

**Kingston  
University**  
London

**TEF**  
2023

Overall: **Gold**

Student experience: **Gold**

Student outcomes: **Gold**

Teaching Excellence Framework

Consistently ranked  
one of the top UK  
higher education  
institutions for  
graduate start-ups  
(HE-BCI Survey)

# What we offer

A guide for businesses  
and employers

[kingston.ac.uk/services-for-business](https://kingston.ac.uk/services-for-business)

[BusinessServices@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:BusinessServices@kingston.ac.uk)

The Town House building

# Why work with us?

**Kingston University can help support and transform your business or organisation. We collaborate with companies at all stages of growth, including start-ups, SMEs and large corporates. We have experience working with a wide range of industries and in both the private and public sectors. This guide outlines the different ways in which businesses, organisations and individuals can work and engage with Kingston University.**

## A sought-after university

Our mission is to enhance the life chances of students, support the ambitions of staff and strengthen the university's impact on our locality, industry, policy and associated professions, to enable a sustainable future – socially, economically and environmentally.

We aim to be a university that is sought after by businesses, organisations and government bodies that seek to partner with us for our approach, expertise and values.

## Championing Future Skills

Kingston University is highlighting the urgent need for Future Skills to be embedded across higher education.

Our sector-leading campaign championing Future Skills – the skills for innovation vital to drive a thriving economy – is supported by major global brands. The campaign has also attracted widespread support from parliamentarians and policy makers, including senior government Ministers.

We are the first higher education provider in the UK to embed Future Skills teaching across all undergraduate courses to equip students with the skills businesses have said are essential to sustaining long-term economic success.

Our latest report, Future Skills: The Kingston Approach, was launched at an event at the Houses of Parliament in London. The report emphasises the economic imperative for embedding Future Skills across the higher education sector to provide employers with the adaptable and highly skilled workforce they need and to prepare graduates for career success in a rapidly changing, digital-first world.

[kingston.ac.uk/futureskills](https://kingston.ac.uk/futureskills)



## Driving greater impact through our Knowledge Exchange and Research Institutes

To deliver on our ambitions for research and knowledge exchange, we are introducing four Knowledge Exchange and Research Institutes (KERIs). The KERIs will encourage excellence and collaboration across disciplines, supporting us to embed an even stronger research and knowledge exchange culture across our activity.

The introduction of the four institutes – which span Behaviour, Business and Policy; Cyber, Engineering and Digital Technologies; Design, Arts and Creative Practice; and Health, Education and Society – will increase our impact on industry, policy and the professions. They will enable us to bring together and apply our expertise and innovation to address existing and emerging issues across society. If you would like to find out more about how to work with us, please email:

[KERIs@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:KERIs@kingston.ac.uk)



### We have a strong track record for supporting businesses and organisations to achieve their targets

- We offer a flexible, tailored approach to your business needs
- Our expertise, knowledge, research and resources can help innovate and grow your business



### Our rankings nationally and globally speak for themselves

- Top five university in London in 24 subject areas (Guardian League Tables 2025)
- Part of an elite group of 26 higher education providers awarded Gold ratings in all three categories of the latest Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)



### Our students and graduates are renowned for their academic achievements, employability and innovation

- They are job-ready, equipped with the knowledge and abilities that employers need, such as digital aptitude, people management and reasoning skills, emotional intelligence, innovation and entrepreneurial drive
- Innovation extends into all areas of learning, to help develop an enterprising mind-set that is crucial for employers



### We have strong links with business and industry

- Our faculties and courses are closely aligned with industry
- Many of our academic staff are practitioners in their field
- Our students work on live projects and business challenges in collaboration with industry partners



### Recognition and accreditation by leading professional industry bodies

- Including the Institute of Biomedical Science, Chartered Institute of IT, Chartered Institute of Marketing, Association of MBAs, Nursing and Midwifery Council, Royal Institute of British Architects and Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
- Small Business Charter accreditation recognises our role in supporting small businesses, local economies and student entrepreneurship



### Many of our academics and students are undertaking cutting-edge research, leading to benefits for society and business and industry

- 70% of the University's research submission was rated as world-leading or internationally excellent in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework
- Kingston University research is making important contributions to public life across the globe, responding to the major scientific and intellectual challenges of today



### Equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of what we do

- Our diverse student and academic communities are reflected in our inclusive approach
- We hold an Athena SWAN bronze award reflecting our commitment to supporting and transforming gender equality within higher education and research
- Awarded a Bronze Race Equality Charter Mark which recognises the University's ongoing commitment and action to improve race equity for staff and students
- 140+ countries represented on campus



### Strong track record in supporting business start-ups

- Consistently ranked as one of the top higher education institutions in the UK for graduate start-ups (HE-BCI Survey).



# What we offer

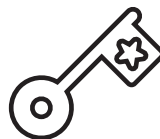
## Direct support

- Train and develop your employees
- Apply for valuable government grants to fund R&D
- Grow your company



## Unique access

- Future talent for your organisation
- Academic experts and problem-solvers
- Specialist testing equipment and facilities
- Valuable business networks



# Our services and support

## Find out more

Visit our website:  
[kingston.ac.uk/services-for-business](https://kingston.ac.uk/services-for-business)

Email us:  
[BusinessServices@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:BusinessServices@kingston.ac.uk)

## Research and consultancy

Businesses can access research through contract research, PhD or Master's studentships, and government-funded Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) projects, as well as other grants schemes that can cover business costs. Our academics can also act as consultants for your business, to help solve business challenges and provide deeper knowledge and insight into a particular topic. Consultancy projects can last for as little as a day or two or for longer periods.

[Find out more](#)

## Seedcorn funding

The University also offers Seedcorn funding to support innovative projects undertaken by academics in partnership with a business or organisation. Through the scheme, you could gain access to valuable academic expertise, research, facilities or equipment that could help progress a business idea, address a challenge and potentially lead to further funding. Awards are granted through a competitive application process.

## Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)

KTPs are partially government-funded. They enable businesses to harness the expert knowledge, technology and research of universities to help improve their processes and products via innovative projects. If you face a strategic challenge which is central to the development of your business, a KTP could offer a solution. Businesses typically achieve significantly increased growth in turnover and profitability, as well as the creation of new jobs, following participation in a KTP.

[Find out more](#)

## Commercialisation and intellectual property

We have a strong portfolio of technologies, inventions and discoveries to license, as well as access to a wide network of funders, inventors and entrepreneurs, and are experienced in taking research findings and working with businesses to turn them into commercial realities. We provide advice on intellectual property protection, including patents and arranging license deals and spin-out opportunities.

[Find out more](#)

## Specialist facilities

We have heavily invested in state-of-the-art specialist laboratories, studios and workshops, all of which can be hired for concept testing, product development, research, creative ventures, and more. Facilities are fitted out with cutting-edge professional-grade equipment and technical expertise is available from expert technicians who can support you in our spaces.

[Find out more](#)

## Higher and degree apprenticeships

Higher and degree apprenticeships are designed in partnership with employers to ensure that learners develop skills and knowledge relevant to your business needs. Funding is generated through the apprenticeship levy and allows larger employers to use their contribution to pay for professional training within their organisation. Higher and degree apprenticeships are available to SMEs by co-investment.

Participation in the scheme demonstrates a clear commitment to staff development – benchmarked against professional standards, it can support talent management and staff retention initiatives.

[Find out more](#)

### Training and professional development

We are a leading provider of professional development courses across all industries and subjects, including tailor-made business, management and leadership programmes, and summer schools. All programmes can be adapted to meet your needs, such as venue (including online options) and the number and length of course sessions.

[Find out more](#)

### Access to business networks and support for SMEs

We play a pivotal role in encouraging economic development through our work with SMEs across the region and beyond. We can support a range of businesses, from early-stage start-ups to those looking to bring innovation and growth to their business. Many of our schemes are subsidised by the government and we have a high success rate in securing funding. We can support SMEs with access to academic expertise and student talent, training and development, for example through our [Help to Grow management programme](#), funding applications and signposting to partner organisation programmes, such as the Chamber of Commerce and local councils.

[Find out more](#)



### Student and graduate recruitment

Through our [Future Skills](#) initiative our students gain the professional and technical skills employers need. Students are work-ready with the motivation and capability to enhance your business. They are encouraged to think creatively, solve problems and work as a team, thereby equipping them well for the workplace of the future. Businesses can engage through extracurricular and in-curricular activities, including our Future Skills modules, to build your early careers brand with Kingston University students. Our targeted approach means you can directly engage with students from courses that suit your recruitment needs – whether for [placements](#), [internships](#) or [graduate roles](#). This can be through our [Careers Festival](#), free jobs advertising platform, pop-up stands, information sessions and guest speaking opportunities. You can also partner on our award-winning [ELEVATE programme](#) to support Black home students to explore career paths and gain the right skills to succeed.

[Find out more](#)



### Student hackathons

Hackathons are problem-solving workshops facilitated by academic experts. Students work in multi-disciplinary teams to solve defined challenges for public, private and third-sector organisations. Solutions might include new or improved products and services. We design and host hackathons in partnership with challenge-sponsors, offering an intensive co-operative experience between industry partners, students and academics. Kingston is also consistently rated as one of the most successful universities in the UK for graduate start-up companies.

[Find out more](#)

### Student mentoring, sponsorship and corporate social responsibility (CSR) opportunities

Why not give something back by sharing your knowledge and experience by supporting a Kingston University student? You could mentor a student through our pioneering [Beyond Barriers scheme](#), support scholarships and bursaries or provide internship opportunities to support CSR objectives.

#### Find out more

Visit our website:

[kingston.ac.uk/services-for-business](http://kingston.ac.uk/services-for-business)

Email us:

[BusinessServices@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:BusinessServices@kingston.ac.uk)





## Find out more

[kingston.ac.uk/services-for-business](http://kingston.ac.uk/services-for-business)

[kingston.ac.uk/futureskills](http://kingston.ac.uk/futureskills)

## Contact us

[BusinessServices@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:BusinessServices@kingston.ac.uk)

Follow Kingston  
University Business  
Engagement and  
Innovation on  
LinkedIn



## Location

Kingston University is located in southwest London which means we benefit from excellent transport links and close proximity to central London. We are well positioned to support business and industry across the region and further afield.

