



University of Reading Fairtrade Statement 2023/2024



We are delighted to have been awarded **Fairtrade University Two Star status** in June 2023, which underlines our commitment.

The University of Reading and Reading University Students Union assign great importance to the University's role within the local and international community. We recognise that the purchasing decisions we make have an impact on the environment, people and communities that provide our goods. Therefore, the University of Reading is committed to supporting, using and promoting Fairtrade and ethically sourced products to provide a positive impact as part of our wider University Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

This statement will be upheld through the following objectives:

1. Steering Group

A Fairtrade Steering Group, with representatives from University staff, the student body and the community, will meet once a term at minimum to discuss and encourage action for Fairtrade and work towards UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) 10 and 12 around *Reduced Inequalities* and *Responsible Consumption and Production*. The Steering Group's job will be to continuously monitor and



improve the University's approach to Fairtrade. Updates on the activity of the Fairtrade Steering Group will be fed into the wider Environmental Sustainability reporting and audits.

2. Sale of Fairtrade products

Fairtrade products such as tea, coffee, sugar, hot chocolate and snacks are available in our on-campus eateries and retail outlets, in Student Union outlets as well as the onsite retailer, Co-op. The University and Student Union will seek to increase the number of Fairtrade lines offered across the whole organisation. Where this is not possible, due for example to purchasing constraints or long-term contracts, there is a commitment to replace stock with other ethically sourced items and to explore where we can make changes in the supply chain. We also make every effort to purchase branded merchandise from suppliers providing sustainable products.

3. Hospitality

The University and RUSU will offer the option of Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar at all internal meetings. Where staff provide their own drinks, the University will seek to encourage meeting attendees to choose Fairtrade products.

4. Promotion

The University will work closely with Reading University Students Union to run campaigns on campus to increase the understanding of Fairtrade and encourage the consumption and use of Fairtrade products.

These campaigns will include, but not be limited to:

- Fairtrade promotional materials will be displayed in places where Fairtrade products are sold.
- Articles and other appropriate material will be included in suitable University publications and social media.
- Staff and students at the University will be educated on the existence of this statement.
- University will participate in the annual Fairtrade Fortnight event.
- University will maintain and act on a SMART Fairtrade action plan.
- University will deliver one or more innovative activities on Fairtrade, trade justice or ethical consumption each year, in partnership with students.

5. Curriculum and Research



The Steering Group will work with academic staff to incorporate Fairtrade and its related theories (such as ethical consumption and trade justice) into relevant teaching and research and promote the valuable courses and research that is already taking place. Fairtrade and ethical consumption has been integrated



into curriculum at our School of Philosophy, School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science (SAGES), Institute of Education and Scenario Doctoral Training Partnership. The Steering Group will also aim to encourage students to investigate Fairtrade in their coursework, research, Student Union activities or extra-curricular activities such as the student [Red Sustainable Action Award](#).

6. Monitoring and Review

The University and Students Union will be responsible for reviewing this statement annually.

Signed: 	Signed: 
Name: Professor Robert Van de Noort	Name: Edward Gregory
Title: Vice-Chancellor	Title: Reading Student Union President 2023/24
Date: 08.12.2023	Date: