

# Kingston University

Kingston University is the largest higher education provider in South West London, with nearly 21,000 students enrolled on full and part-time courses. Its four campuses are located within a 4-mile radius of the Kingston upon Thames town centre, which is 25 min from central London.

Kingston University consistently ranks among the top institutions for student applications, is a growing force in research and a pioneer in entrepreneurship and e-learning.

Offering a comprehensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes, Kingston University provides students with a choice of subjects reflecting their interests and the needs of industry. It is committed to opening up higher education to the whole community and encouraging students from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds to further their studies. One in 10 Kingston University students comes from a family with no previous involvement in university study.

Research plays a central role in the University's activities. Through a variety of individual cutting-edge projects and the development of multi-disciplinary centres of research excellence, the University has made significant strides in creating a broad range of high impact research. Kingston University received a huge boost to its research as a result of the Government's latest research evaluation exercise—the Research Excellence Framework 2014—with 60 % of its research being rated as world-leading and internationally excellent.

Kingston University plays an active role in nurturing innovation and enterprise. By producing applied research, developing technology transfer and sharing knowledge it has become a driving force in forging strong links between education and the business community.

The Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey 2013–14 reported that, for the 6th year running, Kingston was one of the top universities in the country for the number of graduates starting up their own companies. The University also has impressive graduate start-up turnover, with firms launched by former students notching up a combined total of nearly £30 million in 2013–14.

Developments in teaching, learning, research and facilities have all contributed to positioning Kingston University at the heart of education and economic development in the region.

As at January 2015, the estimated annual expenditure stimulated by Kingston University in the regional economy was £481 million.

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# About this Book

The book originates from the work of contributors to initiatives and global networks promoting and pursuing lines of enquiry that recognise and probe relationships among sustainable consumption, design and production, and the implications of these for new economic activity and the way we live and govern ourselves. The book features contributions from social scientists (e.g. from innovation studies, marketing, social psychology, sustainable design, and sociology) and practitioners to generate a short-list of research perspectives and topics around which future research and actions in practice should be orientated. There are eight contributory chapters plus an Introduction and Conclusion (on policy, research and practical implications). Chapters cover: perspectives/methodological insights; empirical work integrating consumption and production; site-specific case studies; and reflections on initiatives in practice.

This book offers a:

1. holistic treatment of sustainable consumption and production (and thus leads to better appreciation of the range of issues to be confronted in properly understanding and achieving sustainable economies and societies);
2. presents new perspectives on the issues (helps readers to think about sustainable consumption/production and innovation in novel ways); and
3. unusually spans theory, empirical research, action initiatives and policy implications

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More on this book is at: [http://www.afes-press-books.de/html/APESS\\_03.htm](http://www.afes-press-books.de/html/APESS_03.htm).

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