

# **UWE Bristol Fairtrade Statement – June 2021**

## **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. Over the years, commitment to Fairtrade from staff and students has grown and is evidenced 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 our wider collaborations.

Renewed Fairtrade university status is being sought under the recently revised system of accreditation by the Fairtrade Universities and Colleges Award programme, (a partnership between the Fairtrade Foundation, NUS and SOS-UK, with support from the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges).

## **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 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 in general. In particular, it is specifically referred to in our Sustainable Procurement and Sustainable Food policies and our Sustainability Engagement Framework.

Active leadership on Fairtrade, trade justice and ethical consumption issues will be taken by all members of the supporters' network as well as the Head of Environment and Sustainability in Estates and Facilities and the Commercial Services Management Team led by the Commercial Services Director at The Students' Union.

## **Policy actions**

### **1 Sale of Fairtrade products**

1 Fairtrade products are offered for sale in all 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 supporters' group meetings.

### **Hospitality and conferencing**

For conferences, 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 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
- encouraging the use of Fairtrade products with partners and associate organisations eg NUS, TUCO and SUPC
- Collaborating with Bristol Fairtrade network <https://www.bristolfairtrade.org.uk/> and the EAUC Fairtrade group to build on good practice

### **Supporters' network**

To progress the Fairtrade agenda, a joint Student Union and University stakeholder group meets regularly and annual SMART actions plans are agreed and actioned. The group is made up as a minimum by the following stakeholders, and any student or staff member are invited to attend.

- The Students' Union at UWE elected representative
- The Students' Union at UWE Green Team co-ordinator
- The Students' Union at UWE Green Team student representative/s
- The Students' Union at UWE Commercial Services director and deputy managers
- Hospitality Services general manager UWE
- Hospitality administration and systems manager UWE
- Hospitality Executive head chef UWE
- Sustainability team engagement coordinator UWE
- Procurement team representative UWE

The group is chaired and minutes taken on a rotating basis, meets at least four times a year and reports to the Sustainability board. They ensure that this policy is reviewed bi-annually and work to achieve and maintain the University's Fairtrade status.

Dated 15 June 2021

Approved by Sustainability Board 20 July 2021

To be reviewed June 2022