

Members' Manifesto 2026/27



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This Members' Manifesto outlines the main areas that students want KSU to prioritise in 2026/27. We developed this based on ideas gathered primarily in Kingston, Have Your Say! (KHYS) Week in February 2026, but also considers:

- KSU cost-of-living research project (published Summer 2024).
- Speak Week 2024/25.
- KSU Annual Student Survey April 2025.
- Kingston, Have Your Say! (KHYS) Week October 2025.

Candidates running in the Kingston Elections 2026 are encouraged to consider the themes outlined here when drafting their own manifestos and during their campaign activities.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, but rather a summary of key topics that KSU knows matter to Kingston students.





Food on campus



“Prices in Eat Central are quite high and not everyone can afford the food here.”

“The food in the canteen is dry and of poor quality.”

“There are very few eating choices on campus and very pricey.”

Students would like to see improvements in the quality, variety, and price of food on and around campus.

What the data shows

- In KHYS Week (February 2026), 23% of responses mentioned concerns related to food quality, variety, and price on campus. Of the four campuses, Penrhyn Road has the highest proportion of students who mentioned the topic.
- This is in line with the results of our cost of living research (2024) and KHYS Week (October 2025), where many students expressed similar wish for cheaper and more variety of food on campus.
- According to Minimum Income Standard for Students (2025), food on the go should take up ~3% of a student's weekly outgoings. Depending on year of study & living condition, this constitutes £11.25-£12.08 per week.

What we want to happen

Reduction of food prices on campus, alongside improvements in food quality and variety to ensure that affordable and nutritious meals are accessible for students.



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Student support

Students would like more support and guidance on mental health, career development, and other student support services.

What our data shows

- 19% of responses from KHYS Week (February 2026) expressed the need for more support and guidance to support their university experience. These include support for mental health, placement and internship, guidance and more signposting on available student support services, and international student fee payment plan.
- Of the four campuses, Kingston Hill has the highest proportion of students who mentioned the topic.
- Student Minds (2022) reported that 57% of students surveyed had a mental health issue. Our cost of living research shows similar result - 66% of students reported that their mental health had been impacted by the rising cost of living.

“Provide more resources and help with placements and finding a job.”

“More support for people who need help, talking more to them about their struggles.”

“International students’ employability after graduation, it is extremely hard to secure jobs or even work experience in career-related roles.”

What we want to happen

Clearer and more accessible guidance on the available support services for students, including the University’s wellbeing, disability, and career development services.





Help with cost of living



Students hope for more financial support and help with the cost of living.

What our data shows

- Our cost of living research (2024) revealed that 76% of students were concerned about managing financially.
- This continues to be a pressing issue - 10% of responses from KHYS Week (February 2026) highlighted the need for support and help with the cost of living. Of the four campuses, Roehampton Vale and Kingston Hill have the highest proportion of students who mentioned the topic.
- Blackbullion Student Money and Wellbeing Report (2026) shows that 88% of university students are worried about money.

“More support and understanding about money, why do we pay for laundry?”

“Make uni more affordable: food, technology (printing etc).”

“More bursaries and higher amount of support fund. Because of inflation and too many international students that struggle with cost of living.”

What we want to happen

We have made strides in implementing the [recommendations](#) from our cost of living research, such as establishing a food community hub at Penrhyn Road and Kingston Hill, and expanding the provision of free period products at Penrhyn Road.

We are keen to support the University in its review of hardship funds and call for the continued implementation of the remaining recommendations, including minimising timetable changes to better support commuting students, student parents/carers, and those who work alongside their studies.





Campus facilities

Students hope for improved facilities on campus, including sports facilities, KU buses, and social spaces.

What our data shows

Students have consistently expressed their desire for improvement in campus facilities:

- 15% of responses in KHYS Week (February 2026). Of the four campuses, Roehampton Vale has the highest proportion of students who mentioned the topic.
- 30% of responses in Speak Week November 2024.
- 15% of responses in Speak Week February 2025.

Students referred to improvements of sports facilities (e.g., gym, pool table, basketball court), social and seating spaces, more computers and printers in the library, more frequent KU buses, and security on campus.

What we want to happen

Improved facilities on campus that support student wellbeing and academic success.

“More maintenance on day to day equipment (computers). More student space to wind down and equipment to keep students active outside lectures.”

“Create more places for socialising.”

“More sport facilities.”

“More frequent uni bus.”





Housing

Students wish for improvement in halls and support for accommodation for non-first year students.

What our data shows

- 8% of responses from KHYS Week (February 2026) raised concerns regarding facilities in student accommodation halls, and support for accommodation for non- first year students. Of the four campuses, Knights Park and Kingston Hill have the highest proportion of students who mentioned the topic.
- According to [Minimum Income Standard for Students \(2025\)](#), rent takes up ~38-42% of student budget, which amounts to £158.55-£170.69 per week.

What we want to happen

For the University to consider expanding access to student accommodation halls for non-first year students, and more guidance for students on finding accommodation beyond their first year.

“The Clayhill halls are unclean.”

“I would like university to provide second, third, fourth year students student accommodation to reduce their financial pressure.”

“Workshops or more information given to students about how to find second and third year accommodation, and other options.”



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