



Ethical policy 2019

Mission statement

The Union of Brunel Students aims to trade ethically. We have a responsibility to take the lead on challenging unethical practices, and ensuring we champion ethical organisations and suppliers. In line with this, we will ensure our members ethical concerns and priorities are reflected in the Unions investment and purchasing decisions. We will also seek out businesses, partners and individuals whose ethical values complement our own.

Responsibility

The Chief Executive and President is responsible for ensuring that the ethical policy is implemented and generating an ethical assessment document, outlining where we believe we can make a difference. However, all employees have a responsibility in their area to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

Objectives

- We will ensure we are honest and transparent in how we do business and engage externally
- We will aim to minimise the negative ethical impact of our activities, and to promote higher ethical standards.
- We will be socially responsible at a local, national and international level
- We support the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core values of the international Labour Organisation, and will ensure the suppliers and organisations we work with do too.
- We will strive to be a leading union on ethical action and campaigning, with a reputation for exceptional innovations in the sector

Ethical issues for consideration:

The exploitation of workers

We expect all our suppliers to meet the core values of the international Labour Organisation. The exploitation of workers is unacceptable. We will not partner with any organisation where we have sufficient reasons to believe they do not recognise Union membership.

Health and wellbeing

The Union will not knowingly invest in companies whose activities are potentially injurious to health (including alcohol or tobacco). Including arms companies or corporations complicit in the violation of international law.

Human rights

Organisations we work with or buy products from must uphold basic human rights within its sphere of influence. We will not work with businesses whose links to an oppressive regime are a continuing cause for concern. Oppressive regimes can be identified via www.ethicalconsumer.org.



Furthermore, we will seek to support companies and organizations that support fair trade, humane working conditions, and international standards of human rights.

Ethical standards

Suppliers must conduct their businesses in an ethical manner and must not seek to gain competitive advantage by means of unethical or dishonest practices including without limitation; bribery, corruption, kickbacks, the provision of gifts, favours or services.

Finance and student debt

We will only work with financial services suppliers that have an acceptable policy to minimise debt levels of students, and have responsible marketing campaigns. This is due to increasing levels of debt in society and increasing levels of student debts. We will not work with companies that promote gambling.

Environmental Issues

We will ensure we do not have any ties to organisations and suppliers whose core activity contributes to: Global climate change, through the extraction or production of fossil fuels; the manufacture of chemicals which are persistent in the environment and linked to long term health concerns; the unsustainable harvest of natural resources, including timber and fish.

Furthermore, we will seek to support companies involved in: Recycling and sustainable waste management; food waste reduction; renewable energy and energy efficiency; sustainable natural products and services; the pursuit of ecological sustainability.