Kingston University London

Kingston Business School

Kingston Business School Advisory Board Members

Kingston Business School Strategic Advisory Board

The Kingston Business School Advisory Board plays a central role in supporting the School's ambition to be rooted in Kingston, rising globally and impact driven. Drawing on senior leaders from business, public and third-sector organisations, the Board brings external insight, challenge and connectivity to our strategic direction.

Working in partnership with the Head of School and the School Management Group, the Board provides strategic advice to ensure alignment with our mission and the priorities of the Town House Strategy, particularly across education, research, partnerships and societal impact.

The Board helps ensure that our programmes remain relevant and future-focused, our research delivers meaningful impact, and our engagement with employers and communities strengthens both student outcomes and regional and global contribution. It also acts as a critical friend, offering informed challenge and supporting the School in sharpening its distinctiveness in an increasingly competitive environment.

Through this collaboration, the Advisory Board enhances our ability to deliver human-centred business education, strengthen industry and civic partnerships, and develop graduates equipped with the future skills needed to lead and create sustainable value in a complex world.

Professor Sankar Sivarajah
Head of Kingston Business School &
Professor of Technology Management & Circular Economy

Frank Bostyn - Chair of the Advisory Board

Frank Bostyn is Emeritus Professor of Management at University of Antwerp. He holds a PhD in Economics from Ghent University, an MBA from Wharton School, and completed advanced studies at Harvard University.

He has held senior leadership roles in international higher education, including Founding Dean and Directeur Général of NEOMA Business School, Dean of EBS Paris, and Dean of the College of Business and Economics at United Arab Emirates University. He also served as Dean of Antwerp Management School and Vice-Dean at the University of Antwerp.

In addition to his academic career, he has extensive experience as a consultant and policy advisor in transition economies, with engagements in Uzbekistan, Poland, Kyrgyzstan, Romania and Ukraine. He has also advised senior government officials in Belgium and served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Flemish Vice-Minister-President. He is currently Government Commissioner for the Flemish public broadcasting organisation VRT.

Professor Bostyn brings extensive international governance and board-level experience across Europe and the United States.

Sarah Clay

Sarah Clay is the Founder and CEO of Voices of Hope, a charity she established in 2019 to address the intersection of health, inequality and community wellbeing through creative, preventative and trauma-informed approaches. With a background as a musician and educator, she brings a distinctive perspective on the role of the arts in improving physical and mental health and strengthening communities.

Under Sarah's leadership, Voices of Hope has developed a distinctive, integrated model supporting women, children and families facing domestic abuse, poverty, trauma and social isolation. The organisation's work centres on three core areas: specialist Women's Hubs providing trauma-informed, wraparound support; children's health and wellbeing through BRITE Box and the Big Breathing Adventure, innovative programmes addressing food insecurity and family wellbeing; and creative arts for wellbeing, using music and creative arts-based interventions to support recovery and resilience.

Over the past five years, she has led significant organisational growth, with Voices of Hope now supporting thousands of individuals each week and working in close partnership with local authorities, health systems and academic institutions, including Kingston University, to deliver and evaluate impact. Sarah is particularly passionate about shaping systems that move people from crisis to long-term recovery, ensuring lived experience informs strategy, and creating environments where individuals can rebuild confidence, connection and agency as part of sustainable change.

Oriele Frank

Oriele Frank is one of the co-founders of ELEMIS. Unwavering in her passion for developing ELEMIS, Oriele worked across sales, brand, marketing, NPD and formulations. Working for over 33 years, Oriele worked in partnership with 4 different types of owners, privately owned, Steiner Leisure Group NASDAQ US, US Private Equity L Catterton and Group L'Occitane.

She became Managing Director, before studying and qualifying in a new role as Chief Product & Sustainability Officer. She was the driving force in achieving B Corp status, advocating that business can be 'a force for good', whilst still growing and remaining profitable.

She is an award-winning business leader and industry speaker in brand development, product innovation and sustainability. Oriele was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in January 2024 by Kingston University in recognition of her outstanding contribution to business and marketing. Most recently she was awarded by CEW US (Cosmetic Executive Women) the Innovators Award for her significant contribution to sustainability.

In 2026, she moved on from ELEMIS to champion new opportunities, leveraging her personal experience to advise, mentor, and inspire brands and entrepreneurs on their own brand journeys. Oriele continues her board role at CEW and the Sustainable Beauty Coalition Co-Chair role at the British Beauty Council.

Sean Gillen

Sean Gillen brings 25 years of public sector experience, most recently in economic development. This includes hands-on policy and strategy development to help support a productive business environment longer-term, alongside working closely with business on issues as diverse as high street evolution; workspace provision; the green economy; start-up, growth and innovation. Particular areas of interest include the role of industrial areas in our communities, tourism and the visitor economy, and delivery through partnership approaches.

The skills and employment agenda is an increasingly significant aspect of Sean's work as the economy and our communities evolve in response to new opportunities and challenges.

Despite some dubious early career choices, Sean eventually attended university as a mature student, studying applied social sciences in Plymouth and Lancaster, following this with a Diploma in Management Studies at Kingston Business School.

Russell Horton

Russell Horton is a chairman and board advisor specialising in scaling private equity and debt fund backed technology, cyber security and managed services businesses.

With over 30 years' experience in telecoms and IT, he has led buy-and-build strategies, M&A integrations and high-performing leadership teams, most recently as CEO of FluidOne, growing it from £26m to £110m revenue with multiple acquisitions and national recognition for innovation and customer service.

A Kingston University Accounting and Finance alumnus, Russell now holds several chair and advisory roles and sits on Kingston Business School's advisory panel, helping keep its curriculum aligned to modern industry needs.

Gurman Hundal

Entrepreneur and tech visionary Gurman Hundal is the Co founder and Global CEO of MiQ, the programmatic media partner helping the world's leading brands and agencies turn data into better marketing outcomes.

Since launching MiQ in 2010 to bring more strategic intelligence to programmatic, he has scaled the company from a London start up to a global business across EMEA, North America, APAC and LatAm.

Gurman also led the creation of Sigma, MiQ's AI-powered technology unifying the fragmented programmatic ecosystem, and is recognized for pairing big picture vision with hands-on product leadership in partnership with holding companies, independent agencies, brands, and the largest adtech platforms in the industry.

Forbes Low

Forbes Low is the CEO of the Kingston Chamber of Commerce and represents the local business community on all matters across the borough. He has a long history with the Chamber, he joined as a member in 2009, later becoming a Director and then President. Forbes took up the role of Chief Executive in April 2019.

Forbes grew up locally and is a former Kingston Grammar School pupil. He is also a graphic designer and has run his own business, Forbes Design Associates since 1998. Last year, he passed his CMC Registered Training as a Civil and Commercial Mediator.

Christian McBride MBE

Christian McBride is the founder of Genuine Solutions Group – a company he started as a young entrepreneur with some friends back in 2005. Today the company has recycled and distributed almost 100 million units of product and serves over 1000 customers across 51 countries and this success has culminated in the prestigious Queens Award for Enterprise as well as the Sunday Times Fast Track and many global green awards.

With a vision to protect the planet from the harmful effects of technology, the Group, which operates under the brands Genuine Solutions and Relove Technology, is a multi-award-winning enterprise which specialises in the re-use and re-cycling of consumer tech, mobile phones and accessories.

Christian has received many accolades including being recognised for his contributions to his local community with the ‘Mayors Community’ Award and most recently an MBE for his contributions to business.

Christian’s business style mixes a strong entrepreneurial sense with a commitment to the community by supporting local services and working with community groups and charities. Having been touched by success as well as personal challenges, Chris believes passionately in protecting the planet and paying forward for the future which is why he is an instrumental figure in tackling issues such as homelessness, unemployment, and youth skills development.

Kirsten Henly

Kirsten Henly is the Chief Executive of Kingston First, the first business improvement district established in the UK. Kirsten joined Kingston First in 2016 and has worked with business improvement districts and town and city centre management models for 16 years. She was a member of The BID Foundation's Council (now part of the Association of Town and City Management), is a Beyond Barriers mentor at Kingston University and has served on not-for-profit boards and committees.

Kirsten is currently a trustee at Kingston Students' Union and has an MBA from Aston University.

Cynthia Mensah

Cynthia Mensah has over 20 years' experience at Barclays.

Spanning a range of roles, she currently looks after the Barclays Innovation Hub Powered by Eagle Labs where she supports start-ups and scale-ups to thrive by building strong partnerships, enabling collaboration, and connecting founders to the resources, networks, and opportunities needed to grow.

Kathryn Rothnie

Kathryn Rothnie has over 20 years experience in the world of discount retail, spanning operations, administration and Human Resources. She is currently Director of Employee Lifecycle and Experience at Lidl GB, with national responsibility for employer brand, talent acquisition, learning, development, talent management, colleague engagement, DE&I and culture.

Kathryn is a history and politics graduate from The University of Warwick, and also holds a Masters Degree in Cold War History from the same institution. She was recently awarded Chartered Membership of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD).

Saba Shaukat

Saba Shaukat graduated in Management Studies from Kingston University and is a pioneering international business and technology executive. She specialises in leveraging frontier technologies and AI to drive transformative change and has deep expertise in transitioning FTSE 250 companies into new phases of growth and profitability.

She currently runs Symbionix AI, specialising in helping businesses with product and service innovation and growth with Data Analytics and AI. Prior to that she led Engagement and Innovation at the Accelerated Capability Environment (ACE), a Home Office–QinetiQ initiative tackling challenges in data insights, deep fakes, economic crime, and emerging tech.

Previously, she was Global Director of Technical Capability and Innovation at QinetiQ plc, leading top scientists and engineers in AI, robotics, cyber, AR, quantum computing, and more.

A Board member of the Royal College of Art (RCA), Saba also served on the regional Board of the Prince's Trust, inspiring disadvantaged youth to win national entrepreneurial awards. She champions science and technology for societal good.

Professor Gary Betts

Gary Betts joined Kingston University in May 2025 as Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences, and is responsible for the strategic, regulatory, and operational performance of the Faculty. He has a particular interest in innovation in teaching and learning, and engaging and authentic assessment practice. A Professor of Law, Gary's research focusses on the interrelationship between sentencing policy and practice and the use of judicial discretion at sentencing. He has written on the courts' application of sentencing guidelines, the relevance of previous convictions on sentencing decisions, and the criminal liability of corporations.

Gary is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He is past Chair of the Education Committee of the Society of Legal Scholars and formerly sat on the Executive of the Committee of Heads of University Law Schools (CHULS).

He is a member of the Society of Legal Scholars, the Socio-legal Studies Association, and Association of Law Teachers.

Professor Sankar Sivarajah

Professor Sankar Sivarajah is Head of Kingston Business School and Professor of Technology Management and Circular Economy at Kingston University London. He joined Kingston in September 2024, having previously served at the University of Bradford as Head of Department from 2017 and later as Dean and Head of the School of Management from 2019. He began his academic career in 2014 as a postdoctoral researcher at Brunel University London.

His teaching and research explore how digital technologies can be applied to create value for business and society. In 2025, he was recognised by Clarivate as a Highly Cited Researcher, placing him among the top 1% of researchers globally by citations in his field. He is also recognised in Stanford University's World's Top 2% Scientists list in the ICT field.

He serves as Deputy Editor of the *Journal of Enterprise Information Management* and has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications. He has led and co-led research, innovation, and consultancy projects worth more than £3 million. These projects span 6G technology impact evaluation, AI innovation strategy, and Smart Cities, funded by leading research bodies and industry partners.

Sankar is a peer reviewer for EFMD and AACSB accreditations, a Council Member and Treasurer of the Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS), and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. These roles offer valuable insight into best practice across business schools and universities in Europe, Asia and the United States.

Victoria Walsh

Victoria Walsh is Head of the Department of Management at Kingston University, leading initiatives that strengthen teaching quality, graduate employability, and the integration of work experience within academic study.

Since joining Kingston in 2016, she has championed experiential learning, industry collaboration, and real world problem solving across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Her teaching spans occupational and business psychology, leadership, and organisational behaviour, with a focus on developing future ready graduates.

A Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Victoria draws on a 20 year industry career experience from roles in consultancy, client service, and marketing for organisations such as Nokia and Unilever to ensure students gain practical, career relevant skills alongside strong academic foundations.

Dr John Sebastian Pereira

Dr John Sebastian Pereira is Associate Professor in Finance and Head of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Informatics at Kingston Business School.

He leads a department delivering five undergraduate and six postgraduate programmes to over 1,100 students, supported by 28 staff. John provides strategic and operational leadership across teaching, research, and knowledge exchange, with accountability for academic quality, student experience, and staff development. His research focuses on risk management, ESG, and non-financial reporting, with publications in leading journals.

He also delivers executive training for organisations including Bank of America, JP Morgan, and Goldman Sachs, and hold CIMA and IMA memberships.

Dr Samar Gad

Dr Samar Gad started teaching at Kingston University in 2022 and has a research focus on emerging market finance, specialising in dynamic portfolio optimisation and spill-over risk in financial systems.

She has published in international finance journals and was named a finalist for the PQ Magazine Lecturer of the Year Award.

She teaches corporate finance and alternative investments across our MBA and executive programmes, bringing practical insights into financial modelling, enterprise valuation, and strategic planning.

As a recognised industry speaker, Dr Gad has presented at leading financial conferences and addressed major banking institutions and professional bodies.

In her role as MBA Director, she leads strategic programme development whilst mentoring professionals across various industries.

Dr Shalini Ramlall

Dr Shalini Ramlall is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Marketing and Head of Department for Strategy, Marketing and Innovation. She has over 14 years of experience in higher education, specialising in digital marketing areas such as SEO, PPC, web analytics and conversion optimisation.

Her academic expertise is underpinned by extensive industry experience, beginning in software engineering and progressing into web design and digital marketing, where she developed strong capabilities in data-driven campaigns, user experience, and performance optimisation.

Shalini holds a PhD in Digital Marketing and is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She is committed to practice-led teaching, industry collaboration, and developing future-ready graduates.

Dr Becky Lees

Dr Becky Lees is School Director of Learning and Teaching at Kingston Business School and an Associate Professor. A Kingston alumna, she returned as a member of staff in 2000 and has since held a range of academic leadership, course management, and quality assurance roles. She has taught quantitative methods, management science, and information management, and was previously the Head of Department for Accounting, Finance and Informatics, as well as School Lead for Assurance of Learning.

Becky holds a PhD in Educational Research from Lancaster University. Her research focuses on higher education pedagogy, particularly the student journey, assessment, and employability. She has a strong interest in enhancing programme learning outcomes and developing collaborative, coherent approaches to assessment.

She is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a University Teaching Fellow, and a Certified Management and Business Educator.

Professor Christina Butler

Christina Butler is a Professor of Management and School Director of Research and Enterprise. Her research centres on multinational team performance, careers of young graduates, and wellbeing issues in global work. She has long-standing research collaborations with colleagues located across the Nordic region, Ireland, Netherlands and the UK.

Christina brings research-led learning into the classroom through innovative curriculum development such as live case studies which encourages awareness of and preparedness for the world of work in the 21st century. She has worked in Higher Education for more than 25 years in Finland, France, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

Paula Neal

Paula Neal is the Operations Manager for the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences (FBSS) at Kingston University, where she oversees operational and administration delivery.

Her career spans the public and private sectors as well as higher education, with a strong foundation in people centred research and innovation working for leading technology corporations and consultancy. Prior to joining Kingston University, she worked in local government, focusing on the education and skills ecosystem required to drive future economic and social prosperity.

As Chair of the Faculty's Athena Swan initiative, Paula is a committed advocate for gender equity in the workplace and champions initiatives that support and empower female founders and leaders.

Annamaria Williams

Annamaria Williams is the Faculty Accreditations Manager and a senior professional services leader with over 20 years' experience in UK Higher Education, specialising in quality assurance, enhancement, and accreditation within Business Schools. She has led complex national and international accreditation activity, supporting institutional performance, reputation, and global engagement.

Anna brings a structured, detail-driven and collaborative approach, with a strong focus on organisation, planning, and delivering clear, professional processes that enable others to work effectively. She take particular satisfaction in improving clarity, enhancing efficiency, and supporting colleagues through high-quality, well-executed delivery.

Lauren McCaffrey

Lauren McCaffrey is Faculty Executive Support and the Personal Assistant to Professor Sankar Sivarajah at Kingston Business School. In this role, she also provides administrative support to the Kingston Business School (KBS) Advisory Board. She works closely with the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences leadership team to support the smooth running of the faculty.

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Kingston Business School Faculty Support
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