

**University of Exeter – Fairtrade Award**  
**Annual Progress Report**  
**Feb 2022**

It's been an unpredictable and unsettled couple of years with COVID, and many of our activities have had to be paused or held online across our areas. Several of our workforce were furloughed at different times, and students were mainly taking their lectures online. In the last 6 months or so we have slowly picked up and are working towards a more 'normal' campus.

Our 'working group' has been quite fluid, where we have incorporated Fairtrade into our other meetings and groups, rather than having a set working group. This has been necessary due to the climate that we have had to work in. We published a commitment of intent and created a detailed SMART action plan, and have successfully carried out many of the criteria although some have not been possible. The priority has been to ensure we achieve the mandatory criteria at least.

In Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 we mainly focused on what we already had. We ran some promotions across our cafes and shops that remained open. These included a 10% discount on all Fairtrade items in our shops, and some home-made Fairtrade banana cake and hot drinks promotions in our cafes. We were unable to run any interactive stalls due to covid. We have actively promoted any Fairtrade activity along with bespoke campaigns, often linking with the wider University and the Fairtrade Foundation across our social channels.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 has recently passed and it was lovely to be able to do more activity than last year. We ran our discounted promotions on all Fairtrade items in our Market Place shops, and also introduced some new product lines in the way of cold drinks. Across our Barisca coffee shops we had a home made Fairtrade banana and chocolate loaf cake and promoted our coffee. We also had a pancake day 'pop-up' where our chefs made pancakes all day and customers could add Fairtrade bananas. We also posted some educational Fairtrade posts on our facebook, and created some point of sale in outlets.

The second week of Fairtrade Fortnight was also Go Green Week at the University where students were promoting and educating around sustainability. They asked us if we could support and promote the climate achievements we have made within our catering and retail team, and so we had a stand for one of the days.

We are delighted to have increased our range of ethical products in our Market Place shops. Not all are Fairtrade, but many are more ethically sourced and from reputable suppliers. We also have a small zero waste area in our shop in Devonshire House. We have also signed up to 'Too Good to Go' which is working to combat food waste. We list any packaged items at the end of each day that are at their 'use by' date, and customers can purchase them at a much reduced price in a 'magic bag'. This has been a hit with our students.

We have joined a Fairtrade network with other Universities this year, which has been a great support and good to see we are often up against the same challenges and where we can learn from and support each other. These have been on Zoom and very valuable. We have also continued to be involved with the Devon Fairtrade network, and also the Exeter City Council group. These meetings have also been on Zoom, although we recently supported the Devon Fairtrade group with a schools conference which was great. It was nice to see the interest among the primary school aged children in learning about the values of Fairtrade.

The more challenging areas have been among research and curriculum, but if broadening beyond Fairtrade there is a lot of activity and focus around climate change and perhaps this is the way to incorporate Fairtrade awareness.