

Birmingham City University

Fairtrade Policy

September 2014

Birmingham City University and the Students' Union acknowledge the importance of our combined roles in operating within the international community and in preparing students to play their part in creating a safe and sustainable world in the future.

We are committed to managing the impact our actions have on people and on the environment and we recognise our obligations to carry out our activities in an ethical and socially responsible way. Birmingham City University and the Students' Union therefore commit to supporting, using and promoting Fairtrade products.

This commitment will be delivered by maintaining the Fairtrade Foundation's 'Fairtrade University' status for both the University and the Students' Union. We will continue to achieve the Fairtrade Foundation's five goals for a Fairtrade University and Student Union status by taking and reviewing the effectiveness of the following actions:

1. PROCUREMENT

Through its Procurement Strategy the University aims to achieve best value, and value for money, in all its purchasing. Within that framework, the University and Students' Union will ensure that where possible and relevant all suppliers are asked to consider and submit their Fairtrade and sustainable procurement policies when tendering for the supply of food, drinks, stationery, clothing and a range of other products that are sourced from developing countries. Our suppliers will be asked to offer Fairtrade/sustainable alternatives when available and economically feasible.

2. SALE OF FAIRTRADE PRODUCTS

The University and the Students' Union will, where possible, procure and sell as many Fairtrade products as is feasible and economical in our refectories, shops, cafés and other outlets. Where it is not currently feasible to procure and sell Fairtrade (for reasons of price, quality, supply availability or contractual obligations), we are committed to endeavour to offer a growing range of Fairtrade products in the future.

3. HOSPITALITY

The University will provide Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar at all internal meetings catered by hospitality and at other catered events such as open days. We will seek to extend our use of Fairtrade products further over time.

4. PROMOTION

The University and the Students' Union will, where possible, promote the sale of Fairtrade products and raise awareness of the benefits and the quality of Fairtrade products throughout the institution.

5. STAFF AND STUDENT SUPPORT

Details of this policy will be communicated throughout the University to encourage all staff and students' to support the use of Fairtrade products and to promote Sustainable Procurement.

6. STANDARD POLICY IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

Birmingham City University's commitment to equality means that this policy has been screened in relation to equal access, the use of comprehensible, inclusive language, recognition of the needs of disabled people, promotion of the positive duty in relation to all protected characteristics and avoidance of stereotypes. This document is available in alternative formats on request.

7. OVERSIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

Fairtrade is an integral part of our Sustainable Procurement Strategy. A Sustainable Procurement Steering Group has been established to implement and monitor all policies and action plans related to Sustainable Procurement. This group comprises representatives from key service departments, Faculties and the Students' Union. The Group meets once a term to monitor the implementation and progress of the University's and Students' Union Sustainable Procurement Strategy across the institution.



Professor Cliff Allan,
Vice Chancellor



Niall Magennis,
President, Students' Union