

Title:	Ethical Financing and Investments Policy	Date of Group Chat:	DD/MM/YY
Proposer name:	Sharmeen Jawad	SID:	VP Healthcare practice
Secorder name:	Muneeb Iqbal	SID	President

Union Notes:

The current investment practices of ARU Students' Union do not fully reflect the values and priorities of our student community. There is a growing demand for the support of local businesses and a departure from endorsing entities that operate against varying levels of ethical standards. Students wish to see ARU and the union prioritise ethical purchasing and invest in businesses, banks, and funds that uphold social and environmental responsibility, while also contributing positively to the well-being of others.

As a values-led organisation, the Anglia Ruskin University Students' Union is committed to enriching the lives of every student while upholding principles of social responsibility and sustainability. Recognizing the paramount importance of ethical financing and its impact on the well-being of others, we propose a comprehensive commitment to ethical investment practices within our union.

Union Believes:

Ethical investment is not only aligned with our mission of advancing education and welfare but also reflects our commitment to social responsibility and the well-being of others. By promoting sustainable and socially responsible practices, we fulfil our duty to protect the interests and welfare of our members, as well as the broader community. Our values of inclusivity, sustainability, and social responsibility compel us to make ethical decisions that prioritise the well-being of others, both locally and globally.

The union believes that we should only engage in socially responsible investment in ethical and environmentally responsible businesses, banks and funds. A company or bank will be deemed unethical if and not limited to that there is evidence that it:

1. Fails to uphold basic human rights, as noted in the UN Convention 1948:
 - (a) Knowingly provides resources to those who will use them to commit human rights abuses;
 - (b) Fails to uphold basic labour rights including the right to form a Union;
 - (c) Gives vocal, economic, or diplomatic support to a regime enabling it to continue to commit human rights abuses;
2. Operates on any settlements found to be illegal under international law
3. Produces, or invests in the production of, armaments or torture equipment;
4. Tests on animals purely for cosmetic purposes;
5. Produces tobacco or invests directly in the tobacco industry;
6. Extracts fossil fuels or significantly invests in companies that extract fossil fuel.

Union Resolves:

List of actions:

1. Compile a list of unethical organisations as per the guidelines above, and form a suitable committee driven by student members, to decide on which organisations and partnerships to disengage from based on the extent of their violation of ethical standards as deemed by the student body and as is feasible by the Students' Union.
2. Disengage from any involvement with such organisations, including trade partnerships or advertising collaborations, prioritising profit or material interest over social and environmental responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, McDonald's, Dominos, and Coca Cola etc.
3. Find plausible alternatives to these organisations, and pursue avenues to implement these where appropriate (including suggesting an alternative to NUS to adopt, as part of their Charity Supplier Ethical Code of Conduct).
4. Support and empower student societies in adopting similar ethical standards, encouraging them to take stances and promote initiatives that contribute to the well-being of others.
4. Actively respond to student feedback regarding the boycott of certain brands in SU outlets, considering their social impact and implications for the welfare of others.
5. Prioritise support for local businesses that contribute positively to the community and implement measures to reduce our carbon footprint, thus mitigating harm to the environment and promoting the well-being of all living beings.
6. Formulate a committee with student members to continuously monitor and review our commitment to ethical investment. This committee will produce a bi-annual fully transparent report, ensuring alignment with student values, social responsibility, and the well-being of others.

7. Utilise union resources to advocate for university compliance with ethical investment principles. Engage with administration, participate in decision-making, and amplify student voices to ensure policies prioritise ethical standards and the well-being of all stakeholders.

Policy Summary:

Our aim is to commit ARU and ARU Students' Union to engage exclusively with ethically and socially responsible businesses, banks, and funds, as defined by the values outlined in the UN Convention of 1948, while also prioritising the well-being of others. This policy serves to uphold our commitment to sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical decision-making, thereby contributing to the welfare of our community and the broader global society.