

Policy Proposal: Fossil Free Careers

What would you like the Union to do?

We request the public support of the UCL Students' Union for the Fossil Free Careers Campaign, which will help ensure the commitment of the Union to achieving a sustainable future. With this in mind, we request the UCL Careers Department to:

- Refuse all new relationships with oil and gas companies;
- Decline to renew any current relationships with oil and gas companies after the contractually obligated period ends;
- Adopt a publicly available Ethical Careers Policy that explicitly excludes oil and gas companies from recruitment opportunities.
- Officers, such as the Sustainability Officer, should aim to promote the campaign and its objectives with relevant university faculty, academic departments and the UCL Careers department.

We also request that the Students' Union Send out a press release and website statement announcing the passing of this motion and the support of the union for this campaign.

Why would you like to do this?

The climate crisis is one of the most pressing global challenges today. Oil and gas industries are the biggest polluters of the carbon dioxide emissions causing the greenhouse effect and planetary destruction.

These companies 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.

“Universities have a responsibility to lead change for environmental and social responsibility,” as the previous provost said when UCL divested from fossil fuel companies in 2019. In order to respond to the climate crisis and achieve a sustainable future, universities such as UCL should take the lead in ending its relationship with the key fossil fuel producing companies causing ecological destruction.

UCL has already firmly established that it does not remain neutral on the issue of climate change. It takes pride in its students and academics who work on the forefront of climate research and education, and has publicly committed to ethical and sustainable policies. Furthermore, in 2019, UCL's investment branch made the historic decision to completely divest from fossil fuel companies.

However, the ongoing promotion of gas and oil careers on campus is in direct contradiction with this. The UCL University Careers Service does not have a publicly accessible policy that excludes the promotion of careers in

the oil and gas industry through its website, careers fairs, emails to the student body and other recruitment events.

How will this affect students?

The aim of this policy is to seek the support of the Students' Union as we bring the proposal to the UCL careers department. All students deserve the support of the Careers Department to find a job with a future, and the Careers Department has a responsibility to offer these jobs to students. Students will still be free to receive impartial 1-1 career advice if they choose.

However, UCL does not have to act as a recruitment pipeline for the fossil fuel industry by actively highlighting such spaces for UCL students. By promoting companies with an outsized environmental impact, which have not yet made a widespread or timely enough commitment to transitioning away from fossil fuels, the Careers Department is not offering jobs that support students. The proposal will support students to find sustainable careers with a bright future.

The world is currently transitioning away from fossil fuels, and research shows that the number of graduates entering the fossil fuel industry is already falling. 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 UCL's complicity in career pipelines into the oil and gas industry shows solidarity with communities affected by these companies' operations.