



University of Reading Fairtrade Statement 2024/2025



Since June 2023, University of Reading has held the **Fairtrade University Two Star status!**
We continue to be committed to Fairtrade and will be re-assessed again in May 2025.

The University of Reading and Reading Students Union assign great importance to the our role within the local and international community. We recognise that our purchasing and consumption decisions have an impact on the environment, people and communities that provide our goods and services. Therefore, we are 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 2020-2026](#).



The UoR Fairtrade statement will be upheld through the following actions:

1. Steering Group

A Fairtrade Steering Group, with representatives from University staff, the student body and the community, will meet a minimum of once each semester to discuss and encourage action for Fairtrade and work towards UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) 10 *Reduced Inequalities* and 12 *Responsible Consumption and Production*. The Steering Group's job will be to continuously monitor and improve the University's approach to Fairtrade and ethical procurement and consumption. Updates on the activity of the Fairtrade Steering Group will be fed into the wider Environmental Sustainability reporting, audits and published on our [website](#).

2. Sale of Fairtrade products

Fairtrade products such as tea, coffee, sugar, hot chocolate, wine, soft drinks 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 local and/or 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. Our pubs provide local wines and beers and in 2024 we achieved 3 stars in the Food Made Good Standard from the Sustainable Restaurant Association.

4. Promotion

The University will work closely with Reading Students Union and others in our local community such as Co-Op and the Reading International Solidary Centre (RISC) to increase the understanding and consumption 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

Sustainability is embedded in our curriculum and research. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is central to our approach to deliver quality teaching and learning – more information can be found on [ESD Essentials](#). All students have the opportunity to develop an understanding of sustainable development through access to University-wide modules and co-curricular activities such as the [Red Sustainable Action Award](#). Research at the University is working to tackle sustainability challenges across a broad range of areas including climate and weather, agriculture, biodiversity, food, transport, energy, built environment, finance and regional development. [Sustainability Research](#), particularly around agriculture, resilient societies, weather, climate and sustainable futures foods will have a impacts on Fairtrade farming and products. The Fairtrade Steering Group will work with academic staff to incorporate Fairtrade, ethical consumption and trade justice into relevant teaching and research and promote the valuable courses and research that is already taking place.

6. Monitoring and Review

The Fairtrade Steering Group will be responsible for reviewing this statement and will obtain the endorsement of the Vice Chancellor and the Reading Student Union President annually.

<p>Signed:</p> 	<p>Signed:</p> 
<p>Name: Professor Robert Van de Noort</p>	<p>Name: James Haxell</p>
<p>Title: Vice-Chancellor</p>	<p>Title: Reading Students Union President 2024/25</p>
<p>Date: 23 January 2025</p>	<p>Date: 31 January 2025</p>