

# Dr Stringer’s visit of the University of Kent

<b>The Place</b>
A green and pleasant campus within walking distance of the city of Canterbury. Very much a campus, it seemed a long way from the bustle of city life.
It felt very calm and welcoming. The buildings are quite new (and wheelchair friendly), the emphasis on diversity and inclusivity is clear in the reality as well as in their publicity material.



<b>Its unique selling point?</b>
It calls itself ‘the UK’s European University’ and prides itself on the strength of its links with Europe. It attracts a relatively high proportion of students from Europe and has study centres in Athens, Paris and Rome and is the only UK university with a centre in Brussels.



<b>The people</b>
With around 20,000 students, it is middling in size – but felt smaller. I visited at exam time so it was probably unusually quiet! Still, the Gulbenkian Theatre, where we had lunch, was buzzing with life.
On my visit I met the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Karen Cox (a specialist in Nursing), and a number of senior staff, including William Collier, Faculty Director of Admissions, Employability and Student Experience (Social Sciences). He was keen to tell me about the opportunities facilitated by the University to study for a term (or more) in Europe. Links with Brussels – with the big EU institutions within easy reach - are a big plus for students in Law, Politics and History, for example.



<b>What do the stats say?</b>
Not in Russell Group nor in the WONKHE top 20 rankings in 2019 but a solid performer in the UK scene with very respectable graduate employability figures (95% is the figure quoted) and in the top 50 on the main rankings recently.

<b>Dr S’s verdict?</b>
Worth a serious look if you want a campus experience – everything on one site - with a welcoming and inclusive ‘feel’. A definite maybe for the Europhiles among you!
A steady trickle of High School Alumnae have gone there in recent years and there is a GDST Alum Group.

