

## **Policy Proposal: Fossil Free Careers**

### **What would you like the Union to do? :**

Publicly support the Fossil Free Careers campaign and our demands that the UCL careers department:

1. Refuses all new relationships with oil, gas or mining companies.
2. Declines to renew any current relationships with oil, gas or mining companies after the contractually obligated period ends.
3. Adopts a publicly available Ethical Careers Policy that explicitly excludes oil, gas and mining companies from recruitment opportunities.

Mandate the relevant full-time and part-time officer(s) to actively work with the Fossil Free Careers campaign group and People & Planet to ensure that Union work is linked up with grassroots campaigners.

Mandate the relevant full-time and part-time officer(s) to help set up meetings relating to the Fossil Free Careers campaign with relevant university staff, and include student campaigners where relevant.

Use relevant SU social media channels to amplify petitions, statements and other calls to action from the Fossil Free Careers campaign.

Send out a press release and website statement announcing the passing of this motion and the support of the union for this campaign.

Never allow oil, gas, or mining companies access to SU-organised events, or to lend the SU name, logo or endorsement to events which include these companies.

Refuse the presence of oil, gas and mining companies in any SU-controlled physical or digital space.

### **Why would you like to do this? :**

The operations of the oil, gas and mining industries cause immense environmental harm, by accelerating the climate and ecological crisis, polluting the water and permanently destroying landscapes.

These extractive operations also cause direct social harm, by displacing people from their homes and lands, destroying livelihoods, demolishing sacred indigenous sites, and leaving workers and communities with severe health problems.

The University Careers Service does not have a publicly accessible policy that excludes the promotion of careers in the oil, gas and mining industry through its website, careers fairs, emails to the student body and other recruitment events.

20% of university career departments already restrict one or more of the tobacco industry, adult/sex industry, or gambling industry from accessing their services.

The university has made a public ethical and sustainability commitment. This includes a commitment to fully removing its investments in fossil fuel companies.

### **How will this affect students? :**

Graduates are increasingly turning away from the oil and gas sector. A 2017 study showed the number of graduates taking jobs in the industry had dropped by 60% in four years. Young people see oil and gas as the most unappealing sector to work in. They associate it with responsibility for the climate crisis, and believe there is no future for jobs in the industry.

Inviting oil, gas, and mining companies to advertise with the careers service adds legitimacy to the idea that these companies are an acceptable part of our society and our future. The University Careers Service should ensure that its recruitment activities and events are in line with the university's publicly stated ethical principles of sustainability. The university's careers service has a responsibility to its students to promote jobs with a future. Ending this university's complicity in career pipelines into the oil, gas, and mining industry is an effective method of showing solidarity with communities affected by these companies' operations.