

LUU: Working with External Organisations Policy - June 2023

This paper replaces any previous policy which determined partnerships of both LUU and LUU Societies and Clubs.

This paper is inclusive of:

- Clubs and Societies partners and sponsors **[Note: 1]**
- LUU sponsors and partners
- Advertisers
- Tenants and leaseholders
- Recruiters.

Permanent Restrictions

Based on welfare, ethical and environmental concerns LUU has a duty of care to make sure we do not allow the following industries, companies, groups or products to advertise in or engage with LUU. The following are banned from advertising in/with or engaging with LUU

- Tobacco or nicotine companies
- Casinos and gambling companies/websites to include e.g. bingo and lottery
- Housing agents and landlords that do not adhere to Unipol's Codes for better student housing or that have less than 3.5 out of 5 'Stars on Rate Your Landlord' [2]
- Accommodation providers that charge letting fees, e.g. admin fees.
- Finance companies where financial credit or money lending is the primary business; including: [3]
 - Quick credit / payday loan companies
 - Credit cards
 - Private companies promoting student loans
- Arms companies
- Companies involved in the sex industry, including topless bars and online sex services
- Companies that test on animals for non-medical purposes unless such testing is mandated by legislation.
- Companies that want to promote incentivised medical testing
- Jobs that are paid on a commission only basis

- Jobs that request photo's of the applicant
- All essay proofreading, checking and writing services e.g. Studypool
- Ticketing platforms.
- Leeds live music venues. Please note: LUU Clubs and Societies are able to run events at Leeds live music venues & Joblink can offer employment at Live Music Venues
- Higher Education establishments unless sanctioned by or affiliated with The University of Leeds.
- Companies involved in the direct extraction, processing and/or selling of coal, oil and gas. [4]
- Large Companies (250+ employees) must have a publicly available Modern Slavery Statement setting out where their supply chains are located, and the nature of risks in relation to those locations.
- Large companies (250+ employees) must have a publicly available commitment to reducing their environmental impact, and publish monitoring and progress on this. [5]
- Companies must comply with the LUU's Single-use Plastics Policy when involved in/delivering events on LUU premises. [6]

Restrictions based on student-led policy

As part of LUU's democratic process, policies are amended after ideas proposed in the 'Better LUU' student forum. There are currently no Better Forums policies which require additional restrictions on selection of external organisation partners.

Positive selection of external organisations

Where practical and appropriate, external organisations should be prioritised along the following favourable criteria:

- Companies with active policies committed to sustainability, circular economy and the net zero transition.
- Companies with sustainability as central focus and tangible reported progress should be proactively sought out
- Companies with clear, traceable whole chain supply lines.
- Companies with a commitment to sustainable investments
- Food/drink providers that offer plant-based menu items and/or Food/drink Companies which offer plant-based options as a significant proportion of their menu (multiple options for each type of item, catering to varied dietary requirements such as gluten-free, nut-free etc.)

Further notes

- Clubs seeking alcohol manufacturer company (e.g. Smirnoff or Tetleys) sponsorship must discuss this with the Activities Officer first.
- There is no ban on subsidiary companies or charitable trusts linked to the above companies.
- There is no blanket ban on commercial companies – including restaurants, bars, pubs and shops – except for when the company comprises the above categories.
- Activities that are not permitted in any type of partnership include passing of any contact details for example, Club members or Alumni to external companies/groups/individuals without the express permission of the individuals as per data regulations.
- External organisations should also meet the expectations set out in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.
- Where potential partnerships for either LUU and LUU Societies and Clubs meet the above criteria, but where concerns have been raised about a partner's ethical stance, LUU reserves the right to approve such partnerships. Approval would only be issued following consultations with student members, LUU officers, LUU staff and with the support of a majority of the Student Executive.

Notes

[1] Guidance for clubs and societies:

This policy recognises the constant change of club leadership on a year-on-year basis, and that those leading their club may have no experience of sponsorship policies. Therefore, it should be the responsibility of LUU – primarily the Activities Officer, Student Activities and other relevant teams – to support the clubs in their efforts.

Support is currently provided through:

1. 1-2-1's with the Student Activities Support team to discuss fundraising opportunities
2. Relevant training each year to the incoming club committee members through events such as the Skills Conference and Fundraising Conference
3. The Fundraising League which has financial incentives for achieving fundraising targets.

LUU encourages all clubs and societies to find sponsorship to increase their capacity and develop their activities. The primary responsibility for finding and drawing up sponsorship deals is on the club or society itself. There will be no overall sponsor for LUU, as this would severely limit the efforts of clubs to maximise their sponsorship potential. All Clubs receiving sponsorship need to have their contracts reviewed and signed by the appropriate LUU staff member.

[2] Unipol Codes

More information about the Unipol codes can be found at: <https://www.unipol.org.uk/the-code/>

[3] Finance Companies

The exclusion above relates to companies where money lending or providing credit is the primary focus; a financial company with a diverse range of services like a retail bank is not excluded, but the advertising should not include promotions relating to credit/loans.


[4] Fossil Fuel Companies

Fossil fuel company means a company that engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, and manufacturing of fossil fuels or fossil fuel by-products. The exclusion above relates to companies where fossil fuel is the primary focus; an energy company with a diverse portfolio of direct to customer energy supply options including green energy solutions is not excluded, but the advertising should not include promotions relating to fossil fuel.

[5] Commitment to Sustainability

Meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

[6] Single-Use Plastics Policy

 LUU Single Use Plastics Policy Version 2 - April 2023 is linked for reference.