

November 2025

KSU Insight & Policy Update



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KSU activities in November

Society Bazaar

On 13 November, KSU hosted Society Bazaar, where societies came together and fundraised for their societies or causes they cared about.



Trans Awareness Week

KSU hosted Clothes Swap at KSA on 17 November for Trans Awareness Week.



Disability History Month

Together with the Book Club Society, on 25 November KSU hosted a discussion on the book 'Out On A Limb' by Hannah Bonam Young, a quirky romance featuring a disabled protagonist.



Student Officer updates



Hamza, President

- With the Vice Chancellor, preparing a joint letter to Kingston MP Sir Ed Davey to raise concerns about the international student levy.
- Ensuring student perspectives are represented in KU's Lecture Capture Project.



Canon, Vice President

- Student Activities Hardship Fund is now live on [KUBacker](#). Donations received will go towards supporting students to participate in societies and sports clubs.
- Preparing the 'Know Your Rights' workshop on 10 December.



Ckyra, Vice President

- Advocating for facilities improvement at Kingston Hill campus (e.g., social spaces, sleeping pods, USB charging points).
- Campaigning on campus safety, focusing on accommodation, personal wellbeing, theft prevention, and spiking awareness.



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KSU insight this month



Student Council updates

We've now held two Student Councils, on 30 October and 4 December. Highlights include:

- Officer Manifesto Objectives were discussed and ratified.
- The policy proposal 'Campus Sexual Wellness and STD Awareness' was discussed, with a decision to approve or reject being deferred to the next meeting.
- Conversations about how to more sensitively engage and empower marginalised students across the Union's activities.

Students Who Work survey

733 students participated in the Students Who Work survey. Analysis is ongoing, but some early indicators highlight:

- 70.3% are currently working part time or full time alongside their studies at Kingston.
- The most common reasons for doing paid work are to pay bills (64.5%), have money to socialise (36.9%), and save for the future (35.5%).
- We asked if paid work affects their academic performance. 51.9% said no, 36.1% said yes (mainly negatively), and 12.0% said yes (mainly positively).



What's going on across the HE sector?



Renters' Rights Act

The Renters' Right Act received Royal Assent on 27 October 2025, and will come fully in force on 1 May 2026. The Act gives stronger rights and greater security for tenants in England.

Some key measures of the Act:

- Abolishment of fixed term tenancies, replaced by periodic tenancy which continues on a monthly basis. Tenants can terminate their tenancies at any time with 2 months' notice.
- Abolishment of Section 21 'no fault' evictions. Landlords will only be able to evict if they have a legal reason called a 'ground', such as rent arrears or antisocial behaviour.
- Prohibition on advance multiple months rent payments. Advance rent payment is capped at 1 month.
- Landlords can only increase rent by issuing Section 13 Rent Increase Notice with 2 months' notice.

These measures also apply for student tenants living in HMO, which means that:

- Students do not have to sign a fixed term tenancy for the whole academic year, and can terminate their tenancies at any time with 2 months' notice.
- Landlords cannot ask international students for multiple months advance rent payment. However, they can insist on international students providing UK guarantors.

KSU recognises that these are significant changes for student tenants, and will ensure that clear guidance & signposting are available on our website so that all students fully understand their rights as tenants. There will also be a 'Know Your Rights' workshop, delivered by Canon in partnership with societies, on 10 December, where students can find out more.



What's going on across the HE sector?



Government Budget 2025

The government announced their annual budget on 26 November. Key items in the budget related to the higher education sector:

- From August 2028, levy on international student fee will be applied: a flat fee of £925 per student (rising with inflation in the following years), with the first 220 students entirely exempted. This means that universities will be unevenly impacted by the levy. Small specialist providers with fewer than 220 international students and providers with higher fees will be less affected. Wonkhe analysis shows that Kingston University will need to pay 5.48% of the international fee income, which amounts to £3,672,250.
- The fund generated from the levy will be used for the reintroduction of maintenance grants. The grants will be means tested: students from households earning at or below £25,000 will get the maximum, and those with household incomes up to £30,000 will get less. These grants will only be available for certain subjects aligned with the government's economic priorities and Industrial Strategy.
- Home tuition fee caps will rise to £9,790 in 2026/27, and will cross the psychological barrier to £10,050 in 2027/28.

KSU intends to submit a consultation response on the reintroduction of the maintenance grants.



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What's happening in December?

Rep Fest

On 9 December, Course Reps will get together to get to know one another and discuss their experiences from this term in an end-of-term celebration.

Disability History Month

Events celebrating the Disability History Month continue in December:

- Blind Football - 3 December
- Online book club - 16 December
- Therapets - 17 December
- Cosy Gaming Session hosted by Disabled Students Society and VAST Society - 17 December

Planning for January's Refreshers

KSU is planning a week of exciting events for Refreshers Week in 19-27 January 2026. There will also be pop up stalls across all campuses where students can meet KSU staff, societies, and sports clubs.

KSU office closure

KSU will close for Christmas break from 22 December, and will reopen on 5 January 2026. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

