



Approaches to fair trade in educational institutions in 2015

Institution: University of Edinburgh

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[Find out more about fair trade at University of Edinburgh](#)

What is your institution currently doing about fair trade and working conditions in supply chains? (procurement and product sales, awareness-raising, research, teaching, other?)

We have been a Fairtrade University since 2004, following a student vote in 2003. This means we have fulfilled the Fairtrade Foundation's criteria of procuring and stocking fair trade products in catering outlets and shops on campus. These include hot beverages and sugar, juices, fruit, wine, cotton garments and many others. We have a Fair Trade Policy and staff-student Fair Trade Steering Group, collaborating to organise events and other awareness-raising activities during Fairtrade Fortnight and throughout the year. We have built up some academic engagement in fair trade through our Fair Trade Academic Network, and some courses do touch on fair trade in teaching. A number of student research projects have been carried out on fair trade and their findings shared. In 2015, we are organising two student research placements in Malawi, looking at our rice/lentils fair trade supply chains.

We have close links with external partners: Edinburgh Fair Trade City Group, the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, and the Cross-Party Group on Fair Trade at the Scottish Parliament. We collaborate on fair trade with the EAUC through leading the Fair trade Community of Practice, sharing resources, and organising events online and face to face.

Our Fair Trade Steering Group discusses paths to making trade fairer in a broader sense – looking at a wider range of supply chain standards the university is signed up to, such as the Worker Rights Consortium for garments, Electronics Watch, and the Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges code of conduct and related initiatives.

Information collected on behalf of the UK EAUC Fair Trade Community of Practice.

> [Find out more about the EAUC Fair Trade CoP](#)



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What plans do you have, or what would you like to do in future regarding fair trade in your institution?

We would like to increase academic involvement in defining, understanding and progressing fair trade in practice, including further student research.