



## FAIRTRADE POLICY STATEMENT

### Background

In late 2005 the University of Aberdeen committed itself to the attainment of Fairtrade status and set out to meet the five minimum goals set by the Fairtrade Foundation. Those goals were:

1. That the Student Association and the University authorities would both create a Fairtrade policy incorporating these five goals;
2. That Fairtrade foods would be made available for sale in all campus shops and that Fairtrade foods would be used in all cafes/restaurants/bars on campus. Where this was not possible, there would be a commitment to begin to use Fairtrade foods in these establishments as it became possible to do so;
3. That Fairtrade foods (for example coffee and tea) would be served at all meetings hosted by the University and the Student Association, and would be served in all University and Aberdeen University Student Association (AUSA) management offices;
4. That there was a commitment to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus;
5. That the University would establish a Fairtrade Steering Group.

Our Fairtrade Policies were established in October 2005 (AUSA) and November 2005 (University).

During 2005/2006 a series of events were held and efforts were made to address the five goals.

In April 2007 the University was awarded Fairtrade status having successfully implemented all five core goals.

In the period since April 2007, the University of Aberdeen has maintained the momentum behind its Fairtrade campaign and continues to satisfy all five core goals. The University remains committed to its Fairtrade campaign and to ensuring that its commitment to Fairtrade far exceeds the minimum required to attain and retain Fairtrade status.

### Fairtrade at the University of Aberdeen

Working toward and achieving Fairtrade status helped to underline the University of Aberdeen's commitment to recognising and helping promote ethical, cultural and social awareness amongst its students, staff and visitors.

The University of Aberdeen recognises that Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. The University firmly believes that Fairtrade gives power back both to producers and consumers. Producers get fair wages, good working conditions and help with the development of products and marketing; while consumers are given the choice to make a difference by buying Fairtrade products whenever they can.

Fairtrade products are freely available for sale in all shops managed by the University. Fairtrade foods are available in all cafes, restaurants and bars managed by the University or the Students' Association with University restaurants regularly featuring Fairtrade dishes. Prior to embarking on the process of accreditation very little of the coffee sold on campus was Fairtrade. By summer 2009 all of

the tea and coffee sold in campus outlets was Fairtrade, while all of the tea and coffee used in University meetings are also Fairtrade.

The Students' Association and the University established and continue to maintain a Fairtrade Steering Group. In 2010 it became the Fairtrade and Sustainable Procurement Steering Group (FSPSG). It includes representatives from the University administration (including Campus Services; Policy, Planning & Governance; and the University's Environment Office) and the student body (including the Aberdeen University Student's Association (AUSA) President and a representative from the AUSA Ethics & Environment committee) as well as a representative of the Aberdeen Fairtrade Steering Group which co-ordinates Fairtrade activity in the City of Aberdeen.

### **Maintaining Fairtrade Status**

In addition to the five core goals, we remain committed to conducting regular awareness raising sessions and making staff and students aware of the University's commitment to Fairtrade through the presence of Fairtrade products and promotional materials at Open Days, Freshers' Fayres, at University meetings and, wherever possible, as a routine part of all events run by the University and the Students' Association.

The FSPSG has, as a routine part of its work, established and maintains an action plan that outlines the activities and campaigns being undertaken at the University in support of Fairtrade. Alongside the implementation of the five core goals, this document details additional ways in which the University and Students Association hope to expand awareness of Fairtrade goods and services.

The FSPSG will report to the Fairtrade Foundation as and when required to provide updates on progress, to confirm the University of Aberdeen's continued commitment to the five core goals and to provide progress reports on our Fairtrade events and awareness raising activities.

We remain committed to the retention of our Fairtrade status and see it as an integral part of our wider social responsibility agenda. The University of Aberdeen will continue to support other institutions (including other Further & Higher education institutions, local schools and the local City and Shire Fairtrade campaigns) as well as playing our part in the national campaign to make Scotland a Fairtrade nation.

Details of our commitment to Fairtrade and of our campaign to date can be found at [www.abdn.ac.uk/fairtrade](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/fairtrade).

The FSPSG will review this policy biennially in line with the renewal process, or more frequently if required.

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