across all its research groups.

**Innovation and Enterprise:**
The School’s research has impact on the products, services and practice of the software industry, on the use of computing systems in a range of industrial and social sectors, and on the education and training of programmers in schools, Higher Education Institutions and business. We have research links with a number of larger enterprises, including Microsoft, IBM and Google. The School values the contributions of its staff towards innovation and enterprise.

Students are a key part of the School’s engagement with industry. The Kent IT Consultancy (KITC), which provides IT consultancy for businesses across Kent, is staffed by students under the supervision of an experienced IT consultant. Since its inception in 2004, the KITC has generated more than £70k external income, as well as giving face to face IT consultancy experience to more than a hundred students.

As well as the KITC, student placements give the majority of undergraduate students in the School one year’s experience in industry. Placements are in IT companies (such as Cisco, IBM, Intel and Accenture Technology Solutions), in large enterprises (including Eli Lilly, Morgan Stanley, and the NHS) as well in small to medium-sized enterprises in the region.

More details about the School can be found on our website: www.cs.kent.ac.uk

**About the University of Kent**

Established in 1965, the University of Kent – the UK’s European university – now has almost 20,000 students across campuses or study centres at Canterbury, Medway, Tonbridge, Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome.

It was ranked 22nd in the Guardian University Guide 2018 and in June 2017 was awarded a gold rating, the highest, in the UK Government’s Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

In 2018 it was also ranked in the top 500 of Shanghai Ranking’s Academic Ranking of World Universities and 47th in the Times Higher Education’s (THE) new European Teaching Rankings.

Kent is ranked 17th in the UK for research intensity (REF 2014). It has world-leading research in all subjects and 97% of its research is deemed by the REF to be of international quality.
Along with the universities of East Anglia and Essex, Kent is a member of the Eastern Arc Research Consortium (www.kent.ac.uk/about/partnerships/eastern-arc.html).

The University is worth £0.7 billion to the economy of the south east and supports more than 7,800 jobs in the region. Student off-campus spend contributes £293.3m and 2,532 full-time-equivalent jobs to those totals.

Kent has received two Queen’s Anniversary prizes for Higher and Further Education.

Website: www.kent.ac.uk

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<tr>
<th>Application Process:</th>
<th>Applications must be made via the University’s online application system. You will be required to fill in the main details section of the application form as well as upload your CV and a cover letter. Your cover letter should clearly and explicitly address the requirements of the Person Specification and you should provide clear evidence and examples in your application which back-up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion. We recommend a maximum of 4 x A4 sides for this document. Copies of certificates for qualifications you have stated you have achieved in your application will be requested at offer stage; in particular, those that were deemed as essential for the post. The link to the application procedure can be found by returning to the position details page and clicking on ‘click here to apply for this job’. Applications must be received by midnight on the closing date and unfortunately late applications cannot be accepted. If you are invited to attend an interview we will contact you by email confirming the arrangements. If you are not successful at the shortlist stage, we will also contact you by email to let you know.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feedback:</td>
<td>Due to the large number of applications we receive, we are unable to provide feedback at shortlisting stage. We will provide feedback, if requested, following an interview.</td>
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<td>Test / Presentation:</td>
<td>Many of the posts will involve a test, presentation or assessment day as part of the interview process. This could be in the form a clerical or IT test or a requirement to deliver a short presentation. Full details will be confirmed to you by email.</td>
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| Job Share: | Applications to job-share this post are welcomed. If you wish to apply on a job-share basis indicate this on your application and include:  
  - If you are applying as part of a job-share team (please give name of sharer) or as an individual.  
  - The proportion of the job you would wish to work, expressed as a percentage.  
  - Whether you would be interested in the job on a full-time basis if a suitable sharer does not come forward. |
| **Disability Confident Committed:** | The Two Ticks scheme has been replaced by the “disability confident” scheme.

As users of the disability confident scheme, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria for our job vacancies.

If you have a disability and require information regarding accessibility of our campus facilities please visit: [http://www.disabledgo.com/en/org/university-of-kent](http://www.disabledgo.com/en/org/university-of-kent) |
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| **Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity:** | All University staff are expected to be aware of, comply with, and support the University’s policies with regards to ensuring and promoting equality, diversity and inclusivity. Relevant training and development should be undertaken, as required.

Further information about EDI is available from the University’s website at: [http://www.kent.ac.uk/hr-equalityanddiversity/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/hr-equalityanddiversity/) |
| **UK Visa and Immigration:** | The University of Kent is unable, under current immigration law, to employ candidates who are not eligible to live and work in the UK.

For academic and research vacancies, or posts that require very specialist skills we can apply for a Certificate of Sponsorship (although there is no guarantee that this will be granted). This is on the basis that the criteria for such applications have been met.

**PLEASE NOTE** - If you require/hold a visa to work in the UK, it is your responsibility to check the Home Office website to ensure that you understand the rules and the documentation required. It is also important to note that the rules concerning visas are changed and/or amended regularly.

The Home Office website is: [https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration) |
| **Salary Scale:** | Employees receive an increment annually until the top of the scale is reached. In addition, there is normally a nationally agreed annual cost of living salary increase.

For new employees to the University, the first spine point of the grade is usually offered, unless otherwise agreed. The scale (ie top and bottom spine points) appears on the advert and the Job Description.

Successful internal candidates on the same grade will transfer on their current spine point and the annual increment will not be affected. For those moving to a higher grade, the first spine point of the new grade will be offered, unless otherwise agreed. |
| **Annual Leave:** | Whilst there is no prescribed holiday entitlement for Academic/Research staff, a notional figure of 43 days per annum is applied (pro rata for part time staff); 8 of these days are reserved for bank/public holidays and 5 are ‘customary’ days when the University closes at Christmas. |
| **Probation:** | The Probation Scheme at the University of Kent is a 4-stage process over 6 months. |
### Pension:

You will be contractually enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme).

Staff enter the USS Retirement Income Builder, which is a type of defined benefit pension scheme where benefits are based on each year's salary throughout your period of membership (on a Career Revalued Benefits basis). You will pay a monthly contribution equal to 8% of salary, while the University contributes 18%.

You will also gain access to the USS Investment Builder, a defined contribution section where benefits at retirement are based on the contributions made by you and the University and the performance of the funds that your contributions are invested in. All members will have the option to join this section in addition to the USS Retirement Income Builder, whilst earners above the salary threshold of £55,550 p.a. will join automatically and pay core contributions above the salary threshold into this section.

If you elect to opt out of the pension scheme as soon as you join, you may be auto enrolled immediately. You may also be auto enrolled on our re-enrolment date which is every three years. Please see the link below for more information on auto enrolment: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/human-resources/pensions/auto-enrolment.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/human-resources/pensions/auto-enrolment.html)

For general scheme information see: [http://www.kent.ac.uk/human-resources/pensions/USS-home.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/human-resources/pensions/USS-home.html) or the USS website: [https://www.uss.co.uk/members/members-home/the-uss-scheme](https://www.uss.co.uk/members/members-home/the-uss-scheme)

A period of employer-led consultation with USS members and eligible staff ended on 2 November 2018 regarding cost-sharing proposals. USS have confirmed the first of the planned increases to pension contributions will take place from 1 April 2019. Further consultation is expected in 2019 regarding changes to the USS contribution and benefit structure. Further information can be found on the Kent HR webpages at: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/human-resources/pensions/uss-changes-nov17/index.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/human-resources/pensions/uss-changes-nov17/index.html)

### Work Life Balance:

The University recognises that staff have responsibilities and interests that have to be balanced with working life. It is the University's aim to create a well-managed, flexible working environment that supports staff and their families, promotes welfare, maintains working practices and provides a productive balance between work and life outside work. Operational needs must be taken into account, but managers are encouraged to be innovative in organising their team and respond positively to requests to alter working patterns to enable staff to fulfil more effectively their professional and personal commitments.

### Childcare:

**Oaks Day Nursery (Canterbury Campus):**

The Oaks Nursery based at the Canterbury Campus is an excellent benefit for staff and a great asset to the University. Places are offered on a first come first served basis and baby places are particularly limited so staff may wish to make contact as soon as their pregnancy is confirmed.

For more information: [http://oaksnurserykent.co.uk/](http://oaksnurserykent.co.uk/)
### Medway Campus:
There is no University run day nursery at the Medway Campus, however the closest nursery to the campus is run by Busy Bees. For more information: [http://www.busybeeschildcare.co.uk/nursery/chatham](http://www.busybeeschildcare.co.uk/nursery/chatham)

In October 2018 the Government launched a new Tax-Free Childcare scheme; new members of staff may now be able to get tax-free childcare paying up to £500 every 3 months (£2,000 per year) for each child to help with childcare costs. See [https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/tax-free-childcare](https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/tax-free-childcare) for further information.

### Nursery Salary Exchange Scheme:
**Nursery Salary Exchange Scheme**
Workplace Nurseries are childcare facilities provided by an employer and which are offered to employees, through a tax efficient salary sacrifice scheme. The Workplace Nursery Salary Exchange Scheme (for users of the Oaks Nursery on Canterbury Campus) enables eligible staff to opt to receive a lower salary – a salary exchange – in return for the University paying an equivalent amount of his/her nursery fees, via an amendment to contract. This arrangement means staff agree to receive a lower amount of gross pay and in return will be provided with free (or part thereof) workplace nursery places.