

# The University of Greenwich Fairtrade Policy

The University of Greenwich; Greenwich Students' Union recognise the importance of sustainable development for future generations and that organisational decisions and actions affect the environment, society and the economy at local, national and global levels. In line with the University of Greenwich's Sustainability Policy, the university is committed to sustainable purchasing and to using and promoting Fairtrade products. It strives to continue to be a Fairtrade University and will work with the Fairtrade Foundation to ensure that this status is maintained. Our work to ensure Fairtrade is considered in our operations, teaching, research and engagement is included below.

## 1. Leadership and Strategy

The Sustainable Food Steering Sub-Committee will meet at least once a term. Its job is to continuously monitor and improve the university's approach to Fairtrade & Sustainable Food. The group will include a representative from the following groups: University catering and events team, University's catering contractors and partners, Greenwich Students' Union (GSU), university Sustainability Team and student representation. This is an open meeting where staff and students are encouraged to attend. The Sub Committee will report biennially on the Fairtrade Policy to the university's Sustainability Management Committee for recommendation of approval by the Vice Chancellor's Group. This Policy will be publicly available and promoted to our stakeholders. The Fairtrade Action Plan will be reviewed every 6 months.

## 2. Procurement, Retail and Catering

The university and GSU commit to sell Fairtrade products including food, drink and cotton products in all their retail outlets and provide fairtrade options within the hospitality provision. Fairtrade food and drinks products are available in all campus shops, food outlets and hospitality menus and the university and GSU commit to increasing the amount of Fairtrade products sold year-on-year. Where it is not currently feasible (for reasons of price, product availability or contractual obligations) to sell certain Fairtrade products the university and GSU are committed to begin selling them as soon as it becomes feasible. The university and GSU will commit to utilising more Fairtrade products (e.g. increasing the number of staff uniforms made with Fairtrade cotton).

## 3. Research and Curriculum

The university recognises the importance of sustainability as part of our teaching and research. It sees Fairtrade as a good illustration of how to bring sustainability components together, and supports our thinking around the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The university will encourage teaching staff to consider Fairtrade as an issue to integrate into teaching and learning opportunities. It will encourage students to participate in communications, events and opportunities including auditing of our own and other university fairtrade processes. We will encourage and promote research our academic and student community are doing to better understand and improve fairtrade systems in the UK and beyond. We will aim to capture best practice to share within and outside the university.

## 4. Campaigning and Influencing

The university will promote sustainability throughout the year through our sales and engagement opportunities in our outlets and shops. We will undertake research and activities that enable us to engage with our many stakeholders. This will include our annual Fairtrade Fortnight and other promotions throughout the year. We will encourage students and staff to become active advocates for Fairtrade and to help ensure the university, the GSU and others are doing as much as they can to support Fairtrade and its producers. We will communicate extensively what we are doing to support Fairtrade and will look to engage our wider stakeholders including staff, students, contractors and our wider community.

## 5. Innovating for outcomes

The university will look at continual innovation to ensure fairtrade is fresh and engaging at Greenwich. We will look to develop ideas to test to encourage greater interest in Fairtrade and drive increased sales.

Approved by Sustainability Management Committee 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Professor Jane Harrington

Vice Chancellor and CEO, University of Greenwich, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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