

October 2025

KSU Insight & Policy Update



**Kingston
Students'
Union**

www.kingstonstudents.net

KSU activities in October

Diwali Carnival

KSU hosted an evening of Diwali celebration at Kingston Hill campus.



Black History Month

Students participated in the Black History Month events: Games Night with African & Caribbean Society (ACS), workshop with Melanin Medics, and Black Horror Movie Night. The fundraiser football tournament for the Sickie Cell Society is postponed, new date to be confirmed soon.

Kingston, Have Your Say! Week

On 27-31 October 2025 we toured all KU campuses for Kingston, Have Your Say! Week, where we asked students for feedback about academic experience and sense of belonging. It was fantastic to meet over 600 students during the Week! Massive thank you to all Course Reps and KSU President Hamza for their support!



Student Officer updates



Hamza, President

- Lobbying for international student finance support
- Talked to hundreds of students during Kingston, Have Your Say! Week



Canon, Vice President

- Raised students' priorities in KU's Student Life Committee meeting
- Spoke with student groups to gain insight for the Hardship Fund scheme



Ckyra, Vice President

- Celebrated Black History Month and attended different Carnivals
- Planning for January's Refreshers activities



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KSU insight this month

Course Rep Recruitment and Training

790 students are now registered as Course Reps for the 2025/26 academic year. This year KSU designed new Course Rep training, helping Reps understand effective feedback gathering, the student learning experience, and the feedback loop.

Students and academic staff can [find their reps](#) on our website.

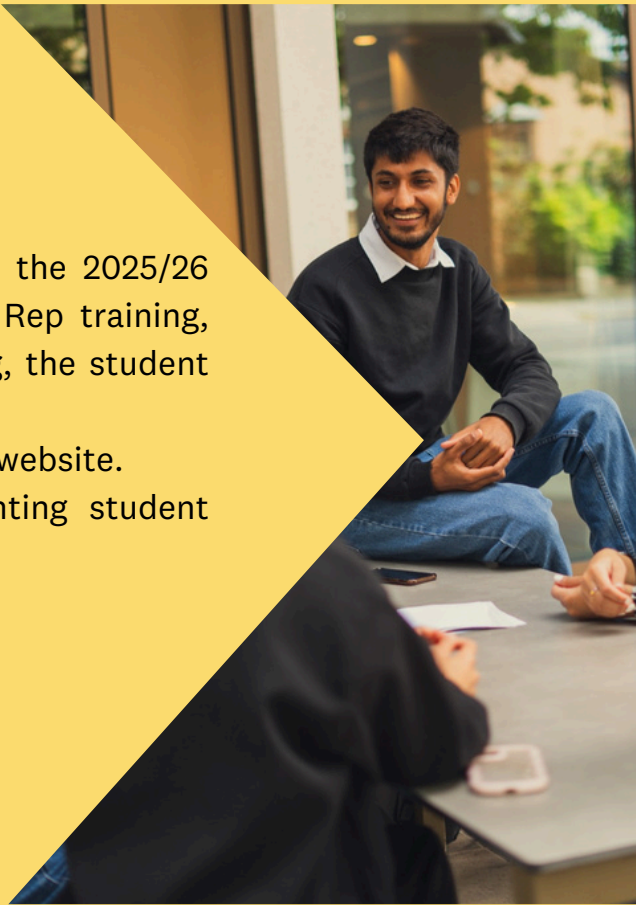
Throughout November, Course Reps will be presenting student voices at their Student Voice Committees.

Updates on cost of living project

In 2024, we published a research report on the impacts of the rising cost of living on Kingston University students. This included a set of recommendations for both KSU and KU to improve support for Kingston students. Progress has been made on these recommendations, and we have launched an [Action Tracker](#) on the website to increase transparency around our work.

Post-Freshers Survey 2025

- 442 students completed the Post-Freshers 2025 survey.
- 93% of students who attended the Freshers' Fair said that they very much enjoyed or enjoyed the Fair.
- Students loved the freebies and getting to know the societies and sports clubs. However, students suggested improvement of the crowd and queue management at the Fair.



What's going on across the HE sector?



Consultations on changes to the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) is the primary exercise through which higher education providers are assessed and rated based on their quality of teaching, learning, and outcomes. It is conducted by the Office for Students (OfS) in 2018. The last TEF exercise was conducted in 2023, where Kingston University received the Gold rating.

OfS recently launched proposals for changes in how TEF is being done. There are 15 proposals, but here are some of the key points:

- TEF will continue to be used to assess two aspects: student experience and student outcomes. The proposed change is to align the student experience aspect with the relevant requirements of the B conditions: B1, B2, and the 'effective assessment' element of Condition B4. This is meant to create a more 'integrated' system of quality assessment.
- Universities will continue to be rated based on its TEF, but OfS proposed that these ratings will now determine the incentives that the universities will or will not receive. For example, providers with Bronze rating might not be permitted to increase their student numbers, while providers with Gold and Silver rating might be eligible for certain funding streams.
- In the previous TEF iteration in 2023, student input into the student experience aspect was done through an optional independent student submission (which, most of the time, was submitted by the students' union as the representative of students). The proposed change is to explore other ways of gathering student views where a student submission is 'impractical' for the student body, such as OfS running focus groups with a provider's students.

These set of proposals are now up for consultation, with a closing date of 11 December 2025, with the first cycle of the modified TEF planned to be rolled out in 2027/28.



What's going on across the HE sector?



Maintenance grants and levy on international student fees

At the Labour Party Conference in September, Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson announced maintenance grants will be reintroduced for students from lower-income households studying 'priority courses.' Phillipson also announced that the money for these grants will come from a new 6% levy on international student fees, which was first suggested in the Spring. The policy comes from the fact that more and more students who have to undertake part time work to fund their time at university.

Universities UK responded that while reintroducing maintenance grants for students who most need them is the right idea, applying the levy as the way to fund these grants is not. Vivienne Stern, Chief Executive of Universities UK wrote that the levy "would reduce the number of places available for domestic students and mean universities have even less of their scant resource to invest into expanding access and supporting students." Tom Allingham from Save the Student told the BBC that the maintenance grants are very welcome, but should be made available for all students.

KSU intends to submit a consultation response on the reintroduction of the maintenance grants if and when it opens.



What's happening in November?

Society Bazaar

KSU is hosting a Society Bazaar on 13 November at the Social Space, where all societies have an opportunity to raise money for themselves or groups close to their heart. Everyone can come along and find societies selling cultural foods as well as homemade items, and many more.

KSU Research Project - Students Who Work

On 3 November, KSU launched a research project: '[Students Who Work: Understanding the Relationship Between Studies and Work at Kingston University.](#)' We want to gain a deep understanding of the experiences, challenges, and needs of Kingston students who undertake work alongside their studies. The research project will include a survey and focus groups with students. We will continuously communicating these to all students through our website, newsletter, and social media channels.

Disability History Month

KSU is hosting a series of events for Disability History Month:

- Online Book Club - three posts during month, in person events on 25th Nov and 16th Dec. Books featuring disabled characters and written by disabled authors.
- Therapets Visit - date tbc
- Boccia Session - 26th November at KSU Event Space
- Blind Football - 3rd December at Town House Courtyard
- Free Sunflower Lanyards to pick up at KSU reception

Trans Awareness Week

KSU is hosting a [Clothing Swap](#) on 18 November at the KSA Platform Galleries.

