

# INVEST FOR CHANGE



## Template policy/motion for students' union councils

### This union notes:

1. That *<insert university>* has public commitments to *<insert specific policy commitments of the university relating to responsible investment, or other related>*.
2. (If relevant) That *<insert university>* has committed to divesting from the fossil fuel industry *<insert any specific commitments>*.

You should be information relating to (1) and (2) in your institutions investment policy, public divestment commitment or financial statements.

3. That *<insert university>* has an endowment of *<insert endowment figure>*.

You should be able to find this information in your institution's financial statements, which should be publicly available online.

4. (If relevant) That *<insert university>* does not currently have a responsible investment policy.

OR

(If relevant) That *<insert university>* has not reviewed the responsible investment policy since *<insert date>*.

5. (If relevant) That *<insert university>* manages its investments through *<insert investment manager(s)>* and meet with them *<insert frequency of meetings>* a year.

You should be able to find this information through your institutions investment policy and/or their financial statements.

6. (If relevant) That *<insert university>* do not publicly disclose investment holdings, voting and engagement activity.

If this is publicly disclosed, it should be accessible on the website. It may be in the university's financial statements. Edit this statement to accurately reflect your university's current transparency levels.

7. That, in general, UK universities hold over 15 billion<sup>1</sup> in investments, much of which is invested in shares in corporate companies.
8. That SOS-UK have launched a national Invest for Change campaign<sup>2</sup>, supporting students' unions and students across the UK to call on their institutions to radically reform university investments.

### This union believes:

1. That we are running out of time to keep global warming below 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. This is the limit for ensuring a safe and stable future for the economy, the planet

<sup>1</sup> The £15 billion figure is taken from a conservative estimate of current UK university endowment funds (figures from 2018/19 official audited financial statements) and based on the general assumption that majority of universities invest using their endowment funds.

<sup>2</sup> [More information here.](#)

- and all people on it, as outlined in the IPCC's 2018 special report<sup>3</sup>.
2. That indirect emissions relating to investment activity should be included in the universities scope 3 emissions<sup>4</sup> and therefore included in any institutional carbon reduction targets.
  3. Investments in shares of corporate companies do little, or no, to further efforts to tackle the climate crisis and social injustice.
  4. Universities should invest their money in the interest of their students and the world they will graduate in to.
  5. That *<insert university>* should be a progressive role model in society, acting responsibly and helping create a safe future that is better for everyone.
  6. That *<insert university>* ' investments do not align with its commitment to tackling change and *<insert specific policy commitments of the university>*.

## This union resolves:

1. To mandate the *<insert students' union/relevant students' union officer>* to support/coordinate (delete as appropriate) and for *<insert students' union>* to put resources towards an Invest for Change campaign on campus.
2. To mandate the *<insert students' union/relevant students' union officer>* to lobby the university to move *<insert percentage>* of their investment portfolio into investment in environmental and social justice solutions.

Invest for Change calls for universities to allocate 10% of investments to directly finance solutions to environmental and social challenges. However, edit the percentage to suit your university's context.

3. To mandate the *<insert students' union/relevant students' union officer>* to lobby the university to regularly disclose investment holdings, voting and engagement activity.
4. To mandate the *<insert students' union/relevant students' union officer>* to lobby for and secure student representation on all university investment committees.
5. To mandate the *<insert students' union/relevant students' union officer>* to lobby the university to adopt a radical responsible investment policy and hold the university to account on any policy commitments.
6. To work with SOS-UK to connect with other students' unions and students across the UK who are campaigning on Invest for Change or similar campaigns.

This is a basic template for students' and students' union officers to adapt to suit their campaign.

Add specific facts relating to your university context in 'notes', specific statements backing up your campaign aims in 'believes' and specific actions relating to context and aims in 'resolves'.

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Get in touch with us for support writing your policy/motion by emailing  
[melaniekee@sos-uk.org](mailto:melaniekee@sos-uk.org).

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<sup>3</sup> [More information here](#).

<sup>4</sup> [What are scope 3 emissions, The Carbon Trust](#).