October 2026

Insight & Policy Update

Kingston Students' Union

www.kingstonstudents.net

KSU activities in October

By-Elections

Voting for KSU by-elections was successfully conducted between 5 and 7 October. Below are the newly elected reps:

Faculty Reps

- Kingston School of Art (UG): Carina Desouza
- Faculty of Engineering, Computing and the Environment (UG): James Santiago
- Faculty of Business and Social Sciences (PGT): Husain Icecreamwala

School Community Reps

- School of Life Sciences, Pharmacy and Chemistry (UG): Regine Guyada
- School of Law, Social and Behavioural Sciences (UG): Keerti Prratha Alex Vhaaikun

Campus Reps

- Knights Park: Manya Bhola
- Roehampton Vale: Baqir Raza
- Kingston Hill: Manvi Verma

Black History Month

Throughout October KSU commemorated Black History Month with a series of events, including a film screening with FIlm Society and braiding workshop with Siri Owho.

KSU activities in October

Food Hub

Collaborating with Waste to Plate, KSU has reopened Food Hub, which now has a permanent location in PRMB 0102, next to the KSU Event Space. Food Hub is open every Monday and Friday at 2-4pm during term time.

Kingston, Have Your Say! Week

1,423 students took part in Kingston, Have Your Say! Week and provided feedback about their academic experience. Reports of the feedback are shared with Course Reps who will bring up relevant issues in Student Voice Committee meetings.





Kingston Students' Union

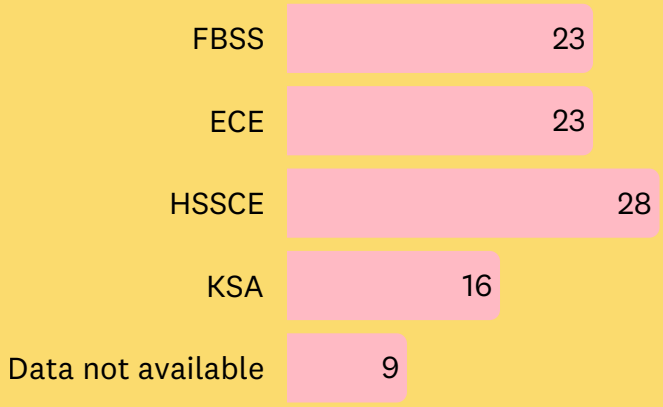
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KSU insight this month

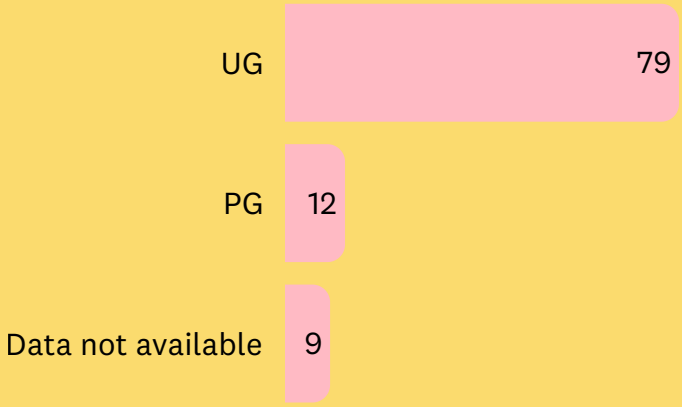
Kingston, Have Your Say! Week

1,423 students participated

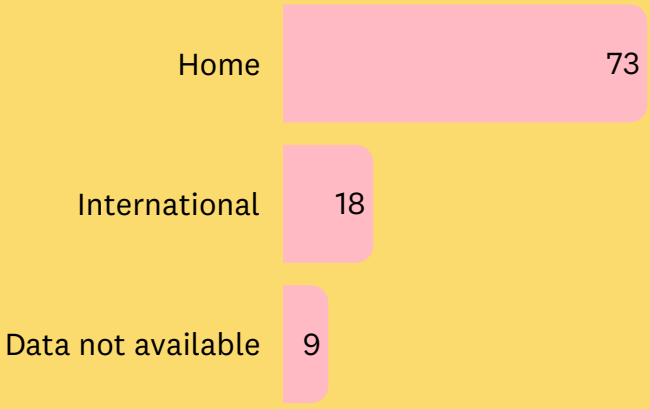
% of students by faculty



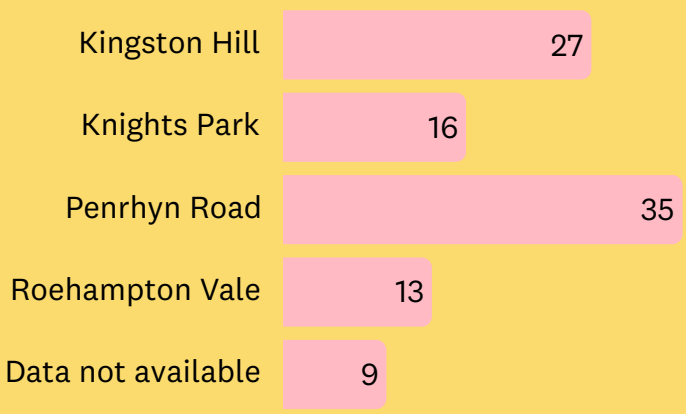
% of students by level of study



% of students by fee status



% of students by campus



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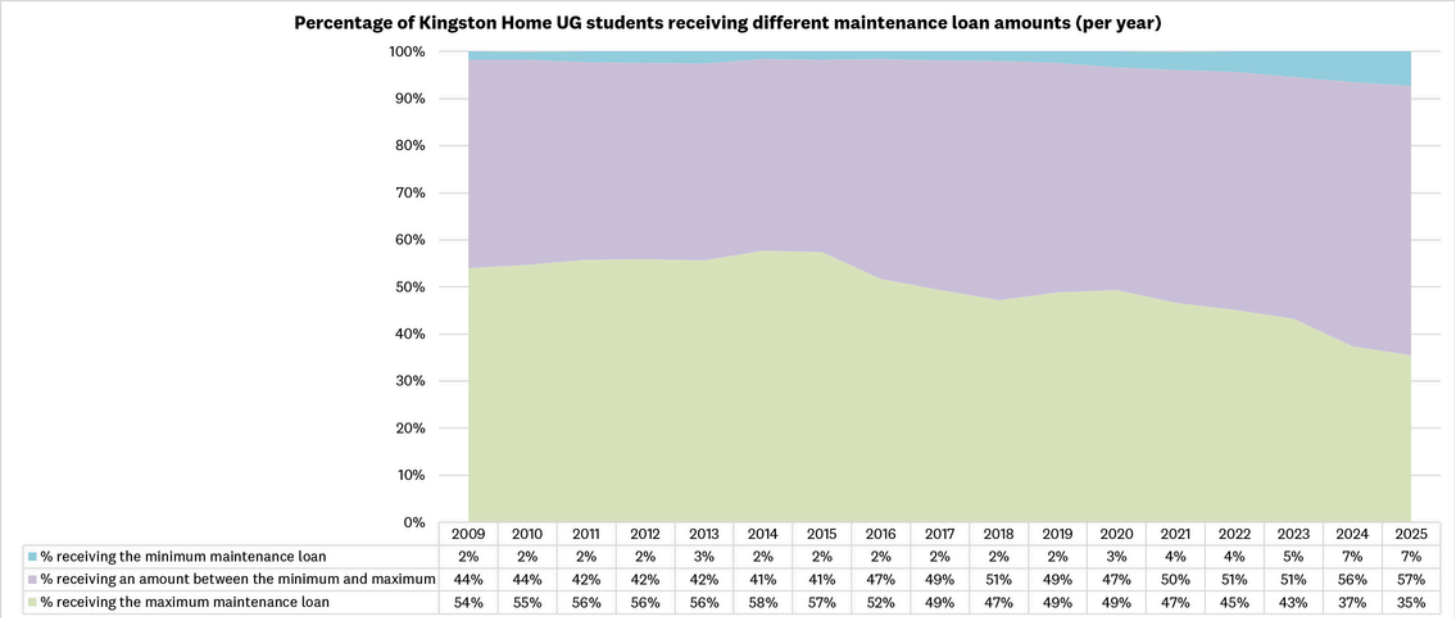
KSU insight this month

KSU gathers feedback and information about students' experiences. Here are some notable statistics from recent work we've done:

1) Maintenance Loans

We recently submitted a Freedom of Information request to Student Finance England to understand whether the freezing of parental income thresholds for maintenance loans has negatively impacted our students. The short answer is yes, and significantly so.

As the graph below shows, in 2015, 57% of Kingston students receiving a maintenance loan were awarded the maximum amount available. In 2016, the UK Government abolished maintenance grants. By 2025, just 35% of Kingston students receiving a maintenance loan were awarded the maximum amount, despite rising living costs over the same period.



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
% receiving the minimum maintenance loan	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%	4%	5%	7%	7%
% receiving an amount between the minimum and maximum	44%	44%	42%	42%	42%	41%	41%	47%	49%	51%	49%	47%	50%	51%	51%	56%	57%
% receiving the maximum maintenance loan	54%	55%	56%	56%	56%	58%	57%	52%	49%	47%	49%	49%	47%	45%	43%	37%	35%

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KSU insight this month

2) Students Who Work

Our recently published research report on Students Who Work reveals valuable insights into the reality of balancing work and studies for Kingston students:

- 25.1% of students who work sometimes miss lectures due to tiredness or scheduling conflicts
- Students who work more than 20 hours per week are more likely to attend fewer timetabled classes
- The third most popular type of support for student workers is flexibility in teaching & learning activities (44.1%), behind financial subsidies (50.5%) and more on-campus jobs (44.9%)

The full report and complete findings are available on the KSU website.

Student Officers updates



Hamza, President

- Collaborated with KU to develop the Academic Integrity Module
- Successfully negotiated £2.20 daily cap for KU buses
- Relaunched Waste to Plate Food Hub in a permanent location (PRMB0102)



Christianna, Vice President

- Delivered a session in KSU Ambassador recruitment day
- Delivered induction session to Nursing students
- Organised and hosted Back to 2016, a music-focused Welcome Week event



Canon, Vice President

- Organised and hosted Welcome Week events: Tenpin Tuesday with CK and Games Night at Knights Park
- Started discussions about strengthening Kingston Belonging Fund (KBF)
- Engaging with KU's Access and Participation Plan (APP)

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What's going on across the HE sector?

Wellbeing and physical spaces

We often think and talk about wellbeing and belonging at universities as being primarily the responsibility of student support services or the events and activities delivered by students' unions. While these factors remain important, Student Minds' report *Wellbeing and the Physical Environment of Universities* highlights that the physical campus environment also plays a significant role in shaping the wellbeing of both students and staff at universities.

One of the report's findings is that sensory qualities of the physical environment influence concentration, comfort, rest, and inclusion. For example, breakout areas and social space can encourage interaction while reducing distraction in quieter areas designated for study. Temperature, lighting, and furniture also have a significant impact on the comfort of staff and students, affecting their alertness, mood, energy levels, and productivity.

Related to this, our 2026 Kingston, Have Your Say! Survey shows that more students are living over an hour away from campus, increasing from 37% in 2025 to 42% in 2026. Despite this, students indicated that they would like to spend more time on campus and expressed needs for spaces such as sports facilities, quiet or resting rooms, social areas, and kitchen and common room facilities.

What's happening in November?

Festival of Lights: Diwali & Tihar - 10th November, Roehampton

Collaborating with Roehampton SU, KSU is hosting Festival of Lights: Diwali & Tihar on 10 November. The celebration will start with Aarti Ceremony at Southlands College, followed by fireworks in Froebel Lawn, Roehampton University, and an after party at Roehampton Union Bar. All information is on the KSU website.

Disability History Month - 15th November - 15th December

KSU will be hosting events for Disability History Month. More details will follow, and all information will be available on the KSU website.

Student and Staff Expo - 19th November, Penrhyn Road

KU and KSU are collaborating to organise the Student and Staff Expo on 19 November at Penrhyn Road campus Marketplace, where Kingston students, staff, and alumni can showcase and promote their businesses.

Society Bazaar - 26th November, Penrhyn Road

KSU is hosting Society Bazaar on 26 November at KSU 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, homemade items, and many more.

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