

University college for the creative arts



Key Facts

- The University College for the Creative Arts was formed through the union of the Surrey Institute of Art & Design and the Kent Institute of Art & Design. The merger took place in August 2005
- Since the merger the University College now has campuses at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester.
- With around 6,500 students enrolled on more than 80 different courses, the University College is one of the UK's leading providers of specialist art and design education, offering strengths in art, design, architecture, media and communication.
- The Kent Institution received an outstanding rating for its further education (FE) provision in its Ofsted inspection report released in March 2005. The official report placed the Kent Institute as the highest rated institution or university offering further education in art and design in England.

Location and facilities

Canterbury

- The University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury offers specialist teaching and research in architecture, fine art, interior architecture, interior design and general art & design.
- The college is home to the Canterbury School of Architecture, established in late 1940s.
- The Herbert Read Gallery and the student halls of residence are on campus.
- The college has recently refurbished and improved studios, lecture theatres, library, shop, café and bar.
- The Canterbury college specialises in fine art, architecture and interiors at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and is renowned for its strong educational and research expertise in these fields. The Canterbury School of Architecture is of particular note, having gained nationwide recognition for its achievements over the years.



Epsom

- The University College for the Creative Arts at Epsom offers specialist teaching in fashion and related areas, graphic design and, at further education level, general art & design.
- The Epsom College is home to a multi-million pound Library & Learning Resource Centre.
- The campus bar and café hosts regular events and themed nights.
- Student halls of residence are on campus, which is based next to the town centre.
- Epsom is only 17 miles from London and 30 minutes train journey.
- The Epsom campus offers a range of courses centred on the cutting-edge world of fashion, graphics and new media. These encompass introductory courses in art and design together with specialist qualifications in fashion, digital new media and graphic communication and are kept relevant and up-to-date through strong connections with industry.



Farnham

The University College for the Creative Arts at Farnham offers specialist teaching and research in a range of art, design, cinematics and communications areas.



Some key facts include:

- Home to the James Hockey and Foyer Galleries, the Animation Research Centre and the Crafts Study Centre
- A large students' union venue, with bar and cafes, hosts bands and regular events
- Purpose-built student village is on campus in the centre of town
- Farnham is about 50 minutes by train to London

Facilities include the James Hockey Gallery and the Foyer Gallery, which run public exhibitions throughout the year. There is an extensive library and learning centre offering all associated services, and appropriate studios, equipment and software are all widely available.

Maidstone

The University College for the Creative Arts at Maidstone offers specialist teaching and research in media arts and communication design including animation, graphic design, illustration, photography and general art & design.



Some key facts include:

- On campus a large, informal café and bar are popular student meeting places
- Home to the George Rodger Gallery
- Students halls of residence are ten minutes' walk away from the campus and the town centre is even nearer
- Maidstone is just 50 minutes on the train to Central London

Our Maidstone campus is just 10 minutes from the centre of town and set in attractive parkland. It dates from 1867 when public art classes were first provided in Maidstone. Since that time, it has been recognised as one of the leading providers of art education in terms of illustration, introduced in 1919, and in printmaking and graphic design, which can be traced back to 1931. In 1963, photography was introduced and in 1972 the first time-based art degree option was offered, gaining an international reputation for experimental work. Today, with just over 900 students, our Maidstone campus offers a range of courses from Access and Foundation Studies in Art & Design to undergraduate and postgraduate studies specialising in animation, graphic design, illustration, printmaking, photography and video. Our courses actively encourage interdisciplinary, experimental work as well as specialist study with an emphasis on contemporary practice and professional links.

Rochester

The University College for the Creative Arts at Rochester offers specialist teaching and research in fashion, photography, general art & design and various specialist design areas.



Some key facts include:

- Located on a hillside overlooking the city and the river Medway
- Student campus social life centres around the lively student bar
- Home to the Zandra Rhodes Gallery

- Halls of residence is just five minutes walk from the campus
- Rochester is 50 minutes by train to Central London

Rochester students can choose from a wide range of disciplines, including art and design, three dimensional design, fashion, photography and further education. 'Live' creative arts events are held regularly at Rochester and the academic focus centres on building experience and preparation for the highly competitive, creative arts professions. Research projects are also a major feature of the Rochester campus and are linked to the development of learning resources. Recent research activities have included the Rapid Prototyping Research Project, Hasselblad High Resolution Digital Imaging Centre, Gerber Garment Manufacture and the Maya Animation Research Project.

The University College for the Creative Arts offers further education courses as well as higher education courses. Below is a list of the types of courses that can be studied at this institution.

Further Education Courses

A further education course is designed for school leaving age students (16+). They include BTEC National certificates or diplomas as well as access courses.

Foundation Degrees

Foundation degrees are designed for students who aren't quite ready to study for the degree. However once they have completed a foundation degree they are then given the opportunity to top it to degree level at a later date.



BA Honours Degrees

Students must be 18 and over for this three year course, at the end of which they will receive a degree with honours. Students will have to have completed a further education course to study at degree level.

Graduate Diplomas

These courses are generally a year long and are designed for those who have completed a degree.

Student facts and figures

The total number of both Higher Education and Further Education students studying in Kent at the three colleges is 3267

Country of origin

There are 3012 home students (this includes both UK and European students).

There are 247 overseas students and 8 from the Isle of Man.



Research



The University College of Creative Arts has 41 research staff.

Research activities cover the visual arts, architecture, media and communications, crafts and design, and can be practice or theory led, providing flexibility and freedom of expression for creative endeavour.

In the last research assessment exercise (RAE), strengths were identified in 'time based and digital media, visual art, the applied arts and textiles' and national excellence was reported in over two thirds of the outputs submitted, with the Panel commenting upon a growing research culture showing evidence of international work.

The Kent Institute received an outstanding rating for its further education (FE) provision in its Ofsted inspection report released in March 2005. The official report placed the Kent Institute as the highest rated institution or university offering further education in art and design in England.

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) gave its highest judgement of confidence to The Surrey Institute on completion of an institutional audit in May 2003.

In the 2001 RAE (Research Assessment Exercise), the Kent Institute entered 22 research-active staff achieving an overall grade of 3a. The Surrey Institute was also awarded 3a for Art and Design in the same exercise, having raised its quality rating by three grades - the most significant improvement of all submissions in Art and Design.

Links with business

The University College for the Creative Arts has a team of people known as The Knowledge Transfer Team. They act as a first port of call for all the institution's work with business and the local community. The role of the team is to establish long-term relationships with the cultural and creative industries to raise the University's own profile as well helping to provide a sustainable interface with business and the community in the development and transfer of creative skills, knowledge and expertise.

Students can receive help finding work placements, graduate employment and secondments. The team also help students find bursaries, scholarships and sponsorship, through their commercial partnerships with various businesses. The Institution strives to work with the community through community outreach programmes and regeneration projects.