

September 2026

Insight & Policy Update



**Kingston
Students'
Union**

www.kingstonstudents.net

KSU activities in September

Welcome
Week 2026

Welcome Week was in full swing from 18 to 27 September, with KU and KSU working together to deliver an exciting programme to welcome students to Kingston.

Students had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of events and activities, including an International Students Meet Up, Craft & Connect pop ups, picnics in the park, the popular Welcome Fair, and a boat party on the Thames.

More than 3,100 students attended Welcome Fair, a significant increase from 2,200+ students who attended last year's Fair, highlighting the continued growth and success of Welcome Week!



Welcome Week 2026



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KSU activities in September

Research Report: Students Who Work

KSU has published the findings from the 2025/26 research project, *Students Who Work: Understanding the Relationship Between Studies and Work at Kingston University*.

The research drew on a desk review, a survey of more than 700 students, and focus groups to better understand the experiences of Kingston students in balancing work and studies.

Based on these insights, KSU developed six key areas of recommendations for both the University and KSU to better support working students:

1. Expand financial support for students
2. Increase flexible on-campus employment opportunities
3. Improve flexibility in teaching and learning
4. Strengthen wellbeing and mental health support
5. Encourage greater understanding from academic staff
6. Continue developing employability support

The full report is available on the KSU [website](https://www.kingstonstudents.net).

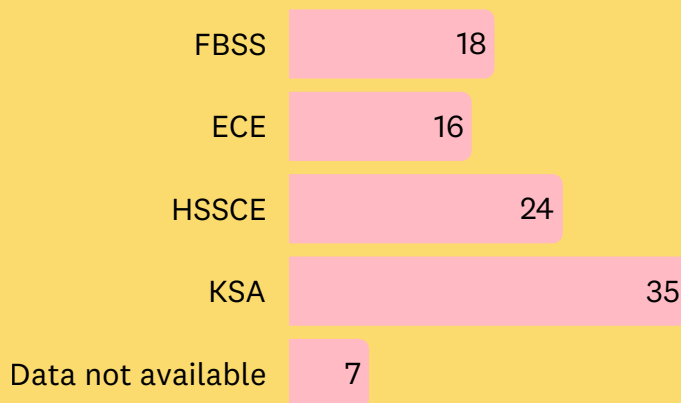


KSU insight this month

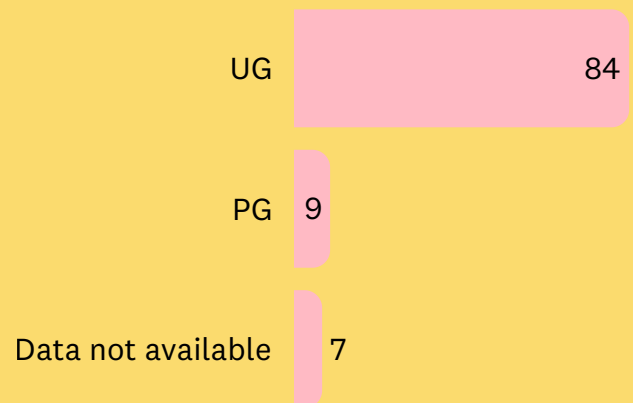
3,166

**students attended
Welcome Fair this year**

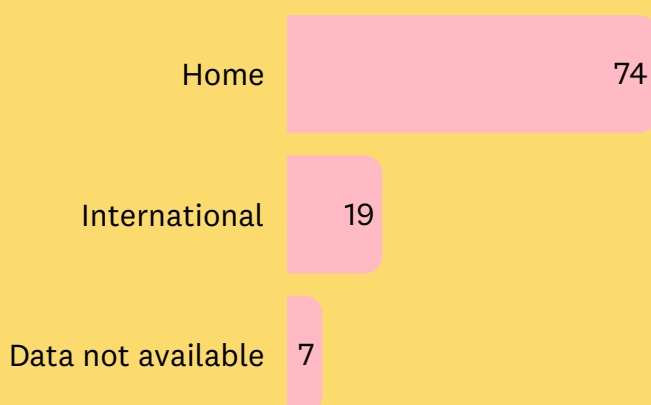
% of students by faculty



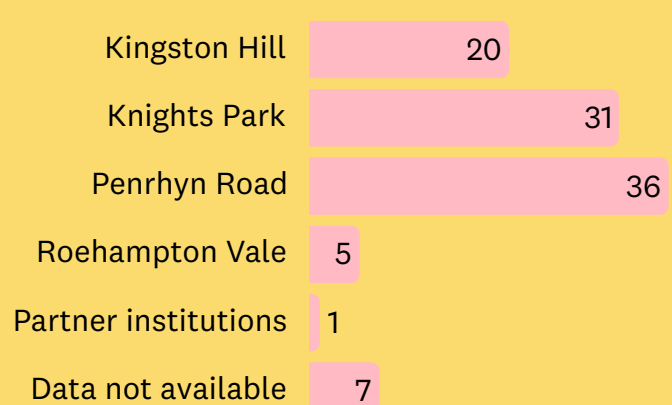
% of students by level of study



% of students by fee status



% of students by campus



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Student Officers updates



Hamza Haroon
President



Canon Kingstan Manuel
Vice President



Christianna Maria Patsi
Vice President

Officer Priorities for 2026/27

- We will ensure that the University's academic practices and policies support changing student studying habits.
- We will break down barriers for our International students to engage meaningfully with University life.
- All students, no matter their location, will have a positive campus experience.
- We will work with the University to enhance opportunities for students to develop the skills, experience, and confidence to successfully enter the job market.
- We will ensure that all students are supported to financially thrive, not just survive, whilst at university.
- Fully interact with the University's Access and Participation Plan (APP), incorporating student insight to inform effective intervention strategies which support students' progress and succeed in their studies.



What's going on across the HE sector?

Student Money

Save the Student has published the results of their 2026 [National Student Money Survey](#). Some key findings:

- The average gap between maintenance loan and spending on living costs remains large: £467 per month.
- 28% of students have two or more jobs.
- 63% of students skip meals to save money.
- 46% have considered dropping out due to money-related worries.

Blackbullion's 2026 [Student Money Readiness Survey](#) shows similar results:

- Students felt they needed an average £421 more each month to feel confident in completing their degree.
- 47% of returning students are worried about being unable to afford food.
- When money gets tight, 60% students say they would get a job.

KSU's Students Who Work survey in 2025 also reveals the same reality. 65% of student were working to pay the bills, and 61% reported having less time to study due to work. We are committed to follow up on the recommendations from the research project to better support students who work.



What's happening in October?

Academic representation

- Voting for by-elections for Faculty Reps, School Community Reps, and Campus Reps will take place from 5-7 October.
- We are recruiting Course Reps for the new academic year, with training sessions taking place throughout October. All students can become Course Reps and can sign up by completing this [form](#).

Kingston, Have Your Say! Week

Kingston, Have Your Say! Week will take place from 26-30 October. The week focuses on collecting feedback about students' academic experience, and the results will be shared with Course Reps to help them prepare for Student Voice Committee meetings.

During the week, students can share their feedback online via the KSU website or in-person at our campus pop-ups.

Black History Month

KSU is hosting a programme of free events to celebrate Black History Month:

- 8th October: Textile workshop with Art Society
- 14th October: Screening of 'Heat of the Night' with Film Society
- 19th, 20th, 22nd October: Film screenings & tabletop night with VAST Society
- 26th October: Reading 'The Fifth Season' with Book Club Society
- 29th October: Braiding workshop with Siri Owho

All information is available on the KSU [website](#).

