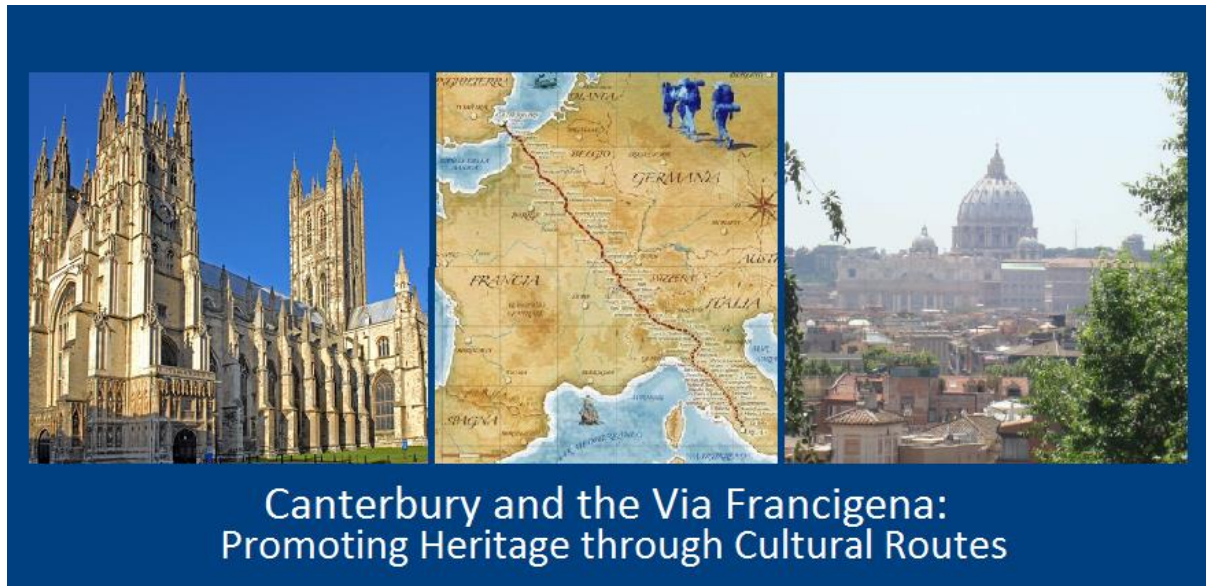


Two bursaries available for University of Kent postgraduates to participate in a historic long-distance walk.



What is the walk?

The walk covers 87 miles (140 km) from Rome to the ancient Roman port of Terracina on the Via Francigena of the South. It is just one event in a series as part of the project 'Canterbury and the Via Francigena: Promoting Heritage through Cultural Routes'.

What is the project?

The project is being organised by University of Kent PhD students Julia Peters, Maria Dimitriou, Karl Goodwin and Francesca Giliberto from the departments of Classics and Archaeology and Architecture. The aim of the project is to engage the public with heritage linked to the cultural route of the Via Francigena.

What is the Via Francigena?

The Via Francigena is a historic route linking Canterbury to Rome, continuing onto the southern port of Brindisi in Italy. Julia Peters (Classics and Archaeology) walked the Via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome in 2015 and will now lead students on the section from Rome to Terracina.

How is the project being funded?

This project has received generous funding from the **Kent Opportunity Fund**. (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/giving/opportunityfund/>)

The Kent Opportunity Fund was established to support a broad range of scholarships, student projects to enhance extra-curricular activities at Kent and bursaries to support students experiencing financial hardship. Committees of Kent staff, alumni and donors allocate the funds raised and ensure that they go to the students most in need.

What will participants gain from this experience?

Walking an ancient route is an immersive experience in history. The route covers sections on ancient basalt paving stones, winds through ancient and medieval towns, offers views of mountains,

crater lakes and the sea. This rich archaeological and natural heritage has a collective value that is revealed by retracing the historic route that once connected them. Taking 6 days to walk 87 miles (140 km) offers a glimpse into the experience of travel in the past, and for many parts of the world, the present. From Roman soldiers to medieval pilgrims, travelling by means of one's own physical resources is a fundamental human experience that requires fortitude of mind and body, but which offers benefits in physical and mental health. Walking in such landscapes has inspired philosophers, artists, writers and poets over the ages for good reason. Participants should be prepared for difficulties, but the potential rewards far exceed the challenges to be faced.

What is included in the bursary?

The bursary includes a return flight from the UK to Rome, accommodation for 8 nights (in hostels, monasteries and hotels) and subsistence of £20/day for 8 days.

Who is eligible to apply for the bursary?

- In order to apply you must be a registered postgraduate student of the University of Kent. This is an inter-disciplinary event and applications are welcome from all areas of study.
- The walk will be physically demanding and so you must be able to manage daily distances of up to 18 miles carrying a rucksack weighing a maximum of 10% of your body weight. You should be prepared for terrain which varies from plains to mountains and weather conditions including temperatures up to 30 degrees and the possibility of thunderstorms.
- You must have the necessary equipment: a rucksack that you can comfortably carry for these distances, worn-in walking boots and a sleeping bag.

How do I apply for the bursary?

To apply, first familiarise yourself with the project by visiting <https://www.kent.ac.uk/secl/researchcentres/centre-for-heritage/projects.html>. Information on the stages of the walk are available as a pdf download.

Send a motivational statement of maximum 800 words to Julia Peters: jep36@kent.ac.uk addressing each of the following questions:

1. How participating in the walk will contribute to your postgraduate experience at Kent?
2. What you will contribute to the project i.e. keeping a blog, taking photos, video blog to post to social media etc.?
3. What you expect from the walk? What do anticipate to be the most difficult part of the experience for you personally?
4. Why do you think that you are physically capable of walking from Rome to Terracina in 8 days?

What is the selection process?

Prof. Ray Laurence (Classics and Archaeology) and Dr. Sophie Vigneron (Law, co-director of the Centre for Heritage) will review applications and create a shortlist, who will be interviewed by a panel comprised of Prof. Laurence, Dr. Vigneron, Julia Peters (PhD student) and Karl Goodwin (PhD student).

Applications must be received by 11pm, 6 March. The group interview will take place on Monday, 13 March.