

Fairtrade Policy

Purpose and Context

University of Huddersfield assigns great importance to its role within the international community, and is therefore committed to supporting, using and promoting Fairtrade.

We are conscious of the positive role we can play within the wider world through our purchasing decisions and the education of our students about issues affecting people across the globe.

This policy outlines our key commitments to incorporate ethical procurement practices into our business activities and make more socially responsible purchasing choices available to our students, staff and visitors. It reflects our wider commitment to social and environmental sustainability and supports the university's Environmental and Sustainability Policy.

Scope

This policy covers all operations of the university, particularly its procurement, catering, communication and engagement, research and teaching, and wider collaboration.

1 Introduction to Fairtrade

Fairtrade aims to improve livelihoods and alleviate poverty by ensuring producers in developing countries get a fair deal for their goods. Fairtrade is about fairer prices, decent working conditions, and fair terms of trade for producers in the developing world – as well as protecting the environment in which they live and work.

The University of Huddersfield and its Students' Union were awarded Fairtrade status from the UK's Fairtrade Foundation in 2009. We will maintain our Fairtrade accreditation by demonstrating our continued commitment to the goals set out by the Fairtrade Foundation.

2 Policy Commitments

To maintain Fairtrade status, we will commit to:

2.1 Selling Fairtrade products

The university will sell as many Fairtrade products as is viable in all our cafes, shops and other outlets. Where it is not currently feasible (for reasons of price, product availability, or contractual obligations) to sell a particular Fairtrade product, the university is committed to begin selling it when viable.

2.2 Hospitality provision

The university will serve Fairtrade foods (e.g., tea and coffee) at all internal meetings and events (e.g., open days), with a commitment to increasing the use of Fairtrade products when viable.

2.3 Communication and campaigning

The university will promote the sale of Fairtrade products via the following methods:

- Fairtrade promotional materials will be displayed on university digital and social media channels, notice boards and in all places where Fairtrade products are sold.
- Articles and other appropriate material about Fairtrade will be published on the university website, in the student newspaper and in other appropriate publications, such as the university prospectus.
- A series of promotional events will be run during Fairtrade Fortnight every March. The Fairtrade Steering Group is responsible for organising these events, which will be promoted in the appropriate university platforms.

2.4 Engaging staff and student support

All members of the university will be actively encouraged to support the Fairtrade policy. The policy and the university's efforts to support Fairtrade will be communicated to staff, students, partners, visitors, and the wider public.

2.5 Fairtrade Steering Group

A Fairtrade Steering Group will monitor the implementation of this policy. The group will meet at least once a term to continuously monitor and improve the university's commitment to Fairtrade. It will develop, coordinate and oversee the implementation of an action plan to maintain Fairtrade accreditation at the University.

The group will include a representative from:

- Procurement Services
- Catering Services management team
- The Student Union Executive
- An appropriate Student Union society
- Estates and Facilities Directorate

Wider membership from the university's schools, research centres, faith groups and general student and staff body will be encouraged.

2.6 Collaboration

The steering group will collaborate with the Fairtrade Kirklees Forum on campaigns to improve support for Fairtrade across Kirklees.

POLICY SIGNOFF AND OWNERSHIP DETAILS	
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Related policies/procedures	Environmental and Sustainability Policy

POLICY SIGN-OFF AND OWNERSHIP DETAILS	
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REVISION HISTORY			
Version	Date	Revision description/Summary of changes	Author
V3.0	November 2024	Policy reviewed by SLT. No changes	Sustainability Manager
V2.0	March 2021	Policy reviewed by SLT. No changes	Environmental Coordinator
V1.0	September 2018	First draft of new policy	Environmental Coordinator