

The University of Sussex

Fairtrade Policy

Introduction:

The Fairtrade Foundation exists to ensure a better deal for marginalized and disadvantaged third world producers. The Foundation awards a consumer label, the FAIRTRADE Mark, to products which meet internationally recognised standards of fair trade.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay a premium above market prices, Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which has traditionally discriminated against the poorest, weakest producers. This means a stable price that covers their production costs, along with a premium that their organisation will be able to reinvest either in the business or in social and environmental schemes that benefit the wider community. It enables them to improve their lot and have more control over their lives. Supplying Fairtrade products fits in with the University and Student Union's commitment to sustainable development and Corporate Social Responsibility. Locally, Brighton and Hove City Council have obtained Fairtrade Status, and nationally a growing number of universities and cities have achieved the standard. The University of Sussex, in partnership with the Students' Union, is proud to have held Fairtrade status since 2007 and we are committed to its retention. Fairtrade Accreditation creates an opportunity to promote and raise awareness of the University's ethos to potential students and stakeholders. As Fairtrade is a global issue it can also contribute to the promotion of the University of Sussex when recruiting overseas students.

In achieving Fairtrade Status the University commits to meeting the five goals required:

1. The Students' Union and the University authorities develop a Fairtrade Policy.
2. Fairtrade foods are made available for sale in all campus shops and used in all cafes/restaurants/bars on campus.
3. Fairtrade products (for example coffee, tea and sugar) will be served at all meetings hosted and/or catered by the University, Sussex Food, and the Students' Union, and in all University and Students' Union offices, including internal management meetings.
4. Campaigns are run on campus to increase the understanding of Fairtrade and consumption of Fairtrade products.
5. A Fairtrade Steering Group is established, with representatives from the student body, University/College staff and catering or procurement department.

University of Sussex Fairtrade Policy

The University of Sussex is committed to supporting, promoting and using Fairtrade goods.

To achieve this the University seeks to maintain Fairtrade Status, as defined by the Fairtrade Foundation, and thus commits itself to the goals as laid down by the Foundation. This commitment will be demonstrated as follows;

Steering Group

A Fairtrade Steering Group has been convened to ensure that the required goals are maintained and that the University and Students' Union continue to improve in demonstrating their commitment to Fairtrade.

Sale of Fairtrade Products

The University and the Students' Union undertake to ensure that Fairtrade foods will be available for sale in all campus shops, bars, cafes, and restaurants. Where this is not possible (for example, for reasons of contractual obligations or supply), there is a commitment to do so as soon as possible. Outlets that currently sell coffee and tea on campus are required to offer a Fairtrade brand as an alternative or replacement.

Hospitality

Where beverages and food are served in meetings, offices, or other events organised by the University or Students' Union, these will wherever possible, be Fairtrade (E.g. all tea and coffee served at meetings will be Fairtrade, and all office vending will use Fairtrade where applicable, and all office areas/teams will be encouraged to use Fairtrade products).

Promotion

There is a commitment to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus, using the following methods;

- Articles and other appropriate material have been and will continue to be included in staff and student newspapers/bulletins and on both the University's and Students' Union's websites. In particular, the publications will cover the annual Fairtrade Fortnight, and update readers with major developments.

Fairtrade Foundation materials will be displayed on appropriate notice boards with particular prominence in catering and retail outlets. The University, Sussex Food and the Students' Union are committed to running events during Fairtrade Fortnight to raise awareness and promote sales of Fairtrade products. The Steering Group, in collaboration with other appropriate bodies, will be responsible for organising this.

- The Steering Group will seek opportunities to promote the Fairtrade mark at related events, for example those which focus on trade and development. Details of this policy will be communicated to staff and students through the normal channels of communication, and it will be published on the University and Students' Union's website.

Review

Both this policy statement and the University's achievements will be reviewed on an annual basis. A report will be sent at the end of every academic year to the Fairtrade Foundation.

Signed:

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31st May 2018