

SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

CANTERBURY





IN A NUTSHELL

Location: University of Kent

Dates: 16 - 29 August 2026

Teaching: 4 hours per day under the week

Credits: 100% equivalent to “regular”
classes

CLASSES

You will have to choose (exactly) two of the following classes:

- **Communication AM**

Übung Fremdsprachenausbildung

Verena Minow

- **A History of Photography in GB and the US**

Übung Cultural Studies GB or Cultural Studies USA

Monika Müller

- **Instructed Second Language Acquisition**

Seminar/Übung Linguistik

Alexander Kaul

For course descriptions
see below



LOCATION

- **Canterbury** is situated in the southeast of England, about 50 minutes (by train) from London.
- It is a town of about 55,000 people and one of the most visited places in the country.
- Canterbury boasts a medieval city centre with many historic buildings...
- ...and, of course, the famous cathedral (World Heritage!)





THE CAMPUS

- The University of Kent is located on the outskirts of town, about a 10-minute bus ride from the city centre (about 30 minutes on foot).
- You will find cafés, restaurants, bars, a small co-op store and lots of green space on campus.
- Sport facilities and bike rental are available for a fee.
- Buses take you to the nearest beach in about 20 minutes as well.

INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Guided tour of Canterbury
- Guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral
- Day trip to London
- Day trip to seaside town (weather permitting)
- Ample free time to explore the area





ACCOMMODATION

- We are booked into regular, self-catering student accommodation on the university's Canterbury campus.
- Summer school participants will live in 5-bedroom houses in "Park Wood student village".
- Each student will have their own bedroom, but kitchens and bathrooms will be shared.

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

You will have to have passed the following *Basiskurse* before the start of the summer school:

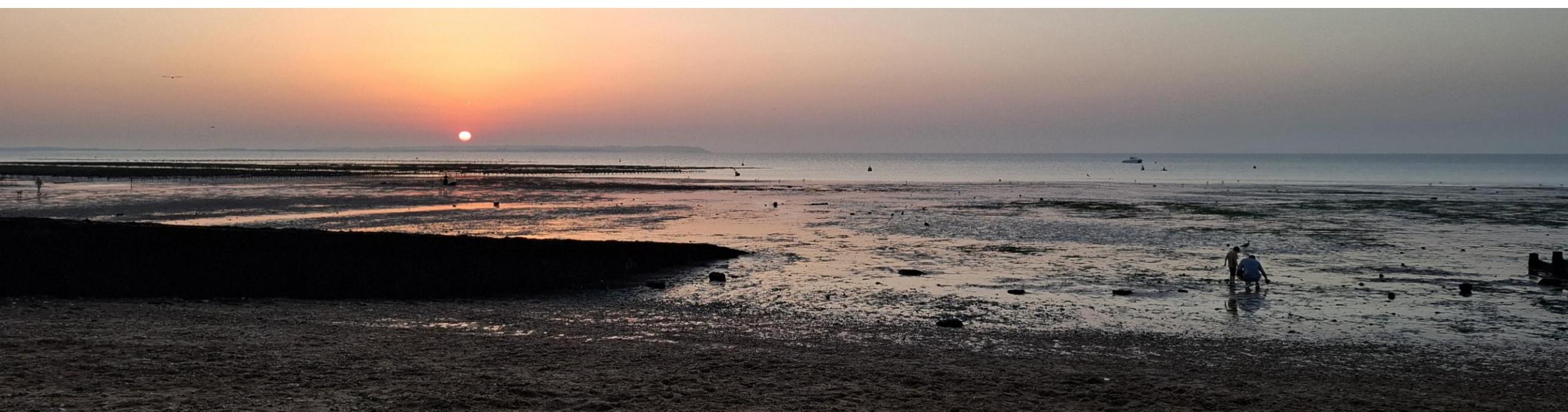
- Academic Skills
- Grammar BM
- For “History of Photography”:
 Introduction to Cultural Studies
- For “Instructed Second Language Acquisition”:
 English Sounds and Sound Systems
 Introduction to English Linguistics



FINANCES

- The cost for participating in the summer school is **455€**.
- This includes accommodation and expenses for the extracurricular programme (entry fees, bus/train tickets)...
- ...but will be **plus living expenses and travel to/from Canterbury**

Please note that students will make their own travel arrangements.





BORDER REGULATIONS

- Entering the UK will normally require a passport (**not** a national identity card like the German *Personalausweis*) that is valid for the entire duration of your stay.
- EU citizens have to apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA). (see <https://www.gov.uk/eta>)
- EU nationals do not need a visa to enter the UK, but for non-EU nationals things might be different. Check the current rules before you travel!
- Costs for visa and/or other potentially mandatory documents are not included in the participant fee.

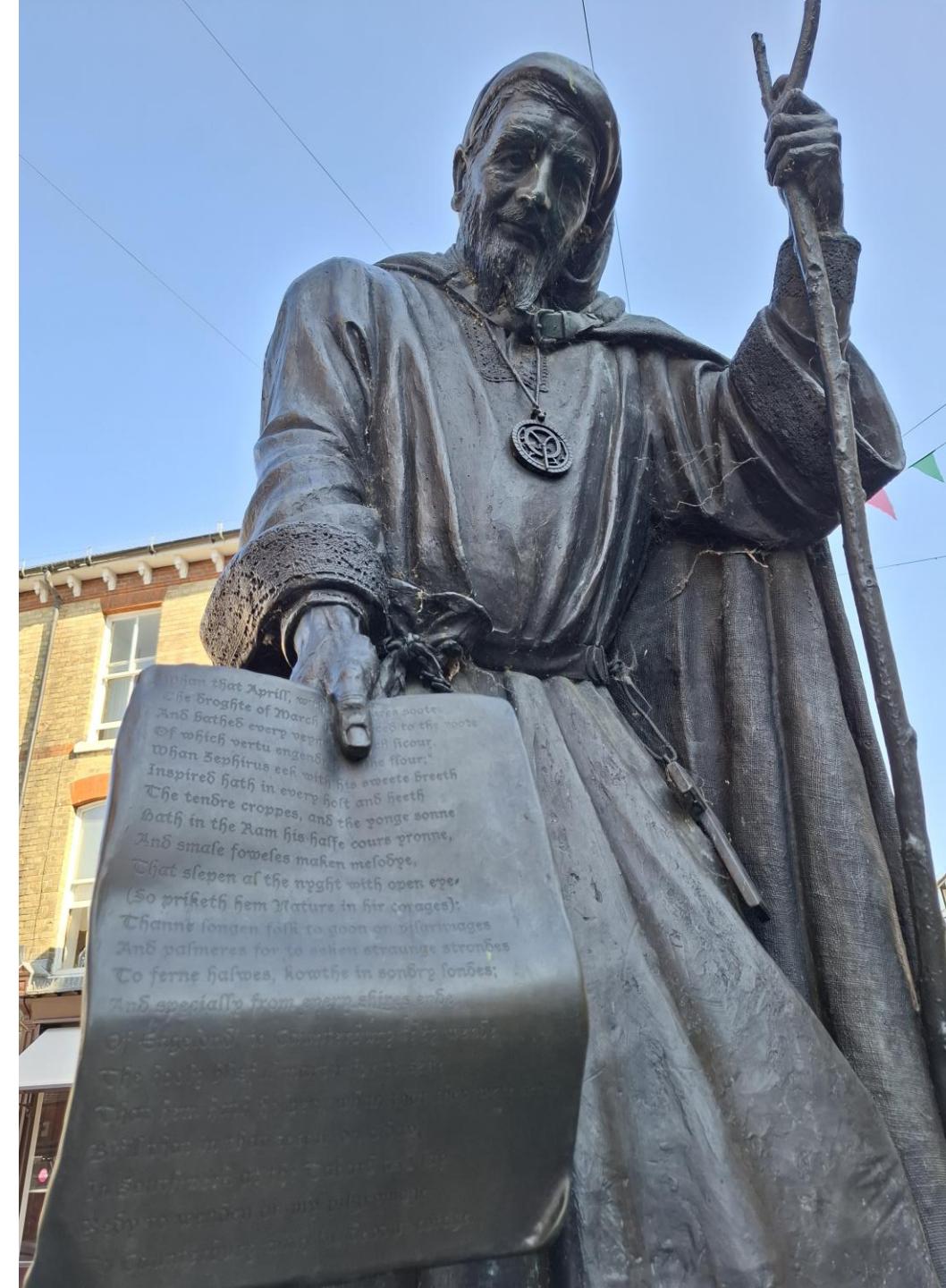
REGISTRATION

If you are a B.A. student eligible for *Aufbaukurse* (and of age), you can sign up by

1. sending an e-mail to Alexander.Kaul@rub.de that specifies which two classes you would like to take, and
2. coming to an in-person meeting early in the summer term where you will be given additional information and will have to sign the official registration form.

Please note

- Places will be assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis. All applications must be sent before the deadline for regular course registration in the summer term.
- Full (non-refundable) payment will have to be made at the beginning of the summer term (after the meeting).



USEFUL LINKS

Blean Woods National Nature Reserve: <https://kurzlinks.de/64oj>

Canterbury Cathedral: <https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/>

Fitness facilities: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/sports/facilities>

Park Wood Houses: <https://kurzlinks.de/440f>

University of Kent: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/>

Visit Canterbury: <https://www.canterbury.co.uk/>

photos by Alexander Kaul unless stated otherwise

Questions? Contact
Alexander.Kaul@rub.de



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

COMMUNICATION AM

Course description:

“I write longhand. Because I believe that there is a connection between the brain and the hands.” (Dame Emma Thompson on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, 28 October 2025)

Never before has it been more valuable and crucial to spend time on creating things – art, music, literature – than today. This is why this Communication AM course will be solely devoted to trying out different forms of creative writing in a new and unique environment. Just as the global Urban Sketching movement is about drawing on location and “capturing what we see from direct observation” (<https://urbansketchers.org/faq/>), we will be using the place we’re in as inspiration for our individual and collaborative stories. And, yes, I will encourage you to follow Dame Emma Thompson’s example and get back into writing in longhand! So be prepared to bring along your favourite pens, inks and notebooks. Please note that the use of any generative AI tools will not be permitted for any of the writing tasks for this class – I want to read what YOU have to say.

The course will be based in part on the following textbook:

Maley, Alan and Sharon Sunny. 2025. Exploring Creativity Through Writing: A Handbook for Teachers. Taylor & Francis Group.

Assessment/requirements:

A portfolio of three writing tasks to be handed in by 30 September 2025. You are free to choose those pieces of writing that you feel best showcase you as an author.

A HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN GB AND THE US

Course description:

This course is designed to introduce students to photography in GB and the US from the beginnings to the present as well as the critical methodologies for studying and describing photographs. Using classical texts about photography and also applying recent cultural studies approaches to the analysis of visual culture, we will discuss photography's contested relationship to "the real," and we will also examine the cultural work that photographs perform at particular historical moments.

Please buy (and read) your own copy of Susan Sontag's *On Photography*; all other materials will be made available on moodle.

Assessment/requirements: active participation, presentation, final test

INSTRUCTED SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Course description:

In this seminar, we will explore the main issues that have driven the field of second language acquisition research with a particular focus on instructed language learning. We will begin with a revision of the differences between instructed learning and natural L2 acquisition. We will then go on to discuss key SLA theories and their (potential) applications in the classroom. Self-study methods, like e.g. language learning apps, will also be critically examined from an SLA perspective. Moreover, we will investigate questions such as: What does development in the language learning process look like? Can learners of a foreign language become native-like? What is the role of previously learned languages? To what extent does explicit grammar instruction have an impact on learners' language development? What is the role of non-linguistic factors such as motivation, intelligence or gender?

Assessment/requirements:

Übung (3 CP): active participation, short written assignments

Seminar (4 CP): the above, plus 12-page term paper or final exam