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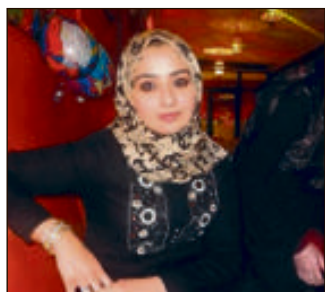


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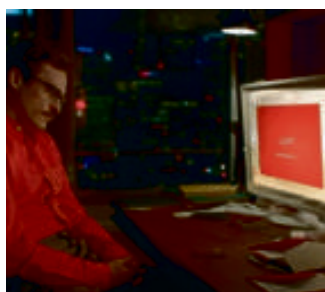


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What is The River?

The River is written, edited and produced by journalism students at Kingston University.

The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the university.

What we promise:

The River aims to serve the university and the local area. Our mission statement commits us to raising and addressing the issues relevant to students and local people, as well as to entertain and inform them. We aim to celebrate the

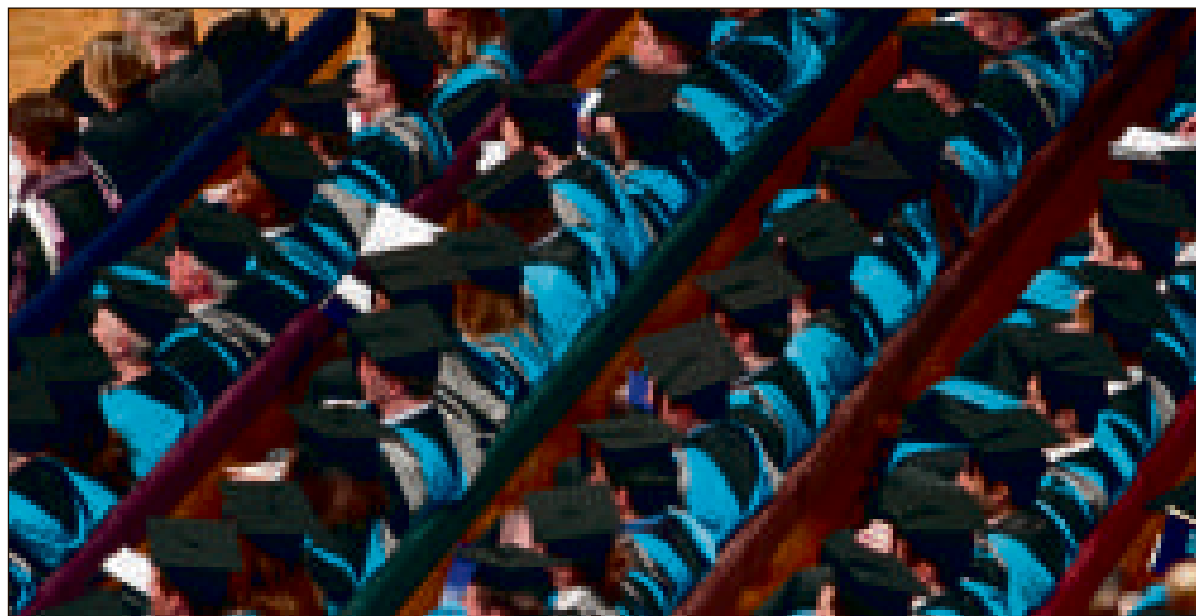
achievements of students and local people alike.

What we need from you:

If you have information or a story which would interest our readers please contact us. We aim to conform to the standard codes of conduct of the profession of journalism. It is The River's policy to print timely corrections and clarifications when we have got something wrong. If you feel we have misrepresented or that we have made a mistake, please get in touch.

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KU marking change could help students achieve higher grade



From this year on, it will be easier to graduate with a first REX FEATURES

Raiani Sibien

KINGSTON University students are set to benefit from changes in grading that will boost their chances of getting a better degree.

The University has introduced a borderline zone of one per cent for those who are just missing the next class of degree.

As a result, from this year, students who received an overall mark of 68.5 (2:1), 58.5 (2:2), 48.5 (3rd) and 38.5 (fail), will have the chance to have their average mark rounded up to the next classification.

Students need to have achieved a mark in the higher grade band on at least two modules in their final year in order to benefit from the change.

For example, students who get an average mark of 68.5 to 69.5 per cent as well achieving over 70 per cent on

two other final year modules will receive a first rather than a 2:1.

Those with an overall mark of 58.5 or 59.5 per cent will be given a 2:1 if they have a mark over 60 in at least two modules.

Third-year and MA students will also be allowed as many re-assessments as those at level four and five, which means they can take up to three re-assessments on some modules in order to pass their course.

The changes were supported by KUSU President Denza Gonsalves.

She said: "The change in classification regulation is a good thing for all students and is positive to ensure our students get a fair chance at their examination attempt and degree classification."

William Arinze, 21, a third-year aerospace engineering student, believes the change is a good thing as

it will help hard-working students to get the mark they deserve. He said: "It is quite difficult to achieve an overall mark of 69 per cent. So if you get it that means you put in sufficient effort to get an A, which is a first."

Nii Armah Hesse, 22, a third-year actuarial mathematics and statistics student, said the new rule was unfair.

"I don't think it's fair or necessary. If you miss the borderline it's not the University's responsibility to boost your mark. It should be the student's responsibility to achieve a first," he said. Veronique Mbonimana, 21, a third-year English language and communication with French student, also believes the changes could be unfair. She said: "The change might make some students more laid back. So it's important that the University analyses case-by-case and considers whether it's fair."

KU ranking threatened by graduation move

Zia Weise

STUDENTS' anger over November graduations will result in "lower than usual" National Student Survey scores, the Students' Union has warned.

The National Student Survey (NSS), asks final-year students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to rate various aspects of their courses, with results affecting universities' league table rankings.

KUSU President Denza Gonsalves said: "Though we hope that when students respond to the NSS they reflect on the whole of their student experience of three years, the unfortunate timing of the announcement

might result in clouding student perception negatively."

In a letter to senior management, KUSU expressed "extreme disappointment" at the University's decision not to move graduation ceremonies to July in 2014, adding that this would "undoubtedly" have a negative impact on this year's NSS results.

Last year, Kingston received an overall score of 3.8 out of five. Only 13 other universities scored worse, with 3.5 as the lowest rating.

Some students have already voiced their disappointment in the survey, which opened last month.

Pharmacology student David Eleftheriou, 20, said: "I specifically put a comment about the graduations in

the box at the end. It was absolutely terrible, timing and all."

However, economics student Kadi Bari, 24, who has yet to take the survey, said that the University's decision would not affect her response.

Vice Chancellor Julius Weinberg sent an apology to students two weeks ago, citing software problems as one of the main reasons for the decision to delay summer graduations.

In response to KUSU's letter, Weinberg said: "We believe that our students understand the reasons for us taking this decision and appreciate that we wanted to give them the best possible experience and not inconvenience them even more by making the decision later in the year."