

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

DREAMING / BELIEVING / ACHIEVING
A 21ST CENTURY UNIVERSITY

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1. Local and regional economic impact

We will enhance the economic, social and cultural fabric of our local communities by ensuring we are an open and full participant in our regions,

- by being a flexible and responsive employer
- by procuring from a range of local suppliers
- by providing access for employers in the region to staff and facilities to enhance local economies
- through working in partnership with staff and other stakeholders to meet the needs of learners within our diverse communities
- by being a community hub for cultural, social and learning events

2. Local and regional community support and charitable activity

We will seek to have a positive influence on the educational, social and cultural development of the communities in which we operate. Wherever possible, we will engage with local communities across the region by being an active and supportive partner in community activities, sharing resources and services. We will support staff (through the HR framework) and students (with the Learning and Teaching Assessment Strategy) to participate in volunteering opportunities.

3. Widening participation:

Through our involvement with the communities we serve, we aim to create opportunities for people who are traditionally under-represented and who might otherwise not consider that higher education is for them and for employers who think likewise. We will work towards the aim of greater social inclusion and the mitigation of inequality in education.

4. International Activities and Global Citizenship

We commit to providing students with a total learning environment while helping them to develop as global citizens. Our programmes of study will enable students to engage with international themes and will have opportunities to participate in outward bound mobility or learning that takes place overseas. When developing new partnerships with international companies, educational facilities and agents we will have regard to our social responsibilities.

5. Environmental responsibility and sustainability

We are committed to being a good neighbour, concerned for the community and the environment. We will continually strive to improve our social and environmental performance, with the objective of ensuring that our activities contribute to the sustainable development of the regional communities we serve.

6. Fair Operating Practices

We will act responsibly and ethically in conducting our business with other organisations. We will use our relationships with other organisations to promote positive outcomes by providing leadership and prioritising the adoption of social responsibility throughout the University's sphere of influence.

7. Learning, Teaching, Research and the Student Experience

We will seek to embed the principles in this statement in the curriculum, approaches to research and dissemination of research and knowledge exchange. An academic framework for students in global citizenship, social enterprise and the embedding of features of curriculum for excellence which reflect citizenship is in development. We will commit to monitor and improve our social responsibility impact.

8. United Nations Global Compact

The University of the West of Scotland is committed to the United Nations Global Compact Principles.

Appendix 1

UN Global Compact Principles

Human Rights

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour

- Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
- Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

- Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.



