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Welcome!

A warm welcome to the new students! Congratulations on your achievements so far and we hope you are excited for the journey you are about to embark on. The Canadian Law Society is made up of Canadian students who are eager to help new and current students with these transition periods. Please join the Facebook group titled ‘Canadian Law Society - University of Kent’ or follow us on Instagram so you can see all events and relevant information. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you need more specific information.

Meet the Team

Mahnoor Baig  
Academic Minister

Falak Baig  
Social Minister

Roo Thompson  
Treasurer

Jojo Nijar – Vice President

Savita McRae – President
Student Visa

All information for student visas can be found on the following website:
https://www.gov.uk/student-visa

Quick Facts:

● You will have to set up an appointment to fully submit your visa application. During the appointment they require the following information
  ○ Form with CAS number on it (this is given to you by the university)
  ○ The visa application printed out
  ○ Your passport
  ○ Copy of official offer from UCAS
● The average turnaround time is 3 weeks, but it is typically a lot faster!

Canadian Government Funding

The financial assistance that the Canadian government offers is handled at the provincial level. Each province has different forms of student financial assistance available. The currently available government assistance programs can be found here:

Accommodation

On-Campus Accommodation

University of Kent offers three types of on-campus accommodations:

- **Self-catered** accommodations have their own kitchens.
- **Part-catered** accommodations have a meal plan for breakfast and dinner.
- **Bed and flex** accommodations give you an £8 allowance per day to spend on whatever you want on campus.

The cost for accommodations can be found [here](#).

You can explore accommodation options [here](#).

Becket Court - Part-catered accommodation, 31 weeks

- Located very central on campus, it’s close to the essentials (on-campus grocery store, the gym, the Kent Law Clinic, and the library)
- Right beside Venue (on campus nightclub) so it can be loud at night
- Breakfast and dinner are catered, for those with dietary restrictions it may be challenging
- You cannot stay on campus during the Christmas holiday, you are also required to fully move out for the Easter holiday (April) but can move back in for exams

Darwin College – Self-catered accommodation, 39 weeks

- Shared bathrooms and kitchens
- The kitchen is large but will be shared with 6-7 other students, there is some equipment to accommodate
- Weekly maintenance
- Located beside Wolf Lecture Theatre

Elliot College – bed and flex, 37 weeks

- Shared bathrooms and kitchens
- Bed and flex meal plan

Rutherford College – bed and flex, 37 weeks

- Same as Elliot College ^

Keynes Houses – self-catered accommodation, 39 weeks

- Usually 6-8 people per house, kitchen in large but shared
- Bathrooms are shared between two people
- Central on-campus location
- Weekly maintenance

Parkwood Houses – self-catered accommodation, 39 weeks
• Less central to campus, can be nice for studying as it is quieter
• Close to gym and sports field
• In 5 person houses, can be co-ed unless specifically requested otherwise, required to share one shower and one fridge, kitchen space isn’t huge
• In 6 person houses, slightly more space and two fridges

Parkwood Flats – self-catered accommodation, 39 weeks
• Has its own essentials (grocery store, study hub)
• Each person has their own washroom but the kitchen is shared between 6 people
• The kitchen is cleaned once a week and comes with some equipment (vacuum, mop, ironing board)
• Located close to Woody’s (on campus bar)

Turing College – self-catered accommodation, 39 weeks
• Located slightly off main campus (5-10 minute walk)
• Townhome style house that sleeps 12 students
• You have your own bedroom but share a bathroom with one other student
• The kitchen is equipped with all appliances and is fairly spacious
• Both the kitchen and bathroom are cleaned once a week by housekeeping

Off-Campus Accommodation
Palamon Court
• Ensuite units similar to condominiums
• Rather pricey but rent includes wifi, security, utilities etc.
• There are a lot of rules such as not being allowed more than 3 guests and each guest must sign in upon arrival, guests are not allowed to stay past a certain time.
• More information can be found here.

Popular Apartment Search Sites
• https://www.zoopla.co.uk/
• https://www.rightmove.co.uk/
• Tip: Look out for houses / apartments that rent to students specifically, the landlord licensing is slightly different here. Also, the turnaround for the rental market is much faster, you may see some leases that start within 2 weeks so if you search too far in advance you may not find what you’re looking for as they may not be listed yet. Renting yourself a flat can be a really great option if you’re looking for more privacy or just don’t want to be staying on campus, being close to town is a bonus too!
Phone Plans

Plans are much cheaper in the UK than in Canada. In order to have a contract plan, you will need a UK bank account. A pay-as-you-go plan might be a better option for those who plan on going home for the holidays since you will avoid paying for a plan while you’re not in England. Most carriers allow you to use your plan in Europe. Also important to note that most UK banking will require a UK number, from our experience it is easiest to get a pay-as-you-go plan first, then sort out your UK banking.

The following are phone carriers that a lot of us used. It is up to you to decide which plan works best for your needs.

- O2
- Vodafone
- Giffgaff
- EE
- Three

Banking

Before opening a bank account, you will need a Status Letter from the university. This can be obtained by emailing statusletter@kent.ac.uk with your name and student number. It takes about 48 hours to produce before you can pick it up from the Registry building. You will have to make an appointment with the bank in order to open up a new account. They do not do walk-ins.

The following is a list of banks found in Canterbury:

- Natwest
- Santander
- Barclays
- Lloyds
- HSBC
- Starling (this is fully online and does not require the Status Letter, however it does take time to transfer money from a Canadian account to the UK account)

It is best to research the banks to see which one works best for you, most international student accounts are all the same.
Public Transportation

Whether or not you purchase a bus pass is completely up to you, in our experience, it is very useful to have one. The public transportation system in England is efficient and straightforward. For those who have never taken public transportation, don’t be worried because it is very easy!!

- A month-long unlimited Canterbury bus pass will cost £55.50 (2020/2021 cost) and a return fare from campus will cost £3.30 with a valid student ID (2020/2021 cost). So depending on how often you travel into the city, you could end up saving money with a bus pass. The year long student bus pass is around £180.
- Bus passes are helpful because you are able to travel anywhere in Kent. You can check out places like Dover and Whitstable which are worth the visit.
- For full details on available bus passes see [https://www.kent.ac.uk/transport/commute-smarter/bus-travel/stagecoach-bus-tickets](https://www.kent.ac.uk/transport/commute-smarter/bus-travel/stagecoach-bus-tickets)

Two notable services that connect Canterbury to London & other airports

- National Express (bus)
- Southeastern (train)
- Trainline.com is very helpful with planning out your trips
- Railcard gives you discounts for trains. Can be purchased annually [here](https).

Places to Eat

The city has a lot of places to eat. There’s a lot to explore, below is a list of some places that our committee has recommended. If you click on this link, you’ll be directed to a map of the main city centre, and you can explore the places before you arrive!

- **Coffee**
  - The Real Eating Company
  - Garage Coffee
  - Lost Sheep
- **Veggie and Vegan options**
  - Wagamama
  - Kitch
- **Burgers and chicken**
  - 7bone (also has poutine)
  - GBK
  - Nandos
  - Chuck and Blade
- **Chinese**
  - Chop Chop
- **Italian**
- Mario’s (does delivery)
- Efes Kebab & Pizza House
- Wildwood
- Cocktails
  - The Foundry
  - Drapers Arms (bottomless brunch)
  - Flastaff Hotel

## Places to Shop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Groceries</th>
<th>Home stuff</th>
<th>Clothes</th>
<th>School Supplies</th>
<th>Essentials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tesco</td>
<td>Yes, does delivery</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asda</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sainsbury</td>
<td>Yes, pricing similar to co-op</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;S</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, can be more expensive</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldi</td>
<td>Yes, cheapest grocery but not located on campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poundland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, good for supplies like binders, highlighters</td>
<td>Yes, cheapest place for soap, detergent etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primark</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, décor, bed and bath items</td>
<td>Yes, very affordable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilko</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, good for kitchen and other décor items</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, think Shoppers Drug Mart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superdrug</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, more beauty related but has some essentials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Societies on Campus

There will be a Freshers Fair during Welcome Week that will showcase all societies available on campus. We hope to see you at our table!

- [https://kentunion.co.uk/activities/societies/](https://kentunion.co.uk/activities/societies/) -- lists all the societies currently registered on campus. However before joining, check out the Facebook page of any society to determine how active they are and if it is worth joining as many societies require a joining fee purchased through Kent Union.
- All law societies are free for law students.

Calling all hockey players!
For those who would like to continue playing hockey while studying at Kent, The Kent Knights are a competitive hockey club at the University of Kent. They offer a fun and competitive environment for newcomers to hockey and experienced players.

For more information:

- [https://www.facebook.com/KentKnightsIceHockey/](https://www.facebook.com/KentKnightsIceHockey/)

When are the practices and games?

- Practices are Monday Nights at Silver Blades Gillingham at 22:00
- Home games are Sunday Nights
- Away games are Saturday Nights

Previous years prices were:

- £110 per term (includes ice fees and transportation to practices+games)
- Players who play on league teams will have to buy their own jerseys x2 (aprox £50) and players on league teams will also have to play BUIHA fees (aprox £50 per year)

What you need to bring with you:

- The club has minimal equipment available for players to borrow. We suggest that players bring their own skates, helmet and gloves at the VERY LEAST.
- Players who want bring gear with them and are flying with air Canada, these are the requirements from the website:
  - One equipment bag + a maximum of 2 sticks taped together count as one piece of baggage towards the maximum number of checked bags allowed by your fare type.
If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact the club directly at kentknightsihc@outlook.com

Jobs

https://kentunion.co.uk/jobshop -- lists available positions both academic and non-academic. You can fill out a questionnaire outlining your interests and experiences and jobshop will send you tailored emails regarding vacancies that match your information.

If you are looking to work during the term time, or in England over the summer, you may need to apply for an NI number. This can take up to 8 weeks but employers are usually understanding about this. https://www.gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number for more information

When You Arrive

At the Airport:

- Trainline.com is very useful for booking a train. The nearest station to campus is Canterbury West. From there, you can take a £5-10ish cab ride to campus.
- If you want to take a cab direct to Canterbury from the airport Green Light Taxi is a good option. You can book with them ahead of time. It is £90 one way. It is a good option when you have a lot of luggage with you.

On Campus:

- There will be a lot of people on campus who can direct you to where you need to go so don’t be afraid to ask for help!
- Check into your accommodation so you can drop off your stuff.
- The library is also a good starting point and there will be plenty of people to help point you in the right direction and they will help you get your student ID

During welcome week the Canadian Law Society will have a table in the club fair area. The Canadian Law Society will also host a welcome event on September 28th on campus to give arriving students the opportunity to acquaint themselves with each other and the committee. Missing welcome week? Don’t worry, we’re a rather active society and there will be plenty of opportunities to meet! Keep an eye out for it on Facebook and Instagram and make sure to come out! Knowing other Canadians has helped a lot of us feel less homesick.
Academic Advice from the Committee

- We recommend buying the textbooks used if the editions have not changed. We believe for your criminal law module you will be using the same edition as last year so reach out to some of the second years if you want to save a few bucks!
- Go to all your seminars! The attendance is important to maintain your VISA and you learn so much from discussing and arguing different positions
- Always use previous years’ examples and resources that the convenor provides. They provide great points of reference as to what is important for a good submission
  - The UK writing style is different to Canadian, using past examples is a good way to see how you have to adjust
- Spend time understanding OSCOLA referencing style the first time around. It’ll save you time and you won’t lose marks on your assignments if you get it right. You should go through this briefly in your English Legal Systems course but if you need further clarification use the skills hub on your Moodle portal
  - Here is a link that helps [https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012.pdf](https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012.pdf)
- Before looking at any assignment, get a hard copy of the learning objectives and keep them beside you. The entire course structure is based on those learning objectives, if you follow those you’ll be in good shape
- Make a case list with short notes early on and add to it as you read. This is great for studying and reviewing but takes a long time to do it all at once, chip away at it and by the end of the year you’ll have a fully prepared case manual
- Most of your assignments will have a small word count compared to what you’re used to (average of 2000 words). This will feel very short especially once you start discussing all your points, but that is another key exercise of these assignments. Learning to be concise and clear is important in law.
- The UK has different names and structures for different types of assignments, if these are confusing or not similar to what you have experienced in Canada that is 100% normal!
  - When dealing with a different academic system, you’ll want to try to make your assignments like you did for your Canadian undergrad
  - While this is tempting and comfortable, try not to fall into it because frankly, it is not how you will be assessed, and you will not do as well as you think
  - This shift was the trickiest part of adjusting to UK academia, it’s not impossible though!
  - For lots of the second years, we found it most advantageous to look at previous years examples, make clear checklists of what you need to cover in your assignments, speak with your academic advisor or to second years, and speak with your professors about what they are looking for in a good submission
• Remember, the CLS committee is meant to help you through the confusion and make this academic transition easier, please ask us questions if you need clarity because we might be able to provide a Canadian reference point that will make it easier to understand compared to others who haven’t had to go through two different academic structures

Can’t Wait to Meet You!

Since this will be the first year back to full in person classes, we hope to be very active with events and connect with you! You’ll first run into us at the club fair hosted during welcome week and at our welcome event on September 28th.

Throughout the year you can expect events like a Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Party, Alumni week that includes speakers and our Maple Ball, as well as several events outlining how to return to Canada post-graduation. We also hope to provide more information for those who wish to settle and qualify in the UK.

We will be most active on Instagram but if you have any concerns before getting to the UK feel free to email or dm us. We’ll also be setting up a WhatsApp group chat once the school year begins. This can be very helpful for quick questions about assignments or where to go on campus.

We look forward to meeting you!