

This is taken from Appendix 3 (“Investment Policy”) of the Treasury and Investment Management Policy, which was last reviewed and approved by the University’s Council in November 2023.

Socially responsible section of Investment Management Policy of the University

Socially Responsible Investing

The University believes that, in investing its funds, regard must be made to social, environmental and governance issues. In line with its general strategic direction, the University believes that its investments should mirror its own desire to be sustainable and promote sustainability and that a preference will be given to positive screening to proactively bring about sustainable positive change in the world.

In making investment decisions the University expects its appointed investment managers to consider the following areas (this list should not be considered as exhaustive);

- Promotion of human rights, including but not limited to the equality of gender, race and sexuality;
- Promotion of good business ethics and good employment practices;
- Protection of the global environment, its climate and its biodiversity including the reduction and future elimination of fossil fuel exploration and production;
- Promotion of community investment;
- Promotion of international co-operation and an end to international conflict;
- Sustainable provision and procurement of essential resources and services (such as utilities).

We would expect our power as a shareholder to be used to promote good Environmental Social and Governance (‘ESG’) standards by our appointed investment managers. They will be expected to encourage good behaviour or discourage poor behaviour through screening of investments, either positively or negatively or through direct engagement with firms. They must demonstrate rigorous implementation of the UN principles of responsible investment (‘UNPRI’) and preferably be signatories and must demonstrate their active commitment to the principles through their engagement with invested companies on ESG matters in accordance with the UNPRI and this policy.

In recognition of conflict with our medical research objectives, the University will not invest in tobacco. In common with many charities, the University also wishes to reject investment in gambling, pornography and arms.

While operating within these criteria, appointed investment managers are left at their discretion to select individual stocks and to operate within their own published Socially Responsible Investment principles. The appointed investment manager will be accountable to the University in terms of financial performance and adherence to commitments made on issues of social responsibility and sustainability. A report will be required each year from the investment manager demonstrating performance against investment returns and SRI criteria.

The University will seek to be open and transparent about its policy and practice and will actively consider what information can usefully be made available publicly on a periodic basis.