

Ethical and Sustainable Investment

Principles

- a) The University's approach to ethical and sustainable investment considers the principles established in the University's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy and the University's [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) Strategy](#).
- b) The University will invest in a manner which is aligned to the delivery of the [United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and our EDI objectives. This includes, but is not limited to, investing in organisations and countries demonstrating the following attributes:
 - i. Demonstration of a positive approach to individuals, communities and environmental performance
 - ii. Development of environmental technologies to reduce the impacts of polluting/ destructive industries and climate change
- c) The University will not invest in a particular business in the following circumstances:
 - i. Where the investment might conflict, or be inconsistent, with the aims, objects or activities of the University.
 - ii. Where such an investment might hamper the work the University either by alienating current or potential financial supporters, or by having a material impact on applications from potential students.
 - iii. Where an investment is not excluded by (i) or (ii) above but is considered by the University to be unethical.

Practices

- d) On the basis of the principles above the University uses negative screening to exclude investments in the following:
 - i. Companies engaged in landmine or cluster bomb manufacture.
 - ii. Companies/Organisations that violate international and/or industry norms in relation to the following:
 - Public health in the UK (alcohol and food)
 - Human rights, employment standards and climate change disclosure (relevant companies in developed markets).
 - that breach the Modern Slavery Act 2015' and where the University has information on the breach.
 - Organisations that do not have policies to control and reduce the risk of serious negative environmental impacts' and where

the university has knowledge of this.

- iii. Companies which derive income directly or indirectly from any of the following activities:
- Coal or tar sands extraction
 - Oil, gas or other fossil fuel extraction/production
 - Tobacco
 - Pornography production
 - Online gaming
 - Animal testing of cosmetics
 - High interest rate lending
- iv. Companies demonstrating a lack of commitment to environmental sustainability, defined by the absence of a published, monitored climate change plan.

- e) Investments are defined to include equity and bond instruments, whether held directly or indirectly through pooled investment funds.
- f) The University will actively vote on issues put to shareholders, or request that approved external fund managers adopt such a strategy.
- g) The University requires any approved external fund manager:
- To take a positive approach to stewardship as defined in the [2020 UK Stewardship Code for Institutional Investors](#) by being a Tier 1 signatory to that Code.
 - To be a signatory to the [UN Principles of Responsible Investment \(UNPRI\)](#) and the [Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative](#).
 - To take account of environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations in the selection, retention and realisation of investments
- h) Wherever possible the University will seek to invest in the following, either directly or via an external fund manager:
- Green deposit accounts in which the ESG impact of the investment can be identified.
 - [Green bonds](#) which are listed on the [MSCI Green Bond Index](#)