

# Fairtrade University Award



From SOS UK and Fairtrade Foundation

The Fairtrade Universities programme, delivered by SOS UK in partnership with the Fairtrade Foundation over 2 years, recognises universities that are committed to promoting ethical and sustainable trade. Areas covered include: the curriculum, procurement, research, policies, events, and campaigns.

90% of students want products made under good working conditions

77% of students think their university should have a Fairtrade policy

## Why take part?

- Beyond fairtrade:** Showcase wider ethical sourcing and trade justice efforts
- Flexible criteria:** 11 mandatory criteria and many optional to tailor your award
- Tiered award levels:** Earn 1-3 stars based on your achievements
- Expert support:** Resources and guidance from SOS UK and Fairtrade Foundation
- Track your impact:** Student surveys to help track progress
- National network:** Connect, share ideas and collaborate with other Fairtrade Universities
- Student-led audits:** Build skills and ensures credibility
- Great value:** A two-year programme ideal for universities on a budget





## How does it work?

- Universities work on the programme criteria over **two years**
- A bespoke **online toolkit** helps you upload evidence, track progress and manage your actions
- Complete the **11 mandatory criteria** for the standard award and choose optional criteria to complete to earn stars
- Activities can include **procurement, catering, teaching research, outreach, campaigning, and other innovative ideas**
- The Award encourages involvement from **staff and students** across your university
- In year two, trained **student auditors** verify your submission
- **Accreditations** last two years before the next audit cycle

**Networking  
calls and  
webinars**

**Tiered award  
levels**

**Range of  
themes**

**Online  
support**

**Student  
audits**



## Costs

The membership fee to join our 2026-2028 cohort is £2,036 +VAT for the 2-year programme.

A slate award is an additional £35 +VAT (optional).

We also offer bespoke consultancy on a day rate basis if you would like additional support. Please [email us](#) to discuss this option.

**Sign up**

[Sign up to be a Fairtrade University](#), or [email us](#) with any queries.

