

Fairtrade Policy

Purpose and Context

The University of Huddersfield assigns great importance to its role within the international community, and therefore is 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 responsibility and sustainability and supports the University's Environmental Sustainability Policy.

Scope

This policy covers all operations of the University, predominantly 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 developing world producers – 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 achieve and 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 hospitality events (e.g. open days), with a commitment to increasing the use of Fairtrade products if viable.

2.3 Communicate and campaign

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 in the student newspaper, on the University website and in other appropriate publications, such as the University prospectus.
- A series of promotional events will be run during Fairtrade Fortnight every March. The Steering Group is responsible for organising these events, which will be promoted in the appropriate University publications.

2.4 Engage staff and student support

All members of the University will be actively encouraged to support the Fairtrade policy. Details of this policy will be communicated throughout the University and their efforts to support Fairtrade will be strongly encouraged.

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 academic schools, research centres, faith groups and general student and staff body will be encouraged.

2.6 Collaborate

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

POLICY SIGN-OFF AND OWNERSHIP DETAILS

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Compliance Checks:	Biennial reaccreditation with Fairtrade Foundation
Related Policies/Procedures:	Environmental and Sustainability Policy

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Revision description/Summary of changes	Author
V1.0	March 2021	Policy reviewed by Estates SLT. No changes	Environmental Coordinator
V1.0	Sept 2018	First major redraft under the new Policy Framework	Environmental Coordinator

Please note that the Fairtrade policy was first adopted in February 2009. Due to a new university wide policy framework system in operation the version number is reset to v1.0 and will be controlled using this system going forward.