Kingston University London

Knowledge Exchange and Research Institutes

Driving innovation through research and knowledge exchange

Introduction

Kingston University London is a forward-thinking institution with a rising global reputation, powered by our pioneering Future Skills agenda. Developed in collaboration with leading businesses, our approach ensures graduates leave equipped with the essential life skills most valued by industry to prepare them for career success.

This is underpinned by our Gold rating in the UK's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and our values as an ambitious, inclusive, innovative and enterprising organisation.

At the heart of our innovation through the Town House Strategy are our four Knowledge Exchange and Research Institutes (KERIs), where we tackle key societal challenges through cutting-edge research and collaboration. Together, we're driving positive change, growing our impact, and enhancing the visibility of our work on a national and global scale.

Our four KERIs are:

Behaviour, Business and Policy

Cyber, Engineering and Digital Technologies

Design, Arts and Creative Practice

Health, Education and Society

At their core, the KERIs are about connections – linking researchers, communities, and industries across disciplines. They make it easier for people and organisations to access our expertise and work with us on innovative projects focused around addressing societal challenges. This collaborative model helps us respond more swiftly to new opportunities in an increasingly interconnected world.

The KERIs do not work in isolation. In a world shaped by geopolitical uncertainty, rapid technological advancement and the impacts of climate change, interdisciplinary collaboration is essential to building resilient, forward-thinking solutions. That's why the KERIs are bringing together experts from diverse disciplines to collaboratively tackle complex issues by crafting and delivering forward-thinking solutions through our core cross-KERI themes:

- Building a safer and more secure world
- Towards a sustainable environment
- Improving health, wellbeing, and inclusion
- Positively shaping the future of work

Strategic opportunities

Some 70 per cent of Kingston University's research was rated as world-leading or internationally excellent in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF). Our strong track record in knowledge exchange also drives innovation, enabling businesses to access academic expertise, unlock new ideas, and accelerate their growth.

The University has a proven track record in research and knowledge exchange. By partnering with Kingston University, organisations can explore joint ventures in investment, innovation and research – driving sustainable growth and entrepreneurial thinking in ways that shape both the business landscape and the future of society.

We are also committed to increasing and enhancing our knowledge exchange activity. Longstanding relationships and impactful collaborations are central to this approach. They enable us to share expertise and ideas with a range of businesses and organisations and make a positive difference to society.

Our expertise in these areas was recognised in the 2025 Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) which assessed the University as having very high or high engagement in continuing professional development (CPD) and graduate start-ups, public and community engagement and working with business. The University also maintained its KEF position in the areas of research partnerships, local growth and regeneration, and working with the public and third sector.

Through knowledge transfer partnerships (KTPs), the University works with a range of companies to help them innovate, solve problems, and enhance their economic and social impact. Our expertise and ability to deliver has been recognised by the KTP Grading Panel, which awarded us the highest possible rating of Outstanding for a recent project.

Work with us

Research collaboration

The University engages in research collaboration with a variety of partners by accessing funding available through external competitions. We receive funding from many sources including:

- UK Research and Innovation which brings together seven disciplinary research councils
- Research England and Innovate UK (the UK's innovation agency)
- UK Government funding, such as National Institute for Health and Care Research and the Defence and Security Accelerator
- European Commission, NATO and International Research Councils
- Charities such as Wellcome and the Leverhulme Trust.

Seedcorn funding

The University also offers seedcorn funding to support innovative projects undertaken by academics in partnership with business or third-sector organisations. There is also the potential to gain access to valuable academic expertise and research, first-class facilities and 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.

Contract research and consultancy

In addition to accessing collaborative R&D funding, including Innovate UK grants that can offset business costs, companies can also commission tailored research directly from Kingston University. Our academics work as expert consultants, helping organisations solve complex challenges, unlock new opportunities, and gain deeper insight into specific topics. Consultancy support is flexible, ranging from short, focused engagements to longer-term strategic partnerships, and can be delivered across a wide range of disciplines and sectors.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are part-funded by the UK government and offer a powerful way for businesses to tap into the expertise, technology, and research strengths of universities. Designed to support innovation and strategic growth, KTPs help companies improve processes, develop new products or services, and drive competitive advantage through collaborative projects.

If your business faces a core strategic challenge, a KTP could provide the solution. Companies that engage in KTPs often report significant growth in revenue and profitability, along with the creation of new jobs.

Commercialisation and intellectual property

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

Specialist facilities

Whether you are developing a new product, need to test a prototype and measure results, or want to stage a conference or key meeting, we can help. We have invested in creating state-of-the-art specialist laboratories, studios and workshops, all of which are available for hire for concept testing, product development, research, creative ventures, and more. Our facilities are fitted out with cutting-edge professional-grade equipment and technical expertise is available from expert technicians who can support while on site.

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.

Access to business networks and support for SMEs

We play a pivotal role in encouraging economic development through our work with SMEs across the UK 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, our Help to Grow management programme, funding applications and signposting to partner organisation programmes, such as the Kingston Chamber of Commerce and local councils.

Hackathons

Supporting your next step innovative solution, hackathons are problem-solving workshops facilitated by academic experts. Multi-disciplinary teams comprised of academics, students and research assistants work 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. We are consistently rated as one of the most successful universities in the UK for graduate start-up companies.

Facilities

The University offers a range of world-class training and research facilities some of which are highlighted below.

Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Education

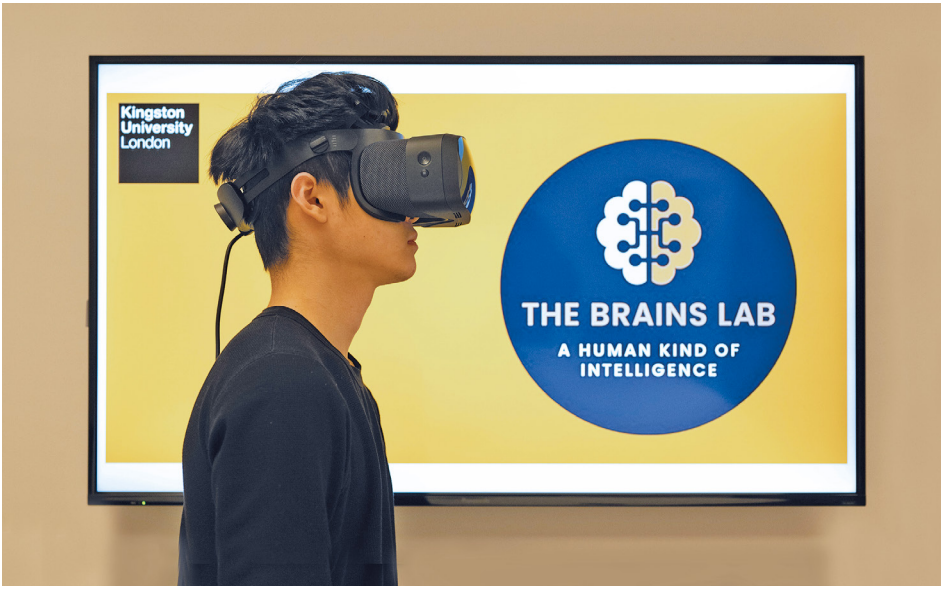
Kingston University is recognised as an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Education (ACE-CSE) by the National Cyber Security Centre, part of GCHQ – a distinction shared by only 15 other UK universities. As part of its commitment to advancing cyber security, the Centre provides specialised training programmes for business leaders and senior managers.

Robotics Lab

The new Robotics lab at the University's Roehampton Vale campus opened in June 2025. It is equipped with a diverse and advanced set of robots designed for education, research, and knowledge exchange. The humanoid robot line-up includes the agile Unitree H1 and compact Unitree G1, both known for their dynamic movement capabilities. The lab also features NAO and Pepper, versatile social robots ideal for human-robot interaction studies. Complementing them are the Unitree B2 and GO2 quadruped robots, offering high mobility and autonomy for navigation and terrain exploration. For industrial automation and collaborative tasks, the lab houses industry-standard robotic arms, and the Franka Emika R3 collaborative robots, known for their precision, safety, and ease of programming in human-shared environments.

Kingston Analytical Services Toxicology (KAST) Forensics

KAST specialises in the testing of samples for the analysis of alcohol, cannabis, and cocaine. Equipped with



a comprehensive suite of advanced analytical instruments, it delivers a full spectrum of independent and innovative toxicology testing services to members of the public, private companies, and police forces along with legal and criminal justice organisations throughout the UK and Europe.

KAST is an ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited testing laboratory. In addition, UK Accreditation Service has recently certified our compliance with the Forensic Science Regulator's Code of Practice. It is one of seven Forensic Toxicology laboratories with accreditation in the UK.

The BRAINS Lab

The BRAINS Lab (Behavioural Research Analytics in Neurotechnological Systems) is a leader in behavioural science and neurotechnology research. Kingston University pioneers studies in decision-making, AI ethics and user experience, addressing critical social challenges and setting a sustainable digital future.

Our state-of-the-art facility includes:

- Observation suite: Generating behavioural insights using biosensors
- VR Suite: Observing behaviour in virtual settings
- Gaze and emotion tracking pod: Real-time emotion tracking for deeper insights into attention, engagement and emotional reactions
- Networked computer suite: Conducting behavioural economic research

Eyelink eyetracker lab

The Eyelink eyetracker lab contains the Eyelink 1000 Plus eyetracker, which provides millisecond-level precision in tracking eye movements. This facility supports research into attention, reading, decision-making, and visual processing. The lab enables controlled experiments with high-resolution data capture, making it ideal for both basic cognitive studies and applied psychological research.

Observation suite and VR headset

The observation suite features a dedicated control room and a comfortable testing space, equipped with cameras positioned at multiple angles. This facility enables detailed recording and analysis of behavioural experiments. Researchers can observe in real time and conduct coding using Observer XT and face recognition software, supporting comprehensive behavioural research.

Integrated research and teaching laboratory

Cell Cultures

The Integrated Research and Teaching Laboratory features a state-of-the-art cell culture suite equipped with Thermo Fisher MSC Advantage Class II biological safety cabinets.

The suite also houses an array of high-performance microscopes, including ZenCell Owl live-well imaging system. This enables the full automation and parallelisation of cell cultures workflows, significantly enhancing experimental throughput and reproducibility.

Biochemistry and core facilities
There is a strong focus on Western blotting – utilising predominantly Bio-Rad systems – as well as advanced molecular biology platforms such as the Applied Biosystems Thermal Cycler, EcoPCR Max, GSTORM PCR, Techne Prime Pro+ PCR, and the Agilent Technologies Stratagene Mx3005P. These instruments are employed to perform Polymerase Chain Reaction, a foundational technique in molecular biology used to selectively amplify specific DNA sequences with high precision and sensitivity.

Supporting protein analysis workflows, the laboratory is outfitted with the LI-COR Odyssey CLx infrared imaging system, enabling rapid and quantitative assessment of Western blot results through high-resolution gel imaging. A significant enhancement to our analytical capabilities is the BD FACSCanto II flow cytometer that allows for multiparametric analysis of the physical and chemical characteristics of cells or particles.

For interdisciplinary research there is a CreatBot, a high-performance Fused Deposition Modelling 3D printer designed for precision prototyping and fabrication using a wide range of engineering-grade materials. Also available is the Cellink BIO X, a next-generation extrusion-based 3D bioprinter engineered for complex biological applications – the BIO X enables researchers to fabricate tissue models suitable for direct integration into cell culture studies.

The Applied Biosystems SeqStudio Genetic Analyzer is a compact, fully integrated capillary electrophoresis system that facilitates both Sanger sequencing and fragment analysis within a single streamlined

workflow. This system enables comprehensive genetic profiling, making it an indispensable tool for applications ranging from mutation detection to CRISPR validation and microsatellite analysis.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance laboratories

Kingston University has invested in Bruker Avance NEO 600MHz and 400MHz NMR spectrometers with Broadband, iProbes. This has resulted in externally funded research into the development of novel NMR pulse sequences and NMR methodologies for complex mixture and formulation analysis. Advanced solution NMR methodologies developed on KU's 600MHZ Bruker Avance Neo with BB iProbe include ^{19}F-^{1}H HOESY, ES-PSYCHE, ^{19}F qNMR, heteronuclear DOSY and quantitative ^{119}Sn NMR. These have been developed and implemented by the Le Gresley Group at Kingston University and have provided critical insights into stability, efficacy and molecular interactions. This has been complimented by the application of Solid State NMR (Bruker CPMAS III) in characterising gels and powders using ^{119}Sn(^{19}F) CPMAS and ^{31}P and ^{19}F experiments.

Stanley Picker Gallery

Established in 1997 and forming part of the Arts Council England National Portfolio, the Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston University operates as an 'expanded studio', commissioning innovative new work through its

Débora Delmar 'Trust' (2025) Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston University. Photo: Reece Straw.

Dorich House Museum, Kingston University. Photo: Ellie Laycock.

renowned Stanley Picker Fellowship programme, staging exhibitions, projects and events. Fostering research and collaboration in the arts, it connects artists, designers, academics, and students, and promotes community engagement through its diverse programme of education and outreach initiatives.

Dorich House Museum

Dorich House Museum at Kingston University is the former studio home of the sculptor Dora Gordine and houses a collection of her bronzes, paintings, and drawings, along with Russian decorative arts collected by her husband Richard Hare. Designed by Gordine in 1935, Dorich House was restored by Kingston University in 1996 and became a museum in 2004. The museum is a member of the international Iconic Houses Network, supports research, learning and teaching at Kingston University, and runs a programme of public exhibitions, projects, and community events.

Contact us

For more details, reach out via

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