

We stand for ambition.

University of
Kent

Living Black at Kent



Welcome to Kent!

In 2022 Unite Students, alongside Halpin Partnership, investigated and released a report that shone a light on the experiences of Black university students in UK student accommodation.

At Kent we read that report and decided we needed to do better too. We asked last year's residential students to share their experiences with us and, while we analyse that data for what we do next to improve our policies and commitments to our students, we wanted to act on one of the report's initial recommendations.

We've collaborated with some of our current Black students and staff to create this recommendation booklet for local services that may help your transition from home to Uni life, and make your experience at Kent enjoyable and a home away from home from the start.

If you're interested in reading the report you can do so online at unitegroup.com/living-black-at-university

Don't forget you can check out Instagram, TikTok and your other socials to find fellow students that offer services that might help you!



// My name is Melissa Browne and I am the Deputy Director of Commercial Services and Estates at the University of Kent.

I have the honour of being one of the commissioners of the Living Black at University (LBU) report published by Unite Students, one of our partner accommodation providers.

Our hope as a commission was to create opportunities and initiatives for Black students to feel a sense of belonging in their institutions so they can thrive. My hope is this booklet gives you a head start in getting settled into your new surroundings and finding your feet in your new home.

We hope you have the best experience at the University of Kent. //



// Hello, I'm Laura Maclean and I'm the Head of Accommodation and Customer Services. I'm passionate about improving the lived experience of our students here at Kent, and set up the Living Black at University (LBU) Working Group in response to the LBU report published by Unite Students. This booklet is just one of the initiatives that has been developed in response to the report's recommendations, and we hope that we can build on this in the future to ensure all our students are well supported, particularly when they are moving to Canterbury for the first time. //

Hair & beauty

“For hair products such as: pomade, expression (and other hair extension brands), combs/brushes, shampoo and conditioner, there is a salon by Northgate called **Visionary Unisex Hair Salon**. They specialise in Afro-Caribbean hair too”. Iris, Biotechnology and Bioengineering.

📷 @visionaryunisexsalon

- **The Stylers**, located in Canterbury.
📷 @thestylers_canterbury/
📘 The Stylers Canterbury Hair & Beauty
- **Doodas Hair Salon** in Canterbury.
📷 @doodashair
- **Golden Essence Hair**, Gillingham.
📷 @goldenessencehair

Kent recommends:

Speaking to your fellow students!

When we were looking for recommendations for Black hair and beauty, lots of students told us they used products or services recommended to them or produced by another student.





Groceries

“**Kent Food** in Canterbury store is especially great for international students. They store groceries and ingredients which are not available in other supermarkets. They cover both African and Asian foods which is good for international students as you won’t miss your local dishes and delicacies back home.” Oluwabukola, Business Analytics

- **Oscos World Foods**, Aylesham
- **Canterbury Grocery Halal Store**, Canterbury. Find us online at: www.canterbury-grocery-halal-store.business.site
- **Garden of England**, Canterbury. Find halfway between Canterbury West Station and Canterbury West Tower
- **deMART Global**, Gillingham. Find us online at: www.demartglobal.wixsite.com/demart



Restaurants/Eating out

- **Chop Africana**, Aylesham.  @chopafricana_uk
- **Dre's Caribbean Kitchen**, Herne Bay Pier.  @drekitchen
- **Jerk Café**, Rochester. www.facebook.com/JerkCafeStrood  @jerkcafe_

“There are a lot of great restaurants to check out in Canterbury! I love **St Smokeys BBQ House**, they have the best mac and cheese. I also recommend **The Foundry** for dinner out with friends – they have a little bit of everything and a good roast dinner!” Sarah Lily, Psychology. For Saint Smokeys check them out online at www.saintsmokeys.com and for The Foundry check out  @foundrybrewpub

“**Las Iguanas** in Canterbury: the food is decent, but the real trick is signing up for their mailing list. You get deals on drinks and a free meal for your birthday.” Alannah, Forensic Osteology and Field Recovery Methods. Find us online at: www.iguanas.co.uk/restaurants/canterbury

“Going to **Lily's Social Kitchen** is a great way to support a local business... You'll get proper food and a good size portion and for less money... The building is also really chilled if you want to get away from the chaos of the High Street or stress of uni deadlines.” Alicia, Conservation Project Management. Find online at: lilyscommunity.org

Kent recommends:

After talking with our students and a tasting event we've partnered with Grace Foods to create a Caribbean microbrand. You can enjoy Three Little Birds snacks, drinks and meals with friends at Dolche Vita in Keynes College.



Social groups, societies and entertainment

“There are a few societies tailored for African/Caribbean students, a main one is by following the Kent **African Caribbean Society (ACS)** on social media, you’ll be able to find out about events, roles, and news, related to the African/Caribbean community”. Iris, Biotechnology and Bioengineering.

 @ukcacs

“Follow **@overtiment** on instagram. They are an events promotion group that hold nightclub events at The Venue (the University campus nightclub) and in London that celebrate the culture in a genuine way. These events are always supported alongside Kent ACS so a good turnout is a given. The only night that is run by Black (students) and for us.” Saultan; Biomedical Science

“I resonated well with the **K-Pop Dance, Kent Sport and Big Band societies**, and being part of a social group provides an opportunity to do fun activities and relax from the academic work so I would like to recommend that they belong to any of their choice.” Christabel, Forensic Science – For a list of all the societies to join on campus, check out www.kentunion.co.uk/activities

“If you are looking for something fun to do and love board games, check out **Dice and Destiny** in Canterbury. They run open game nights every Thursday.” Sarah Lily, Psychology.  @diceanddestiny

- **Olby’s**, Margate. Enjoy good music and flavourful food at Olbys  @olbyscreativehub
- **Persons Of Colour Arts Society (POCAS)**, Canterbury campus.  @ukcpocas
https://kentunion.co.uk/activities/Kent_People_of_Colour_Arts
- **The Marlowe Theatre**, Canterbury. A local independent theatre committed to showcasing an all year-round diverse programme for the performing arts. Find us online at <https://marlowetheatre.com>  @marlowetheatre

Kent recommends:

There are over 250 societies run by Kent Union, so there really is something for everyone out there. Take a look through the full list online or visit the Welcome Fair to see and speak to them yourselves. <https://kentunion.co.uk/events>





Faith groups

Check out all the different faith group options on our Canterbury and Medway campuses at www.kent.ac.uk/chaplaincy/faith-groups-and-societies. “Depending on your belief, feel free to join any of these faith groups on campus to maintain a balanced lifestyle.” Christabel, Forensic Science

“If you are musically talented, there is the **Kent Gospel Choir (KGC)** which is made up of Christian students across varying churches on and off campus – majority of students come from an African/Caribbean background. KGC had recently won “student choir of the year (in the UK)” Iris, Biotechnology and Bioengineering.  @kentgospelchoir <https://kentunion.co.uk/activities/KentGospel>

ResLife Team



// Hello, I'm Ewen the ResLife Manager here at the University of Kent. Along with my dedicated and passionate team of ambassadors we will be hosting events and creating opportunities throughout the year for residents to socialise, spend time together and most importantly, have fun! //

Our ResLife Team is here to help you settle in and enjoy your time at Kent. Each college area has two dedicated Residential Life Ambassadors (RLAs) who will be hosting events for you and your fellow residents to take part in.

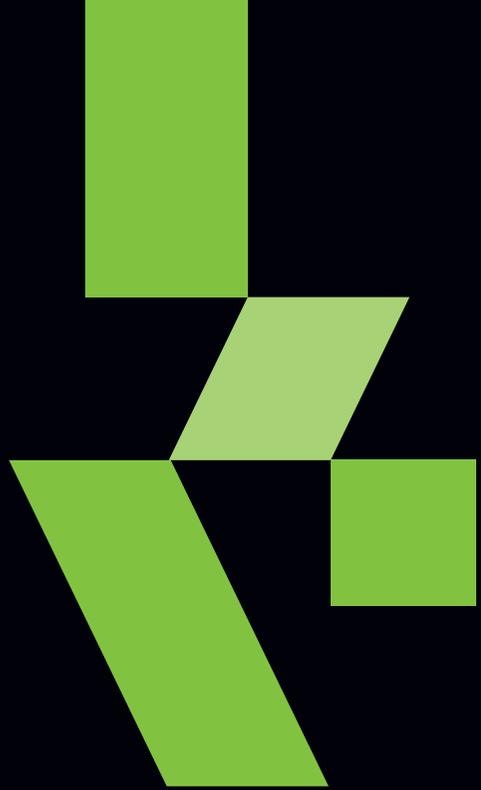
But we'd also love to hear from you, so if you have any ideas for events that you want to see happening this year then reach out to us at: RLATeam@kent.ac.uk

We want to hear from you!

We want this guide to be useful to new students so if you have feedback on any of the recommendations here or come across somewhere great that you think needs shouting about let us know so we can add it next year. Just get in touch with your recommendations to the RLA email address.



LIVING BLACK AT UNIVERSITY



These are recommendations from our students, we hope they meet expectations, however, the University of Kent cannot guarantee or take responsibility for any poor experiences.

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