

Ethical Policy at KCLSU

Our ethos

The student movement has led social thinking and policy on the consideration of ethical issues. Students' Unions and NUS have a long history of campaigning for change. Key is focusing our attention on the ethics of particular companies, ensuring injustices are addressed.

We have a responsibility to take leadership on ethical issues and we will be open and transparent about the ethics of the organisations and suppliers that we have relationships with.

As a student led organisation KCLSU is committed to ensuring that the ethical concerns and priorities of its members are reflected in their investment and purchasing decisions. KCLSU will actively seek out businesses, partners and individuals that have complimentary ethical values to our own. This statement reflects our commitment to putting ethics at the heart of what we do. Over the next 5 years we will fully commit to advance our ethics in the following areas:

Strand	Scope
Product	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethical Investment (e.g. banking and pensions) 2. Ethical Sponsors (e.g. policy and process for student referral panel) 3. Ethical Partnerships (e.g. tender guidance, contractors code of conduct) 4. Ethical Suppliers (e.g. fair-trade status)
People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethical HR practice (e.g. family friendly, volunteering and diversity and inclusion policies and accreditation) 2. Ethical Pay (e.g. Wage benchmarking) 3. Reporting on the above through end of year report and AGM
Planet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green Impact accreditation 2. Union environmental and sustainability policy and plans 3. Supporting our student led activity on environmental and sustainability issues within College and beyond (in so far as we can within our status as a charity)
Influencing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support Officer and student Campaign Strategy on College's position on all of the above 2. Support Officer and Student lobbying for College curriculum to reflect ethical content 3. Supporting student led activity on the above (within our status as a charity). 4. Lobby for student representation in the college investment subcommittee (the panel which decides on which companies will be procured / invested in). 5. Aim to get King's College London to adopt the UN Principles for Ethical Standards. 6. To have transparent, specific, and easily available information on King's destination of investments to the student body. 6. Reporting on the strands of Product, People, Planet, and Influencing and set timeframes for future action through end of year report and AGM.

	7. Referring this ethical investment policy for review and approval every year back at a general student council meeting.
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Ethical issues for consideration:

The exploitation of workers

We expect that all our suppliers will meet the core values of the International Labour Organisation, as outlined in our Sound Sourcing Guide. The exploitation of workers is unacceptable. We will not partner with any organisation where we have sufficient reasons to believe it suppresses participation in union activities.

Equal opportunities

Equal opportunities are a founding principle for the student movement. We value diversity and we expect our partners to have policies and practices relating to prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, race, religion, disability, gender and sexual orientation.

Oppressive regimes

We are keen to work with companies that proactively invest or have operations in countries whose structures are open, democratic and accessible. We are also keen to support and partner with companies who are using their position to challenge oppressive regimes.

Finance and student debt

With increasing levels of debt within society, and increasing levels of student debt, where possible we will only work with suppliers that have an acceptable policy to minimise debt levels of students and have responsible marketing and promotional strategies.

Ethical issues in the supply chain

Our partners should have an ethical supply chain and as such we will trade with companies that have considered and acted upon this. Being implicated in arms manufacture; the pornography industry; unnecessary animal testing; factory farming of animals; exploitation of workers; operating in illegally occupied land; the fur trade; environmental destruction will lead us to consider not trading with that company.

Environmental issues

Environmental issues are important to both KCLSU and services it provides. We expect the companies and institutions that we work with to be receptive to the effect that they have on the environment and to have responsible environmental policies in place.

Campaigning

KCLSU will use its position as the national campaigning voice for students to lobby for change, highlight injustice and campaign on matters which impact upon students. Campaigning on ethical issues is not a means in itself, but when used alongside other tactics can bring about lasting societal and corporate change. KCLSU will use its significant influence with its suppliers to positively effect change on ethical issues of concern to our members.

Corporate social responsibility

We expect all our suppliers to be genuinely corporately socially responsible, operating ethically and with integrity at all times and maintaining good community relations wherever they do business.

Responsible Marketing

The suppliers and partners we work with should practice ethically responsible marketing. We are wary of companies that use marketing irresponsibly to the detriment of society. Although not an exhaustive list, we expect all our

suppliers to market alcohol responsibly, market breast milk substitutes responsibly, market gaming responsibly, respect advertising standards and not to be anti-competitive.

What we support

We are supportive of ethical investments, charitable initiatives and have a purchasing preference for socially-positive products such as Fairtrade.

Monitoring our supply chain

KCLSU is committed to assessing all its direct suppliers on the above ethical issues and to annually publishing their comparative scores to our members.

Practicing what we preach

We seek to integrate the above values into our daily operations to make sure we are practicing what we preach. Individual members of staff, and volunteers representing the Union, will go about their duties in an ethically responsible manner in line with our values.