**Ethical investment criteria**

The investment of the University’s endowments must consider ethical criteria that align with the University’s ethos and purpose.

The University is committed to investing in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. It does not permit investment in:

* tobacco related companies.
* companies making revenue from extraction and production of fossil fuels.
* companies manufacturing armaments.
* pornography.
* gambling.

The University will only procure investment managers who are signed up to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), encouraging membership of the Net Zero Asset Manager Initiative, and can report on the carbon footprint of publicly quoted companies within their portfolio to inform the University’s carbon accounting and climate action. Investment Managers are also encouraged to measure contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals through their process and portfolios and report on progress.

The University will actively engage with appointed investment managers on matters relating to its core values a minimum of once per year.

Additional requests for not investing in individual companies should adhere to the procedure described below.

Details of the University’s endowment investment portfolio will be published annually to allow for scrutiny by the University community. A breakdown of investments by sector is published quarterly on the Financial Disclosures webpages.

Executive Board will consider expressions of concern from within the University community related to specific companies or industry whose activities or values appear, on the basis of clear evidence, to be incompatible with the University’s core values and give grounds for serious concern. The following procedure will be followed:

1. Cases will normally only be considered if brought forward by representative bodies such as the Students’ Union or a recognised trade union, or via recognised University’s governance committee structures.

1. The key criterion against which specific cases will be considered will be whether the activity complained of (and substantiated) is contrary to the University’s value systems either as reflected in the University’s Vision and Strategy or in regard to wider issues of social, environmental, ethical and humanitarian concern. This would for example include, but not be limited to, human rights abuse, discrimination on grounds of race, gender or disability and serious and persistent environmental damage.  Clear and substantiated evidence must be provided to support the specific case.

1. Cases shall be considered by Executive Board in the first instance.  Executive Board shall consult the Chair of Finance Committee. Where appropriate the Chair of Finance Committee or the Executive Director of Finance shall raise matters with the investment managers.

1. Executive Board shall determine whether or not to recommend to Council:

(i) that there is no further action that the University needs to take or;

(ii)  that, where legitimate concerns have been raised that are not considered sufficient for   disinvestment, Executive Board shall instruct the University’s investment managers to raise concerns with the named company(ies) at the annual meeting of shareholders, or in some other appropriate manner, or to exercise a vote on the University’s behalf, or;

(iii) whether to change the instructions to the investment managers stated on page one of this policy recognising that it might not be possible to implement some changes until the renewal of the tender/contract for investment managers.

Finance Committee will be asked to make the financial consequences clear to Council. The decision of Council shall be final and will not be re‐considered for a period of at least two years.