

Policy Proposal: Fossil Free Careers

What would you like the Union to do?

I would like Students' Union UCL to support the Fossil Free Careers campaign and adopt a policy banning societies and clubs at UCL from receiving any sponsorship or funding, directly or indirectly, from oil, gas, and mining companies. Additionally, oil, gas, and mining companies will be banned access to SU spaces and events, or to lend the SU name, logo or endorsement to events which include these companies. UCL have committed to divest from fossil fuel extractor company holdings, however the union should also lobby UCL to:

- Refuse all new recruitment relationships with oil, gas, and mining companies.
- Decline to renew any current relationships with oil, gas and mining companies after the contractually obligated period ends.
- Adopt a publicly available Ethical Careers Policy that explicitly excludes oil, gas and mining companies from recruitment opportunities.

Why would you like to do this? :

The operations of oil, gas and mining industries cause immense social and environmental harm. Fossil fuel companies have a long history of lobbying against government action to tackle climate change, spending over a billion dollars on misleading climate-related branding and lobbying in the period 2016-2019 alone. The International Energy Agency has said that to stay below the 1.5C global warming limit there can be no investments in new fossil fuel infrastructure. Yet fossil fuel companies are planning huge investments in new and existing projects which would collectively yield over 3.5 trillion tons of greenhouse gas emissions, over seven times the amount that can be emitted to stay within 1.5 degrees of warming.

<https://influencemap.org/report/How-Big-Oil-Continues-to-Oppose-the-Par...>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/18/no-new-investment-i...>

Additionally, these industries cause immense 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.

<https://paxforpeace.nl/media/download/pax-dark-side-of-coal-final-versi...>

<https://londonminingnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/EMBARGOED-Cu...>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/may/26/rio-tinto-blasts...>

<https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2018/04/10/cerro-de-pasco-mine-peru-le...>

How will this affect students? :

As a research intensive university, UCL students have published countless papers and research pieces on sustainable energy and fossil fuel divestment. The careers UCL actively promotes to students should reflect the values of their own research. The overwhelming majority of companies the UCL Careers Service has agreements with are not oil, gas, or mining companies, so students will not be negatively affected by cutting ties with this minority. Instead, this could offer an opportunity for green energy companies to be platformed to students instead.