



Policy on Socially Responsible Investment

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State whether this document is applicable to the University's collaborative partners

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A University document applies across the institution, is approved by a committee of Council or Senate and is held in the University Policy Directory on SharePoint.

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Policy on Socially Responsible Investment

1 Policy

- 1.1 The University of Hull expects its investment managers, as part of their normal investment research and analysis process, to take account of social, environmental and ethical considerations in the selection, retention and realisation of investments. The investment managers will take reasonable steps to ensure that they follow the University policy on socially responsible investment. This is insofar as these matters are regarded as materially impacting on the current and future valuations of individual investments being mindful of the Charity Commission position that trustees or custodians have a duty to maximise returns on investment for charitable benefit. Taking account of such considerations is seen as forming part of the investment managers' normal fiduciary duty.
- 1.2 Moreover, the University considers that effective management of the risks associated with social, environmental and ethical matters can lead to long term financial benefits. As such, the University also believes that it has a commitment to ensuring that funds in which it invests adopt high ethical standards and responsible attitudes towards the environment. To this end, the University encourages its investment managers to raise issues with funds in which it invests, to raise standards in a way which is consistent with improvements in long term shareholder value.
- 1.3 Investments are monitored through the Finance and Investment Committee. The composition of this committee is as follows:
 - a. Ex-officio members:
 - [i] The Chair of Council
 - [ii] The Vice-Chancellor
 - [iii] The Chief Operating Officer
 - b. Appointed members:
 - [i] Two lay members of Council, one of whom shall have experience in property and one of whom shall have experience of finance
 - [ii] A member of the President Team of Hull University Students' Union
- 1.4 The representation on this committee gives the opportunity for a broad range of views on the University's investment decisions to be considered, including any impact they may have on social justice solutions or local communities.
- 1.5 The University does not intentionally invest directly or indirectly in organisations with exposure to the following:
 - a. Fossil fuels
 - [i] The university is committed to instead investing in low carbon/green renewable energies.
 - b. Tobacco manufacturers or any high exposure to activities or substances which are injurious to health
 - c. Alcohol, gambling or pornography industries
 - d. Armament sales to military regimes

e. Companies found to be in violation of international law.

1.6 In order to promote good standards, the University would also not knowingly engage with organisations which conflicts with the University's ethics framework.

1.7 Where appropriate, the University would expect the issues raised with fund managers to include the following:

Environment	The quality of their environmental management, policies and reporting, their efficient use of resources and any pollution convictions that they may have.
Overseas operations	Their policies towards human rights, the nature of any operations in the third world and their observance of labour standards. Also, their marketing techniques, supply chain management and the quality of internal controls.
Workplace	Their approaches to equal opportunities, training, health and safety and employee welfare.
Product/Service	The effect of the manufacture and sale of their products and services on public health and safety. The significance and benefits of any positive products and services.
Community	Their involvement and impact in local communities both in the UK and overseas, the extent and nature of charitable donations and the significance of any advertising complaints.
Political activity	The extent to which they donate money and/or services to local, national and international political bodies. The extent of any lobbying activity and membership of lobby groups.

2 Version control

Version	Author	Date approved	Relevant sections
3-00	Tax & Treasury Manager	05/06/2025	New template
2-00	Finance Office	23/06/2022	Extended commitment regarding fossil fuels
1-00	-	-	New document