Welcome to MidKent College

MidKent College has a long and proud tradition of delivering top-quality higher education courses and professional training. We are proud that our programmes are designed to develop the higher level skills that employers need from their staff. A programme at the College is flexible as well as credible, which is why so many students choose the College to help them in their chosen career path.

This guide will give you an insight into the types of programmes and courses we offer, the inspirational teaching you can expect to receive, and the benefits of studying for a higher or professional qualification at MidKent College.

By choosing to study here, you will be investing in your future. I know that studying at this level will open new avenues, seriously enhancing your career prospects and enabling you to get more out of life and work.

I hope that you will be inspired to choose MidKent College and I look forward to welcoming you here.

Simon Cook
Principal

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Our simple, no-fuss approach to higher education has enabled us to deliver flexible, value-for-money honours degrees and Higher National Diplomas for over 40 years.

Our higher education and professional courses are designed with the needs of both student and employer in mind, and have been developed in direct consultation with the industries they serve. You can study at MidKent College knowing that employers worldwide will value and respect the qualification you gain with us.

21st century facilities
We aim to equip you with the skills and knowledge you will need to thrive in an increasingly competitive economy. State-of-the-art sustainable facilities, innovative technology and excellent transport links help to create stunning learning environments equipped with everything you need to support your success.

Information at your fingertips
Our modern and well-equipped learning resource centre in the higher level skills centre is totally focussed on supporting your learning needs. This friendly and well-resourced space houses a wide array of textbooks and journals relevant to your area of study. The centre also provides access to a growing portfolio of electronic resources, including e-books, industry-specific information databases and a broad range of online journals for all subject areas. These electronic resources are available outside of the College via the web, as well as being readily accessible through on-site computer suites.

Learning in a virtual world
Multimedia facilities enable our lecturers to make the most of modern-day technologies to enhance your learning. Our wireless network allows students to use their own mobile devices or College Notebooks – which can be loaned from our learning resource centres – anywhere on campus.

Microsoft Office 365 is available to students both on and off-site, along with access to our virtual learning environment, Moodle, through which staff publish learning resources. Many other specialised software applications are available across the College network, and students are given a personal College email address and free access to the Internet while on-site.

Ethos
Each year, our students say they value the support and encouragement they receive from their tutors and peers alike – and we enjoy seeing students grow in confidence as a direct result.

We pride ourselves on offering you the opportunity to learn in a relaxed, open and encouraging environment that enables you to develop personally and reach your academic and professional goals.

Value for money
MidKent College offers a more affordable route to an honours degree that is not subject to annual tuition fees of £9,000 or higher. However, you will still be entitled to student loans to help you, subject to status. For many of our higher education students, living locally also enables them to save the additional costs that come with living away from home. You will still receive the same level of high-quality teaching as you would at a university but with a more personalised and supportive approach.

Range of courses
You can study for a wide range of higher education qualifications at the College. The majority of these are offered at either foundation degree or Higher National Diploma (HND) level. We also offer Access qualifications for those who may lack the formal qualifications needed for university. In addition, we offer professionally-accredited courses in Human Resources (Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development) and Accountancy (Association of Accounting Technicians).

Our foundation degrees and HNDs have direct links to related degree programmes – often with exemptions from parts of the degree course (please check the details of individual courses before enrolling). Emerging from the government’s strategy to diversify higher education, foundation degrees aim to equip students with employability skills and the specialist, general and technical knowledge required in today’s economy.

Foundation degrees are developed in collaboration with employers and are higher education qualifications in their own right. They provide direct progression to professional qualifications at higher levels and also to honours degrees. Two years of full-time study are required for a foundation degree, or longer if studying part-time.

MidKent College has a long-established reputation of delivering high-quality education and training to young people and adult learners in the Medway and Maidstone areas of Kent.
HNDs deliver an excellent combination of academic and practical learning that is closely geared to the needs of industry and commerce. Consequently, they are held in high esteem by universities and employers alike, who recognise that the combination of academic rigour and technical discipline represents the best of both approaches to learning.

A HND normally requires two years of full-time study, or may be achieved by way of part-time study over a longer period.

Higher National Certificates (HNCs) offer the same modules and level of qualification as a HND – but students study fewer modules on a part-time basis. HNCs can be topped up to a HND by studying extra modules. Student progress and achievement is monitored through continuous assessment of their work, and, on occasion, through examination. Equipped with a HND or HNC, you can progress directly to a related degree programme. Many universities grant exemption from parts of a degree course to entrants holding a relevant HND or HNC.

If you are interested in studying part-time to fit with your employment, our academic staff will discuss the best option with you.

Unique partnership working
MidKent College enjoys a close association with some of the UK’s most highly-regarded universities, and we are proud that many of our programmes are validated by the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich. Over the next year we expect to develop similar partnerships with other leading universities.

We’re also pleased to be working in partnership with Kent Adult Education, and Medway Adult Education, to offer an extended programme of training and education programmes for adults at our Maidstone and Medway campuses.

Valued by our students
The National Student Survey (NSS) is completed each year, giving students in 375 higher education institutions the chance to comment on their courses, teaching staff, facilities and overall experiences of student life.

In the 2016 survey, we achieved an overall satisfaction of 91%, an improvement of 6% on the previous year, placing us 27th out of the 375 institutions that took part. We’re delighted that our students find their time here so rewarding, and we will continue to invest in improving learning experiences for our students as we help them to realise their study and career aspirations.

Our latest DLHE (Destination of Leavers from Higher Education) survey results show that 98% of our higher education students progressed into work or further study at the end of their course.
Higher level skills centre

Students at MidKent College’s University Centre Maidstone (UCM) can now enjoy dedicated facilities equipped for higher-level skills. As part of a multimillion-pound redevelopment at our Maidstone Campus, the former University for the Creative Arts building has been transformed into your University Centre Maidstone.

Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, as well as a refectory, coffee shop and free student parking, the building was completed in July 2016 and all higher education and professional qualification courses are now based here.

Included in the upgrade were advanced construction and engineering workshops, art studios, and a creative media suite complete with a green room and photography studio. In addition, UCM boasts new training kitchens, a restaurant and bar, a well-equipped learning resource centre specifically designed for higher-level study and an 84-seat lecture theatre.

In 2017 we opened an environmental chamber at our Maidstone Campus. The chamber enables variables such as temperature, humidity and altitude to be controlled, and the internal climate can be set to mimic nearly any environment in the world. Careful monitoring of physical activity under these conditions can highlight the impact of various climates on the body.

Hypoxic simulation can also be achieved within the chamber by reducing the amount of oxygen in the air. This technique can be used to treat many respiratory and circulatory illnesses and diseases as well as to speed up injury recovery.

In this mature learning environment, professional and personal development skills are highly-valued. All of the courses are designed to equip students to progress to university, employment or further learning. There are plenty of additional opportunities to grow in personal confidence and to build skills for the workplace or degree study. Students are treated as adult learners, and we work alongside you to ensure you’re ready for whatever you choose next.

The growth of UCM is phase two of the wider development of the College’s Maidstone Campus, which has already benefited from over £20m of investment.

As is the case with all of the College’s buildings, UCM has been designed as an energy-efficient, sustainable working space.

Higher level apprenticeships

Higher apprenticeships are increasingly recognised by some of the UK’s leading brands. Some of the high profile employers who have recently recruited higher apprentices include Cap Gemini, Unilever, BAE Systems, BBC, Experian, Jaguar Landrover and AXA. Employers understand that on graduation they benefit from retaining a qualified staff member who fully understands the business.

MidKent College currently offers a higher apprenticeship in Accountancy and, from September 2017, will be offering higher apprenticeships in Construction and Engineering disciplines to meet the needs of our local economy. Please contact us for further information.

For a higher apprenticeship, the cost of your programme is paid for by your employer – meaning you won’t need to take out a tuition fee loan.
Support through your studies

We are committed to improving access to learning for all students and provide a wide range of educational support services.

Careers guidance
Our higher education employability adviser and curriculum staff will provide you with information, advice and guidance to help you with decisions you will make about careers and training. Please see page 12 for more information about employability support at College.

Financial support
You may be eligible to apply for financial support. Please see the higher education financial support section on our website – www.midkent.ac.uk – for more information.

Accessibility
We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities and/or learning difficulties are treated fairly and equally. We will make all reasonable adjustments to our provision to ensure that you are not substantially disadvantaged.

If you require a copy of this course guide in an alternative format, please contact the course information team on 01634 402020.

Learning support
In order to claim support from the College you will need to apply for Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA).

Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSAs) helps to pay for any extra costs that a student might have as a direct result of their disability, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty. It is additional support available to students who may otherwise be prevented from attending a higher education course because of a disability.

If you think that you might require support with your studies, you should apply for DSA before you begin your course. For more information, go to our website or visit www.directgov.uk/studentfinance.

Please ensure that you indicate any additional support needs you may have when you apply for your chosen course.

Student Voice
Student Voice is a forum for HE and adult students to voice their opinions on the College, their course and tutors. It acts as an effective way to stimulate change in a positive and collaborative way.

How do I get involved?
Each class appoints/elects a student as their representative. Either you can volunteer on your own or share the role.

How much of my time will it take?
There are five official meetings each academic year where representatives meet with the Student Voice co-ordinator, College staff and, on occasions, members of the Senior Management Team.

What good does it do?
The simple answer is an enormous amount on every level.

In addition, it is a fantastic way to expand and build upon your own personal skills. It looks great on any CV or application.

It really can improve your time, and that of your colleagues, but also for those who follow. It helps to keep courses and qualifications relevant to the particular industry sectors so students can graduate knowing they have value to prospective employers.
Talk to our course information advisers
Our friendly advisers are available to provide you with further information on any of our courses, and can be contacted by calling our course information line on 01634 402020. Alternatively, please email HE.admissions@midkent.ac.uk.

Take a look around
Open events are held regularly throughout the year and offer those who are interested in studying here an opportunity to tour our campuses and talk to our tutors. Keep an eye on our website for further details of these events at www.midkent.ac.uk or subscribe to our social media channels.

This course guide covers the part-time and full-time top-up honours degrees, foundation degrees and Higher National Diplomas (HND) courses available at MidKent College. You can also read more about our professional courses.

Course entries
Courses are grouped by subject area. For example, if you are interested in studying IT, you should look in the Computing & Information Technology section for the list of courses we offer.

Every course has a box that lists:

- Course title
- UCAS code (if appropriate)
- Location
- Application method
- Duration of course.

There is also a descriptive text for each course entry covering:

- Course content
- Learning and assessment methods
- Entry requirements
- What the course may lead to
- Information on additional costs.

Taking the next step
When you have decided which course you want to study, please refer to the ‘How to Apply’ section at the back of this guide. Please note that you need to apply through UCAS for full-time higher education courses, and through the MidKent College website for part-time higher education and professional courses. Full instructions on how to apply through UCAS are provided on the ‘How to Apply’ section on page 116.

Getting help
We offer many support services to assist our current students, and to help those who may be thinking of coming to study with us. More information about our various support services is available in the ‘Support through your studies’ section on page 8.

Join our online community

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The MidKent College website features up-to-date information on our courses, fees and application procedures. You will also find further information on our careers guidance services and the full range of support services available to our students.

Find out more
www.midkent.ac.uk
MidKent College, in partnership with online recruitment specialist CVMinder, has designed an employability programme to measure and enhance students’ employability. It focuses on a number of key skills including compiling CVs, writing personal statements and preparing for job interviews. The programme encourages students to cultivate the extra-curricular activities and transferable skills demanded by employers in today’s challenging jobs market.

It also enables students to access part-time employment opportunities through the College JobShop during their studies, and full-time work upon completion of their course.

Experience in the workplace
Work experience can often be the difference between success and failure when it comes to the job application process.

The College has partnerships with many local, national and international companies who provide students with a unique insight into the world of work.

“My course at MidKent College has given me the flexibility to work three days a week with the amazing National Citizen Service in London while studying my degree.”
Robbie Jewsbury - HND in Business & Management

“My course has opened opportunities by learning about various pathways within the public services. It has also helped me to develop industry related contacts as well as the core interpersonal skills I need to develop professionally for my future career.”
Tahlia Wilkie - HND in Public Services