

Newcastle University Fairtrade Policy Statement

Introduction

The Fairtrade Foundation was established in 1992 and is the UK member of the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation International (FLO), which unites 20 national organisations across the world. The Foundation licenses the FAIRTRADE mark to products which meet internationally recognised standards.

FLO International exists to improve the position of poor and disadvantaged producers in developing countries, by setting Fairtrade standards and by creating a framework that enables trade to take place at conditions respecting their interest. Producers registered with FLO receive a minimum price that covers the cost of production and an extra premium that is invested in the local community.

Put simply, Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

To achieve Fairtrade status for the University, five goals must be met:

1. The Students' Union and the University authorities both create a Fairtrade policy incorporating these goals.
2. Fairtrade foods (for example, coffee and tea) are made available for sale in all campus shops. Fairtrade foods are used in all cafes/restaurants/bars on campus.
3. Fairtrade foods are served at all meetings hosted by the University and the SU, and are served at all University and Student Union management offices.
4. There is a commitment to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus.
5. The University will set up a Fairtrade Steering Group.

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The promotion of Fairtrade underlines and enhance the University's commitment to sustainability and demonstrates the University's commitment to delivering a positive international impact through all its activities.

Fairtrade activities form part of the University's sustainability agenda, which is led on an institution-wide basis under the auspices of the Newcastle University Institute for Sustainability (NUIS). The Institute brings together internationally recognised research related to sustainability across all three faculties to focus on the global challenges of sustainability. NUIS embodies Newcastle University's commitment to solving, rather than merely describing, the great challenges of our age, and thus helping to frame a more optimistic global debate.

The North East and in particular Tyneside can claim to be a key global hub for the rapidly developing Fairtrade economy and it seems fitting that Newcastle University should achieve and maintain Fairtrade status in support of its overall strategy for making a contribution to regional economic growth and development

Fairtrade status also complements the University's substantial support for the Jubilee Debt Campaign and Making Poverty History.

To achieve and maintain Fairtrade status, as defined by the Fairtrade Foundation, the University commits itself to the five goals laid down by the Foundation.

Fairtrade Steering Group

The process of achieving and maintaining Fairtrade status will be coordinated by the Fairtrade Steering Group which is made up of the following:

- Senior PR & Event Manager, Melanie Reed (Chair)
- Director, Accommodation and Hospitality Services, Margaret Hunter (Secretary)
- Head of Hospitality & Commercial Services, Julia Taylor
- Procurement Manager, Neil Addison
- Purchasing Officer, Steven Hogg
- NUSU Commercial Director, Graham Hatton
- Students' Union Ethics and Environmental Officers
- University Chaplain, Catherine Lack
- NUIS Visiting Fellow, David Golding

The Steering Group will meet at least once a term to monitor progress of the goals and to improve the University's support for Fairtrade.

Bi-annually the Steering Group will send a report to the Fairtrade Foundation in fulfilment of the requirement of achieving and maintaining Fairtrade status.

Sale of Fairtrade Products

A range of Fairtrade foods is available for sale in all campus shops and used in all cafes/restaurants/bars on campus. Where this is not feasible for reasons of price, supply, availability or contractual obligations the University commits to begin selling Fairtrade as soon as it becomes feasible.

Hospitality

The University is committed to serving Fairtrade foods at all meetings hosted by the University and the Student bodies and in all University and Students' Union management offices. There is a commitment to increasing the use of Fairtrade foods as it becomes possible to do so.

Promotion

The University will promote the sale of Fairtrade products via the following methods:

- Fairtrade promotional material will be displayed on University and Students' Union notice boards and in places where Fairtrade products are sold.

- The University and Students' Union will commit to running a series of promotional events during Fairtrade Fortnight every year.
- Articles and other appropriate materials will be included in suitable University and Students' Union publications.
- Fairtrade will be promoted via the University and Students' Union websites.

Staff and Student Support

This policy will be communicated throughout the University and efforts to support fair trade will be strongly encouraged.

This policy was first approved by Council on 12 December 2011
(Updated June 2016 and approved by the Chair on behalf of Council on 1 September 2016).

John Hogan
Registrar
On behalf of Executive Board