



UNION
— OF —
KINGSTON
STUDENTS

**Union of Kingston Students
Impact Report
2016/17**





PATRICK
ROEHAMPTON VALE OFFICER
LEAD ON UNION DEVELOPMENT



DAISY
KNIGHTS PARK OFFICER
LEAD ON STUDENT WELFARE



ALAYNA
PENRHYN ROAD OFFICER
LEAD ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



PETAR
KINGSTON HILL OFFICER
LEAD ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Foreword by 2017/18 Sabbatical Officers

What a year this has been for the Union of Kingston Students!

We keep going from strength to strength, being in our second year as a campus based Union. As sabbatical officers, our role is all about collecting student feedback and enacting change on campus for our students, making sure that everyone is having a positive experience at university. We are really proud to be representing our separate campuses to expand Union activity across the whole university. We are trying to make improvements on all campuses and look to enable the Union to have more presence and power in this coming year. With the recent re-brand, we recognise that we are still in infancy stage but believe there are significant opportunities for growth. Changes last year such as having

the Freshers' Fayre at Kingston Hill campus for the first time ever, and collaborating with City University London for the first time during our Varsity competitions are an indication of the new and innovative nature of the Union and we as officers are proud that we have the opportunity to serve the students at this exciting point in the Union's development.

This report has been created to present the full scope of the Union's impact last year whilst celebrating the incredible achievements of our students throughout the 2016/17 year. We draw on the success and influence of each different function within the organisation to highlight the importance of the Union in making the Kingston University student experience truly remarkable.

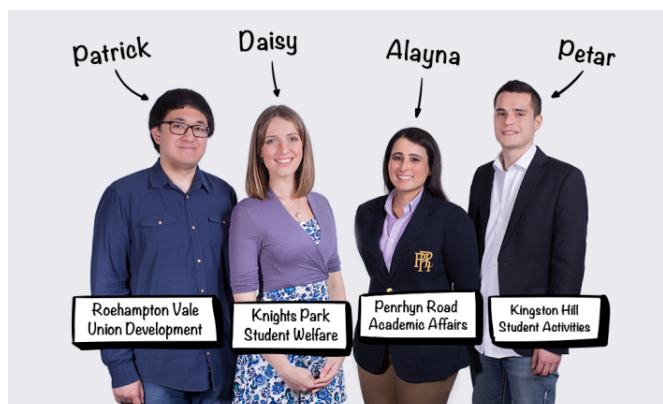
2017/18 Officer Team

Patrick Tatarian graduated in Aerospace Engineering BEng.

Daisy Bow Du Toit graduated in English Literature and the History of Art, Film and Design Joint Honours BA.

Alayna Zangie current Biological Sciences BSc student.

Peter Lachev graduated in Business Management BSc.



What is the Union of Kingston Students?

Union of Kingston Students represents the opinions and views of Kingston University Students.

The elected Sabbatical Officers work together with Kingston University as the student voice to support and enhance aspects of the university experience. We have various activities that students can get involved with such as sports, societies and volunteering as well as providing support such as academic appeals advice and awareness campaigns. We are led by the officers chosen by students which reflects our identity as a democratic organisation. Students are openly invited to regular public meetings where they have the space to create change and influence union policies.

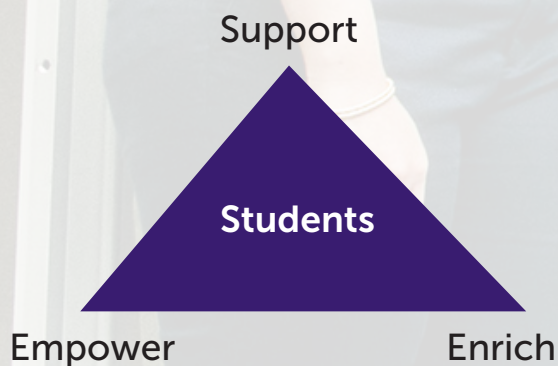
There were 19,893 members of the Union (2015/16 year) of which over 5,000 students were involved with sports, societies and volunteering alone.

19,893
MEMBERS

5,000 STUDENTS
IN ACTIVITIES

Stats from 2015/16

Union Ethos



"We will be an effective, relevant and representative union at the heart of Kingston student life, central to the University strategy and future success"

1.

We provide professional non-judgemental, and impartial advice and support to students in need.

2.

We offer a sense of belonging and inclusion by connecting students with others who share their passions and interests.

3.

We listen to and represent students, giving them a powerful platform to shape and influence decisions that affect their lives.

4.

We offer inspiration and fun, giving students opportunities to discover more about themselves, each other, and the diverse world around them.

ELECTED OFFICERS



2016/17 Sabbatical Officers. L-R: Haider, Patrick, Beatrice and Daisy.

Last year's Sabbatical Officers were all voted in by Kingston University students. Representative of the four main campuses at Kingston, they each adopted an independent remit to represent the student

voice in various aspects such as Activities and Student Welfare. Networking with various other delegates at regular National Union of Students conferences (NUS), they brought back knowledge and best practice to implement at our own Students' Union.



Image from nus.co.uk

SUMMARY OF OFFICER ACHIEVEMENTS (2016/17)

- ✓ Providing more platforms for BME students such as Black History Month V2.0 forR.
- ✓ First ever Wonderfair in collaboration with 12 student societies.
- ✓ New bus shelter installed at Roehampton Vale.
- ✓ Started discussions around extending lab opening hours.
- ✓ Improvement to the prayer space at Roehampton Vale.
- ✓ Involved in numerous campaigns such as Self Care Week, Equal Pay Day and LGBT History Month.
- ✓ Implemented the new trial of gender neutral toilets on campus.
- ✓ Involved in discussions around the KU Bus service playing a role in the introduction of new features such as live tracking and countdown.
- ✓ Extended opening times of the Knights Park campus library.
- ✓ Additional bike racks at Knights Park.
- ✓ Reduced printing costs for students at all campuses.

Student Elections



2,379 extra students voted in the 2017/18 election – that's a massive **178% increase**. Our biggest student elections to date!!

13

students ran in the 2017/18 election for a sabbatical officer role

students ran for Kingston Hill officer

7

students ran for the 3 student trustee roles within the Union

students ran to be NUS delegates to represent the Union

4

NUS National Committee seats filled by KU students

2016/17

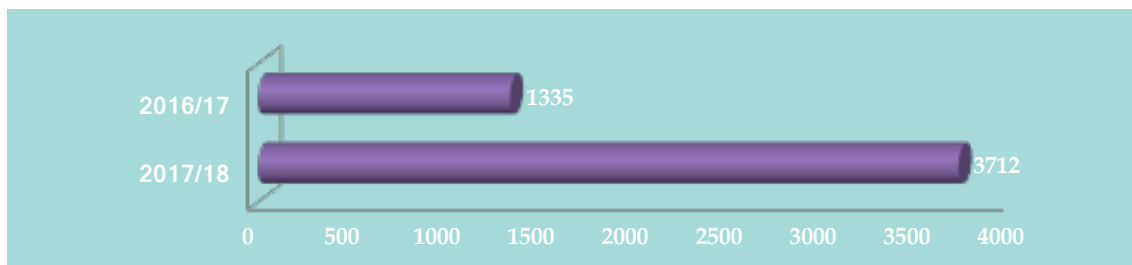
3,714 Students voted
9,489 Total votes cast

Kingston Hill Officer – 2696
Penrhyn Road Officer – 2003
Knights Park Officer – 1865
Roehampton Vale Officer – 1200

2015/16

1,335 Students voted
3,037 Total votes cast

Kingston Hill Officer – 480
Penrhyn Road Officer – 317
Knights Park Officer – 448
Roehampton Vale Officer – 595



Election turn out year on year.

"We would encourage students who are keen to represent the student voice within high level meetings around the University to run for these roles, as you place yourself at the heart of both the University and the Union. You become the voice of thousands of students as well as a short term celebrity around campus. It really is an excellent opportunity and we have felt privileged to serve the student body."



Officer Team 2016/17.



SUPPORT



ADVICE

Students are asking more and more for Advice from the Union for different issues.

This is because of enhanced student engagement, better branding and stronger working relationships over the past year. There is no doubt that this has had a huge impact on improving retention rates for students who are in such a vulnerable position during these periods. The support is invaluable in providing representation for the student voice through independent and confidential advice available to all students.



Number of cases

Complaints | Academic Misconduct | Fitness to Practice | Notice to Quit (Halls) | Disciplinary cases.

447 students were seen in total for advice cases.

Number of Academic Appeals

161 cases - over 30% of these were for support with mitigating circumstances.

STUDENT WELFARE CAMPAIGNS

Self-Care Week:

Mental Health Awareness Stall | Yoga Society Pop-up session | Let's talk about alcohol awareness | Samaritans | Chat to Nightline | Tea and Talks | Breaking the Silence on Domestic and Sexual Abuse | Write a postcard to your future self.

800+ Students engaged

Keep Calm and Study on Fortnight: Goodie Bags | The Chalk Walk | The Postcards | Music to your Ears | The Nap Room | The Postcards | Tea and Toast.

1200+ Students Engaged

Self-Care Fayre:

The Samaritans | Nightline | iCope | Metropolitan Police | Alcohol Awareness | Victim Support | Achieving for Children.

200+ Students Engaged



THE CASE STUDY

The scenario

Student A contacted the union advice service about an academic misconduct hearing they had been invited to. Their assignment had come up as a high similarity percentage to another student on Turnitin. They were given a date but then told it had been moved and had not been given a new date for the hearing. Student A explained that their lecturer had encouraged them to work in groups to study and whilst working with their friend, they collated notes from the same sources which were never meant to be submitted. Student A said that they had submitted their work at the last minute, clicking on the file that was last modified and did not check it once it was uploaded- so they did not see the similarity report.

They explained that they had not raised it earlier as they had not checked it so were therefore unaware. It was not until the other students had received their grades that they checked Turnitin and saw the similarity report.

How we helped?

We advised the student to contact the academic affairs coordinator to find out the new date for the hearing. We helped the student in understanding the originality report and advised them to write up a statement of the events to help them collate their thoughts. We also helped them to find any evidence to submit such as proof of research, references, the document intended to be submitted, emails etc. We attended the hearing with Student A to ensure the student was given the chance to speak and to support them if they became distressed.

The panel determined that Student A was not guilty of academic misconduct but had been an error, allowing the work to be marked as it had been submitted.





EMPOWER



STUDENT STAFF

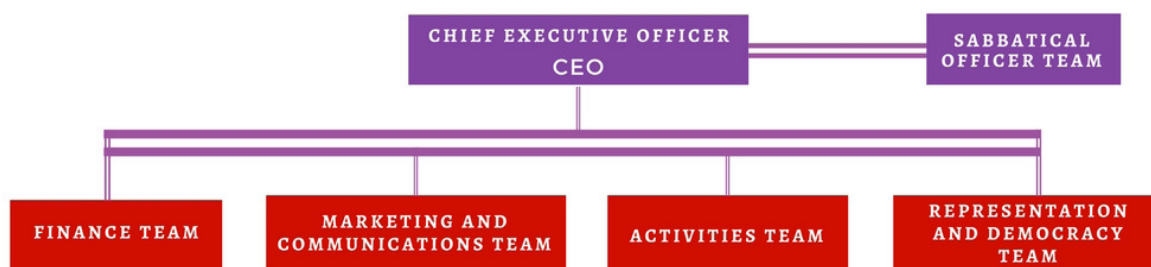


The Union aims to be student focused and what better way to show that than investing in our own Kingston students. Both seasonal and long term roles are offered to help with all different aspects of the Union from campaigns and marketing to advice and sports.

- More student staff numbers than permanent staff numbers.
- Over 60 student staff hired through the 2016/17 year.
- Average of 22 students staff working every month through the year.
- Over 1800 hours worked by student staff.
- 15 different student staff roles within the Union.
- 9 student graphic designers currently hired.

Graduates

Two graduate positions filled by KU students in Finance and Advice.

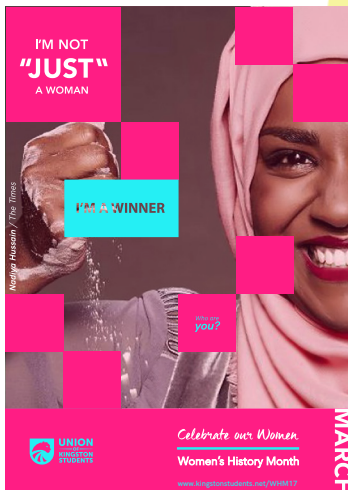


Union organisational chart.

CAMPAIGNS

Black History Month / Black History Month V2.0

Two event packed months celebrating Black History showcasing the immense contributions that BME people have made globally. October is traditionally when BHM is celebrated in the UK, which really helped to empower BME students. V2.0 was in February to match the international recognition of the month. We worked with students and societies to organise a wide range of events that would appeal to all. Altogether through the two months we managed to engage over 600 students.



Women's History Month

This history month looked to highlight the contributions of women through historical events which have led to the breaking of barriers allowing the current generation of women to thrive without resistance. Just under 100 students engaged in the 8 events we held as well as more than 150 students attending the end of month club celebratory night.

LGBT History Month

Various events and safe spaces organised through the month of February to celebrate the LGBT community at Kingston. From a Craftivism workshop to a Cup of LGBT(ea), to Gender and Bowie, all looked to promote inclusivity and openness for students. Over 300 students engaged with the 12 events we had across the month. Through high demand from the LGBT society and high engagement with students through this campaign, the Union and University have partnered to trial gender neutral toilets.



Equal Pay Day

A whole day of raising awareness about the gender pay gap. Numerous students and staff engaged and many took part in the 3:34PM walk out which symbolised how far women's pay stretched in comparison to men.

Voter Registration

As part of the NUS national campaign #GenerationVote, the Union ran various initiatives and engagement around the UK General Election making it more accessible for students to register to vote and the impact of this was clear with the student voice making a massive difference.

YOU SAID WE DID... (MOTIONS)

Petition: Stop the University's Silence on Sexual Assault – Make Consent Workshop's compulsory

After huge demand from students, we launched a petition to make consent workshops compulsory. Over 240 students signed leading the Union to successfully lobby the university about the petition demands. As a result we now have a Union staff member on the panel which decides where funding is spend in regards to sexual harassment on campus.

Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free

With over 5,000 students involved in Union sports, societies and volunteering, there was huge demand for the Union to push for Wednesday afternoons to be kept teaching free similar to other institutions. This has lead to the creation of a petition and campaign which will be put forward to the University at a later stage.

Improving the Laptop Loan Scheme

Many students found themselves incurring huge fines for not returning their loaned laptops on time (up to £10 an hour). Students asked for some interventions to take place such as text reminders. After discussions with the Library services, the Union was able to introduce a timer on all new laptops which tells students exactly how much time they have left till they need to return the device.

BIG STUDENT MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**135 Student
14 Motions**

Emergency General Meeting (EGM)

**147 Students
5 Motions**



VOLUNTEERING

Numerous Volunteering projects throughout the year focusing on different interests:

Student Led Volunteering projects:

Teaching mindfulness to students | Share the warmth (refuge clothes collection) | Raise awareness of drink driving | Pass it on (book exchange for library in Ugandan primary school).

Local Volunteering projects:

Music4MentalHealth (community events raising awareness in collaboration with Banquet Records) | Kingston Carers Network (supporting Carers within the community) | Underwater river clean of the Thames | KU Biodiversity Action Group (wildlife conservation projects)

International Volunteering projects:

The Union collaborated with the Lebara foundation to send 11 students and 4 staff members to engage with fascinating projects in India and Sri Lanka teaching professional skills, crafts, and running after school clubs.



Volunteering Organisation of the Year - Kingston Carers' Network



Winterfest 16

An annual volunteering fayre which took place for the first time at Kingston Hill campus. 15 organisations promoted opportunities such as Kingston Hub, Metropolitan Police, and Go Kingston.



- ✓ There has been a 400% increase in Volunteering Awards nominations.
- ✓ Creation of a Ethical Volunteering Group (EVG) consisting of 7 students as a result of a passed motion.
- ✓ A total of 476 applications to date for volunteering projects.





ENRICH

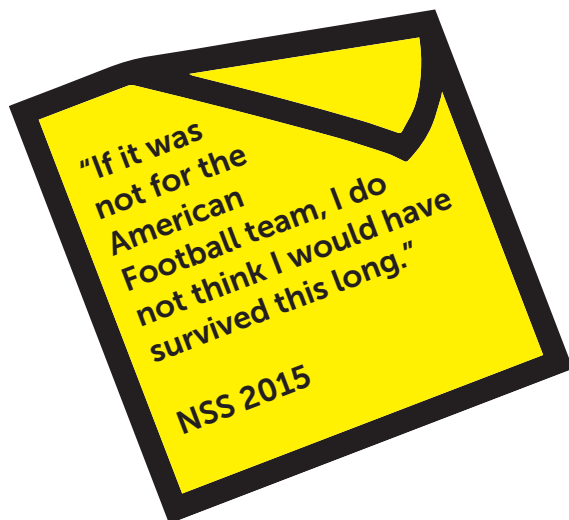


SPORTS

Here at Kingston, the Union takes a lead on all sports for students.

Through sports, Kingston has placed 84th in the national BUCS (British Universities and College Sports) table.

There were various trips through the year for sports such as Skiing, Skydiving and Mountaineering as well as a Union Sports tour to Croatia where teams faced international competition.



Over 30 competitive and non-competitive sports available to KU students.

At least 15 sports team compete on a weekly basis including Rugby, Netball, Lacrosse and Hockey.

1432 Sports Memberships sold last year

5 League Winners (Futsal, Women's Tennis, Men's Hockey, Women's Badminton, Mixed Badminton)

2 Cup Runner-Ups (Men's Rugby, Mixed Tennis)

1 Cup Winners (Futsal)

Kingston University Sport partnered this year with City University Sport to hold its traditional annual Varsity, which saw 13 fixtures played. In previous years this has been done with other universities such as Surrey. Friendly matches also take place with local universities including Roehampton and St Mary's.



STUDENTS IN COACHING

Student Coaches leading on the following activities:

- Badminton
- Tennis
- Touch Tennis
- Contemporary Dance
- Football Skills
- Taekwondo
- Disability Boccia

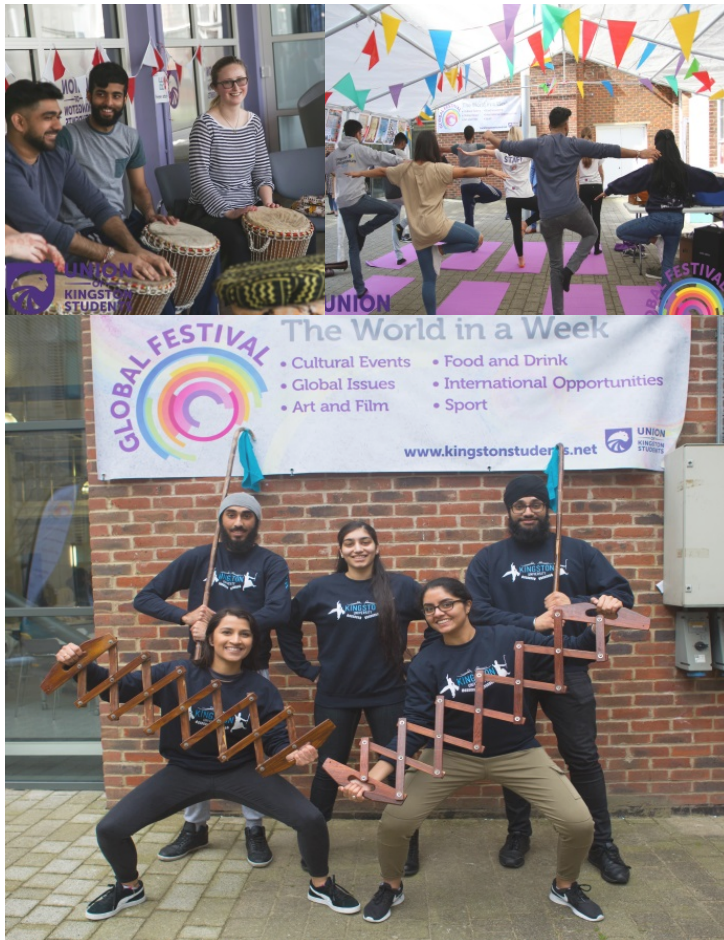
25 Students signed up to Level 1 Coaching Volunteering Programme where they assist more established coaches in the community.



KINGSTON SPORT SUPPORTS OVER 25 PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ATHLETES RANGING FROM DEVELOPMENT LEVEL TO PERFORMANCE LEVEL.

SOCIETIES

The Union supported over 107 societies in 2016/17 and catered for more than 130 guest speakers to come in to enhance events. Societies are split into five key sub-groups being Faith, Academic, Liberation and Campaigns, Cultural and Arts and Activities. Students have the opportunity to significantly boost their employability through involvement in societies, where they participate in elections and undertake committee positions such as President and Treasurer roles which provides them with invaluable experience and skills they can take with them after university.



Just some of the great Society achievements this year:

- ✓ ISoc raising over £26,000 during their Charity Week fundraising.
- ✓ NHSF winning the national Kho Kho championship.
- ✓ Kingston's first ever Enactus team.
- ✓ Kingston's first ever Holi Festival.
- ✓ Punjabi Society placing 5th in Capital Bhangra inter-uni comp.

Global Festival

An annual one week festival celebrating the diverse body of societies at Kingston. Over 80 events this year with more than 60 societies involved.

Highlights included: Djembe Drumming workshop | K-Pop Dance | Have a go at Horse Riding | Bhangra performance | LGBT+ throw a dart at discrimination | Acappella performances | Somali Culture and Theatre night



19,900 STUDENTS



1500
STUDENTS
INVOLVED IN
37
SPORTS

**3000 STUDENTS
INVOLVED IN
OVER 100
SOCIETIES**



**UNION
OF
KINGSTON
STUDENTS**

4

CAMPUSES

**56.2%
FEMALE**



**43.8%
MALE**



53.5
%

UNDER 21

46.5
%

OVER 21

80.8
%

UNDER-GRAD

19.2
%

POST-GRAD

12.7
%

INTERNATIONAL

A TRULY DIVERSE STUDENT BODY

2016/17 Infographic.

FRESHERS

Freshers Fayre

Welcoming our new students with a huge Freshers' Fayre involving societies, sports clubs, local businesses and the University. Attendance exceeded 3,000 students. For the first time this took place at Kingston Hill campus which allowed even more space for the fayre to be even bigger and better!



1859 Freshers' tickets sold
36 Commercial stalls
7 University stalls
35 Sports Club stalls
81 Society stalls
3000 Goodie bags
51 Student staff (100% job satisfaction rate)
88% of Students engaged were first years

Community

Developed relationships with various local businesses, charities and museums including Nandos, Wagamamas, Dominoes, PRYZM, Hippodrome, Viper Rooms, the Rose theatre, Transport for London, GOALS, Premier Cars, Premier Laser Clinic, Bentalls, Rotunda, Waterstones, the Lubavitch Foundation, Oxygen, Achieving for Children and STA Travels.



FACEBOOK



Union of Kingston Students
6431 likes

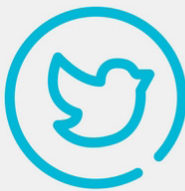
Kingston University Sport
3795 likes

INSTAGRAM



@Kingstonstudents
959 followers

TWITTER



@union_kingston
2599 Followers

Statistics from November 2017.

Campaigns, Advice and Volunteering Freshers' Stall

Over 230 students engaged with the Union stall learning about various student opportunities such as setting up and leading a campaign, the advice and appeals service provided by the Union and general networks such as the NUS that students can get involved with. Engagement activities like this have led to a strong Kingston presence within the wider NUS community.

625
Freshers'
Ball
tickets
sold!



STUDENT SURVEY

An online student survey sent out to all KU students asking for their views on the Union.

1061 RESPONSES

Males = 31%

Females = 68%

Prefer not to say = 0.85%

Other = 0.60%

Student satisfaction with Union activities **89%**

Union Reception	94%
Fresher's Fayre	93%
Societies	91%
Advice	91%
Student Jobs	91%
Volunteering	90%

66% of the students who have had interaction with the Union feel that it has had an impact on their student experience at Kingston.



Survey responses per campus.

ONE SURVEY AWAY FROM
300 POT NOODLES
OR 85 PINTS. OR 25 PIZZAS.



£300
FOR ONLY A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME

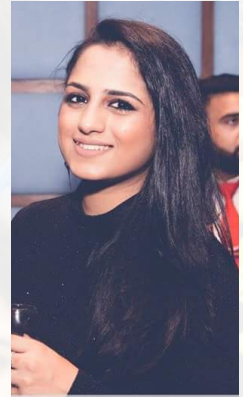
Help shape the future of your students' union.
Share your thoughts in our simple online
survey for a chance to win **£300**

Example advertisement from the student survey.

STUDENT CASE STUDIES

Saniya Sajjan

Through my four years as a student, I was the secretary of the Indian Society, the president of Kingston Entrepreneurs and Finance Society and in my postgraduate year I was the president of Kingston Entrepreneurs and Finance Society. I have also worked for the Union with the representative team organising the student led learning and teaching awards, which takes place annually. I like that the students are able to go to someone in the union and talk about the issues they may be facing in their academic life so it is not just about societies but also about welfare and education. Working in the union and being part of societies has definitely made me very professional and I have excelled in many skills by being involved within the union. So far, the highlight within the Union would be the society awards 2017 where I won 5 awards for Kingston Entrepreneurs and Finance Society. This was a very proud moment for my committee and these are the events and moments that I will always remember.



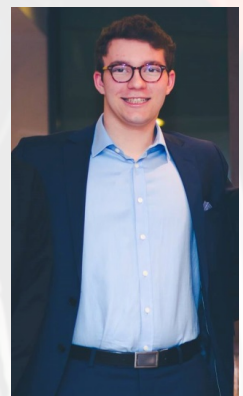
Joshua Wells

During my time at university, I have been both the Vice President of the Pharmacy Society and Captain of the Trampolining society. The staff team at the Union are absolutely fantastic and have provided so much support during my time on both society committees. Being involved with the Union has provided me with the opportunity to run two societies, one academic and one sport. This has positively reflected on my experience at university and on my CV which in turn has helped with my development and career prospects when compared to other graduates. I think the highlight for me has been with Pharmacy Society where we started with only 4 paying members and revitalising it with the support of the union to have at the end of the year over 200 members with a large percentage of them joining us for the end of year KUPSA ball that we organised.



Jens Christian Nielson De Berard

I have been involved heavily with the Union joining numerous societies and sports clubs such as the Yoga Society, American Football, Lacrosse, and Snow Sports. As well as being a member, I have also taken on committee roles such as being elected Finance Officer for American football in my 2nd year where I helped raise over 3k for the team. I've also taken on various job roles at the Union such as being a Freshers' Angel and Helpdesk Assistant which I really enjoy. I was also elected as student trustee in my second year which was a great eye opener into what happens in the background of the Union. I love that students are involved and are trying to help the Union become a better place. I have learnt a lot about people, managing projects, creating ideas to support the community and working for a better goal. I believe I can use all of my experiences and commitments to make me really employable in the future when applying for jobs.



Student Awards 2016-17

Volunteering Awards

First ever independent Volunteering Awards held by the Union at the Rose Theatre. Celebrated the various achievements through the year:

8 Volunteering Awards
4 Individual Awards
4 Collective Awards

Biggest Contribution to Volunteering Whilst at University - Jessica De Burgh

Best Newcomer to Volunteering - Alex Elsey

Biggest Contribution to Volunteering by a Staff Member - Rita White

Community Placement Volunteer of the Year - Jacob Hamilton

Volunteering Organisation of the Year - Kingston Carers' Network

Biggest Contribution to Volunteering by a Society - ISOC

Student-Led Volunteering Project of the Year - Share the Warmth: Coat Collection for Refugees

Biggest Contribution to Volunteering by a Sports Team - Taekwondo Club

Sports Awards

An annual awards night celebrating the sporting achievements of clubs and individuals here at Kingston. Held at the Holiday Inn Surbiton.

Coach of the Year – Ryan Jones (Gaelic Football)

Sports Women of the Year – Sophie Kamlish (Athletics)

Sports Man of the Year - Will Calnan (Hockey)

Sports Personality of the Year – Sophia Nasif-Whitestone (Cheerleading) and Amy Bowers-Brown (Hockey)

Most Valuable Person – Meg Venables (Women's Rugby)

Team of the Year – FUTSAL

BUCS Club of the Year – Gaelic Football

Championship/Performance Team of the Year – KUDS (Dance)

Recreational Club of the Year – Mountaineering (KUMC)

Overall Club of the Year – Gaelic Football



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Student Led Learning and Teaching Awards

The Learning & Teaching / Student Voice Awards are for students to nominate a member of staff who they feel has changed their university experience for the better or student mentor/course reps who they believe have championed the student voice.

470 Students involved
98 Attendees
11 Student Voice Awards
135 students nominated

11 Teaching Awards
299 academics nominated

Best Project/Dissertation Supervisor Award – Sara Upstone

Most Innovative Lecturer Award – Mark Anderson

The Professional (Non-Teaching) Staff Award – Miriam dos Santos Laranjeira

Senior Course Rep of the Year (Business & Law) – Aditya Tandon

Senior Course Rep of the Year (FADA) – Oliver Lam-Watson

Senior Course Rep of the Year (FASS) – Salem Al Busmait

Senior Course Rep of the Year (HSCE) – Beth Gladden

Senior Course Rep of the Year (SEC) – Ifrah Mussa

Society Awards

The Society Awards are an annual celebration of the key achievements made by student societies through the year. This years theme was Mardi Gras and carnival which made it a spectacular affair.

119 Attendees with 27 Societies represented

119 nominations – both for individuals and full societies

7 Society Awards
10 Individual Awards

Society of the Year 2017 – KEFS

Most Improved Society – KUPSA Society (Pharmacy)
(SHORT LIST: Amnesty International/ KEFS/ KUPSA)

Best New Society: Yoga Society
(SHORT LIST: SKAS/ Cult Media/ Yoga)

Global Festival Society Event of the Year: Somali Society– Culture Night: Play, Performance & Food
(SHORT LIST: SKAS / Somali / Hindu)

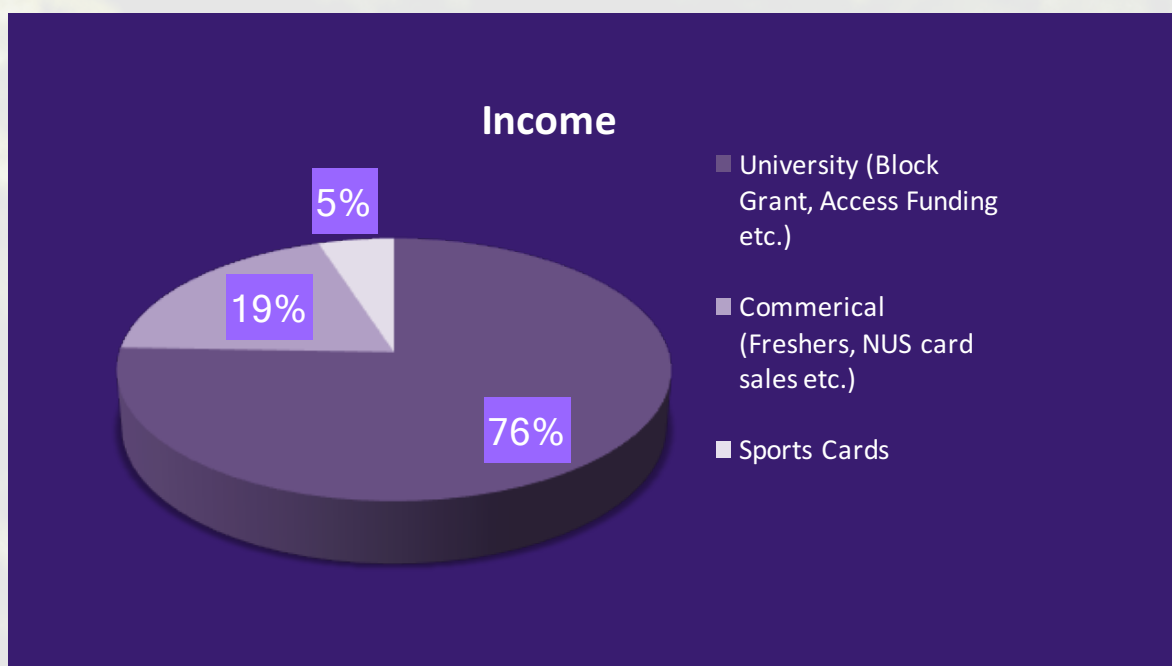
Achievement of the Year: Hindu-NHSF National Kho Kho Competition Winners
(SHORT LIST: ISOC/ Hindu/ Punjabi)

Most Active Society: KEFS (Entrepreneur & Finance)
(SHORT LIST: A Cappella/ ISOC/ KEFS)

Budgets / Finance

The Union of Kingston Students received a Block Grant of £760,000 in the 2016/17 year from Kingston University.

The University also provided Access Funding to support our Black History Month campaigns as well as hiring a full time and student staff position. From this, the Union employed a Liberation and Campaigns Project Officer on a full time basis and a Black History Month Assistant on a student staff basis.



Sustainability

NUS Green Impact - VERY GOOD



Union of Kingston Students achieved a VERY GOOD in the NUS Green Impact. This is an initiative to try and create a greener universities through communities, campuses and curriculum. The NUS provide a criteria with different changes we can make from printing double-sided to developing food waste reducing strategies. The more of these that are achieved, the higher placing of the award. It's a brilliant achievement for the Union.



Vision for the Future

With two new officers being elected and two returning officers being re-elected, we have a strong base of experience and fresh ideas for the coming year. We are looking forward to another busy and successful year and will particularly be focusing on improving our student reach to provide as many KU students with a positive Union impact.



**Patrick Tatarian Re-elected Roehampton
Vale Officer Lead on Union Development.**

WELCOME TO THE



UNION
— OF —
KINGSTON
STUDENTS

WE SUPPORT EMPOWER AND ENRICH

www.kingstonstudents.net

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1144763**

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