

For immediate release

**UNIVERSITY OF KENT, CANTERBURY - A WINNER WITH GERMAN GROUPS
- SUMMER 2009!**

The University of Kent in Canterbury has successfully attracted a record number of German school groups this summer, representing a **20%** increase on 2008.

Over 1000 young German students (aged 14 to 18) have chosen the University as the centre for their visit to England. Spokesman Wolfram Weigel of Tommy Trips, Cologne (youth group tour operator) commented: "Our teachers/group leaders find the University of Kent provides a very safe campus for our young students as well as a great central location in the heart of Kent, perfect for undertaking a wide range of varied day excursions – for example to London, Dover Castle and the beaches as well as sightseeing by foot in Canterbury itself. The self-catering student village at Park Wood offers us great value for money accommodation.'

It's the first visit to Britain for most of the young students and they relish the opportunity to use their English for real for the very first time. Student Tobias Abel (age 17) comments:

"After learning English for 7 years in school I have really loved using my English talking to British people for the first time. Our one week programme is really varied. I really enjoy staying on the campus – it gives me an idea of what student life will be like; the self-catering flats are really good fun – we prepare breakfast together and cook some meals together too. The 2 highlights of our trip for me have been going on the London Eye and cycling to Whitstable."

The University – which offers 450 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds overlooking the historic city of Canterbury – is proving to be an increasingly popular choice for overseas groups. A number of language schools also base their 3 week summer courses here.

Figures released by national tourist board VisitBritain this week confirm that overall inbound holiday visits to the UK are up 4% (to June 2009), so it is particularly encouraging that the University of Kent has achieved such a strong 20% increase in German group business this summer.

More information online - www.kent.ac.uk/hospitality.

Ends

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Editorial Notes:

1. The accommodation is available during Easter & Summer vacations:
14 April-8 May; 20 June-18 September 2009.
2. The University of Kent has been awarded Group Travel's 'Best University Accommodation for Groups' for both 2009 & 2008.