

# UWE Bristol Fairtrade Statement

## Introduction

UWE Bristol (the University) in partnership with The Students' Union at UWE (the Students' Union) are proud to have been an accredited Fairtrade University since 2006. We work to raise awareness of Fairtrade as a vehicle to promote understanding about trade and social justice, sustainable business and ethical consumption, and the inequitable impact of the climate and ecological emergencies. Our commitment to Fairtrade is evidenced across the university in our procurement practices, product offer and sales in our shops and cafes, our public engagement work with staff students and visitors, our work within the curriculum, our student volunteering opportunities and Student Society Greener Futures' award and our wider collaborations.

We are held to account both internally through the Sustainability Executive Committee and externally through our biannual submission for Fairtrade University status to SOS-UK (Students Organising for Sustainability UK <https://www.sos-uk.org/project/fairtrade-university-college>). The award is delivered in partnership with the Fairtrade Foundation and involves rigorous scrutiny by our students here.

## Policy statement

The University and the Students' Union support the principles of Fairtrade and recognise the importance of the role it plays in terms of ethical consumption, Trade Justice and workers' rights, the empowerment of women and local communities, and increasingly mitigation/adaption to the climate and ecological crises. We highly value Fairtrade as vehicle to realise our institutional commitments to Sustainability in terms of our Teaching and Learning and operational activities - witness in addition to this statement, Fairtrade is specifically referred to in UWE's Sustainable Procurement and Sustainable Food policies and Sustainability Engagement Framework.

Active leadership on Fairtrade, trade justice and ethical consumption issues is taken by all members of the supporters' network as well as the Head of Environment and Sustainability in Estates and Facilities and the elected Student Representatives and senior management at the Students' Union.

## Policy actions

The University and the Student Union take a range of actions to implement our commitment.

### 1 Sale of Fairtrade products

1 To give our students and staff the option to make a difference through their purchasing power, Fairtrade products are offered for sale in our campus shops, bars, cafes, and restaurants

2 Where the selling of Fairtrade products is not feasible for reasons of price, supply, availability or contractual obligations, the University and the Students' Union commit to begin selling Fairtrade as soon as practicably possible.

3 Where a Fairtrade option is not possible, there is a commitment to source products with an ethical/sustainability accreditation such as Rainforest Alliance, Fairly Traded, Cocoa Life and FairWild.

4 Where not already done so, the sale of Fairtrade products will be incorporated into the University's and the Students' Union's future contractual arrangements with relevant external service providers and suppliers. In particular in relation to the Students' Union, all internal student group/society purchasing policies, award and funding applications require a commitment to Fairtrade, trade justice and ethical procurement considerations where applicable. If there are preferred clothing suppliers listed for clubs and societies to purchase from, these should all stock Fairtrade certified cotton options and we will seek to source these, subject to cost.

5 Ways to increase supply of Fairtrade goods will be explored on an ongoing basis and will be a standing item at stakeholder group meetings.

### **Hospitality and Events**

For events, Fairtrade teas, coffee and sugar are automatically provided. At all internal meetings and events, the University and The Students' Union commit to serving Fairtrade products.

In staff offices, where staff provide their own drinks, they are automatically offered Fairtrade as first options and are actively encouraged to choose them.

### **Fairtrade awareness raising and promotion**

The University and the Students' Union work closely together to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption across all campuses. This is done on an ongoing basis to ensure awareness is maintained throughout the year and includes:

- promoting Fairtrade to all students, staff, and visitors at UWE Bristol through staff welcome fairs, student and staff inductions, social media and through work done by/with students as part of their curriculum
- improved advertising of Fairtrade products at point of sale, including planned promotion of discounted items and provision of free tasters
- organising events during Fairtrade Fortnight every February/March and during Sustainability Week every October
- encouraging and supporting students to do study projects on Fairtrade within their courses where appropriate
- encouraging the use of Fairtrade products with partners and associate organisations e.g. NUS, TUCO and SUPC
- Collaborating with the EAUC Fairtrade group to build on good practice

### **Supporters' network**

To progress the Fairtrade agenda, a joint Students' Union and University stakeholder group meets regularly and annual SMART actions plans are agreed and actioned. The group is made up of the following stakeholders, and any interested student and staff members are invited to attend.

- The Students' Union at UWE elected representative
- The Students' Union at UWE Sustainability Engagement Co-ordinator
- The Students' Union at UWE Commercial Services Director and Deputy Managers
- Hospitality Services General Manager UWE Bristol
- Hospitality Administration and Systems Manager UWE Bristol
- Sustainability team engagement coordinator UWE Bristol
- Head of Procurement UWE Bristol

The group meets termly and on an ad hoc basis as needed, and provides an annual Fairtrade survey and report for scrutiny of its work by others. They ensure that this policy is reviewed bi-annually and work to achieve and maintain the University's Fairtrade status.

*Dated March 2024; approved 12 March by Sustainability Board*

*To be reviewed March 2026*