

February 2026

KSU Insight & Policy Update



**Kingston
Students'
Union**

www.kingstonstudents.net

KSU activities in February

Waste to Plate Food Hub

Waste to Plate Food Hub continues to be at Penrhyn Road campus on Mondays and Thursdays from 1 pm to 4 pm, and now is also at Kingston Hill campus on Tuesdays from 11 am to 2 pm.

We've brought this to KH after feedback from students! The origin of Waste to Plate came from our [Cost of Living Research Project](#), that we concluded in Summer 2024.



LGBTQ+ History Month

KSU hosted events and activities to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month: *Moonlight* film screening at Kingston Hill, Zine Making Workshop at Old London Rd Cafe, Kingston, and a bake sale for African Rainbow Family at Penrhyn Road campus.

Kingston, Have Your Say! Week

KSU Research team went to KU campuses between 10 and 13 February 2026 to gather students' ideas about what they would like KSU to prioritise in 2026/27. Their ideas formed [KSU Members' Manifesto 2026/27](#), which outlines the main areas students want KSU to prioritise in 2026/27.

This Girl Can

Together with KU Sport and Active Lifestyle team, KSU hosted This Girl Can sports activities for women, including gong bath yoga, basketball, and taekwondo.



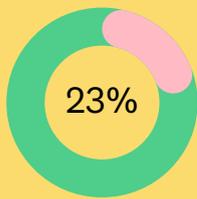
KSU insight this month



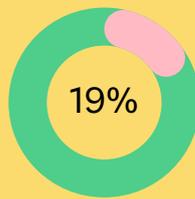
Kingston, Have Your Say! Week

- 297 students participated in Kingston, Have Your Say! Week between 9th and 13th February 2026.
- We asked students what they would like KSU to prioritise in 2026/27.
- 69% of the students are undergraduates and 20% are postgraduates.
- 29% from KSA, 22% from ECE, 20% from FBSS, and 19% from HSSCE.

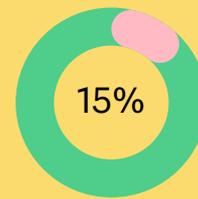
Top 3 ideas:



Food on campus



Student support



Campus facilities

These ideas formed our [Members' Manifesto 2026/27](#), which outlines five key areas that students want us to prioritise in 2026/27.



What's going on across the HE sector?



Student mental health

Cybil published the [Student Mental Health Study 2025](#). Some key highlights:

- Based on a survey of 6,685 students and recent graduates from 140+ universities.
- 55% of respondents had experienced mental health difficulties either in the past or at the time of the survey.
- 49% of students and 47% of employed graduates worried about their mental health daily or weekly. Meanwhile, the figure is 54% for job hunting graduates.
- 42% of respondents were not aware of their university's preventative and recreational services such as yoga, walks, and art activities.
- 41% of respondents worried about money daily.



What's going on across the HE sector?



Student accommodation

Save the Student published the National Student Accommodation Survey 2026. Some key highlights:

- Based on responses from 1,149 students.
- London is the most expensive region when it comes to rent, with students paying on average £793 per month.
- Finding an accommodation is high pressure - 35% of students had agreed to rent without viewing the property.
- 65% of students have had issues with their student housing, with damp being the most common issue.
- 61% of students had struggled affording their rent at least some of the time.
- 36% of students had considered dropping out due to cost of rent, and 26% had considered dropping out due to cost of bills.



What's happening in March?

KSU Elections

Candidates for [KSU Elections](#) will be announced and campaign will commence on 9th March. Voting will open at 10 am on 16th March and close at 3 pm on 18th March.



Varsity

Kingston Sport teams will compete against teams from London South Bank University (LSBU) at [Varsity](#). KSU will host Varsity at Tolworth Sports Ground on 25th March, and LSBU on 23rd and 24th March at LSBU Active Sports Centre.

[School Spirit Varsity Pep Rally](#) will take place on 10th March at Events Space, Penrhyn Road campus. Anyone can come along to make signs to decorate Tolworth and get ready to support Team Kingston.

Together with LSBU, KSU will also host a [Varsity After Party](#) on 25th March at Bonnie Rouges, Kingston.

Women's History Month

KSU is hosting [activities to celebrate Women's History Month](#):

- 4th March - Photo Frame Painting
- 9th March - Self-Defence with Magda
- 16th March - Sound Bath
- 25th March - 'Daisies' (1966) Screening with Film Club Society
- 30th March - Meditation and Breathwork Workshop

