



# Fairtrade Policy

The University of Reading and Reading University Students Union assign great importance to the University's role within the 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 to provide a positive impact.

**This policy will be upheld through the following objectives:**

## 1. Steering Group

A Fairtrade Steering Group, with representatives from the staff and student body, will meet once a term at minimum to discuss and encourage action for Fairtrade. The Steering Group's job will be to continuously monitor and improve the University's approach to Fairtrade.

## 2. Sale of Fairtrade products

Fairtrade products will be made available for sale in all University and Student Union outlets. The University and RUSU 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 and to explore where we can make changes in the supply chain.

## 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:

- Educating staff and students at the University on the existence of this policy.
- Participate in the annual Fairtrade Fortnight event.

**5. Curriculum and Research**

The University will work with academic staff to incorporate Fairtrade and its related theories (such as ethical consumption and trade justice) into relevant coursework. The Steering Group will also aim to encourage students to investigate Fairtrade in their coursework, research or extra-curricular activities.

**6. Monitoring and Review**

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

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

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