

## **UEA DONATIONS AND DUE DILIGENCE POLICY**

### **1. POLICY STATEMENT AND SCOPE**

This policy states and applies the required due diligence measures to be followed in relation to all philanthropic income to UEA.

The University takes pride in the philanthropic support it receives from UK and internationally based donors in order to achieve excellence in research, scholarship, campus development and teaching. This support enables the University to invest further in key strategic areas including student support, research, teaching and the enhancement of campus buildings and equipment. This policy is an essential element of our proactive stance on risk management, particularly in relation to our global reputation and good name which underpins the future of the University.

Philanthropic donations can be made by individuals, trusts, foundations, charities and corporately. All donations which are deemed to be philanthropic are covered by this policy.

The University is committed to conducting itself with the highest standards of probity and good conduct in carrying out its academic and business functions. This policy is adopted by the University's Council and supports these aims by ensuring that donations are compatible with the University's objectives and consistent with its strategic goals.

The University has a duty to comply with legal requirements and the requirements of funding bodies (including the Higher Education Funding Council for England), and the "Seven Principles of Public Life"<sup>1</sup>.

For donations which are for research and studentships the provisions of the National Security and Investment Act 2021<sup>2</sup> and the provisions of the Higher Education Export Controls Association<sup>3</sup> should also be considered. However, donations which are purely philanthropic and where there is no benefit for the donor and the donor does not have any control over the spending of the funding are exempt from both the Act and the provisions. If there are special circumstances surrounding the donation which give the donor any control then RIN may be consulted.

This policy sets out principles on the basis of which the University will pursue and vet potential donations in order to safeguard its reputation and integrity. It establishes explicit thresholds for due diligence procedures, the nature of those procedures, the guidelines to be invoked in the case of potentially controversial gifts or donors, and the criteria that the University will use in deciding whether or not to solicit or accept a donation from an organisation or individual.

It is essential that fundraising is professionally co-ordinated across the University to ensure that such activity is carried out effectively and in ways compliant with this policy, including appropriate standards of stewardship, accounting, auditing and internal and external reporting. The Development Office (DAC) is responsible for leading this work and should therefore be involved at the earliest opportunity by Faculties, Schools, Centres and

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<sup>1</sup> [Nolan Committee First Report on Standards in Public Life](#)

<sup>2</sup> [National Security and Investment Act: guidance for the higher education and research-intensive sectors](#)  
- GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<sup>3</sup> [Welcome to the Higher Education Export Controls Association - HEECA](#)

individual academics involved in any solicitation or negotiation of donations of any sort (see Section 3).

This policy applies to all UEA staff, its contractors and others associated with the University in a formal, unpaid or voluntary capacity. The University accepts its responsibility to make its staff and others affected aware of this policy, and to provide support and guidance on its implementation.

## **2. STATUTORY AND GOOD PRACTICE CONTEXT**

- 2.1 UEA fundraising is subject to regulation by the Fundraising Regulator and has joined the register, paying the regulator levy. We adopt the Code of Fundraising Practice and seek to comply with all aspects in policy and operation.
- <https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/>
- 2.2 This policy has also been drawn up in the context of the following statutory and good practice guidance:
- HMRC Guidance <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/>
  - Woolf report (enquiry into the LSE's links with Libya, 2011). <http://www.lse.ac.uk/News/News-Assets/PDFs/The-Woolf-Inquiry-Report-An-inquiry-into-LSEs-links-with-Libya-and-lessons-to-be-learned-London-School-of-Economics-and-Political-Sciences.pdf>
  - As a member of CASE (Council for Advancement & Support of Education), a professional association serving educational institutions and the advancement professionals who work on their behalf in alumni relations, communications, development, marketing and allied areas, the University also subscribes to:
  - CASE Europe: Ethical Principles Behind the Acceptance of Gifts [http://www.case.org/Samples\\_Research\\_and\\_Tools/Principles\\_of\\_Practice/CASE\\_Europe\\_Guidelines\\_Ethical\\_Principles\\_Behind\\_the\\_Acceptance\\_of\\_Gifts.html](http://www.case.org/Samples_Research_and_Tools/Principles_of_Practice/CASE_Europe_Guidelines_Ethical_Principles_Behind_the_Acceptance_of_Gifts.html)
  - CASE Donor Bill of Rights [http://www.case.org/Samples\\_Research\\_and\\_Tools/Principles\\_of\\_Practice/Donor\\_Bill\\_of\\_Rights.html](http://www.case.org/Samples_Research_and_Tools/Principles_of_Practice/Donor_Bill_of_Rights.html)
  - CASE Principles of Practice for Fundraising Professionals in Higher Education [http://www.case.org/Samples\\_Research\\_and\\_Tools/Principles\\_of\\_Practice/Principles\\_of\\_Practice\\_for\\_Fundraising\\_Professionals\\_at\\_Educational\\_Institutions.html](http://www.case.org/Samples_Research_and_Tools/Principles_of_Practice/Principles_of_Practice_for_Fundraising_Professionals_at_Educational_Institutions.html)

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 Donation: A donation is made when any wealth or property is transferred to UEA ownership with no expectation of anything in return. Donations, for the purposes of this policy, therefore includes all cash giving, legacies, benefaction, endowment, grants, legacies, pledges and other forms of giving that are voluntary transfers by a donor of money, or other assets, made from a broadly philanthropic source or with philanthropic

intent for the benefit of the University.<sup>4</sup> After receipt, the University must own the donation in full and any work, project or intellectual property that results. The donor may not retain any explicit or implicit control over a gift after acceptance by the University and there must be no contractual conditions attached to the donation. Donations are further interpreted, for the purposes of this policy, as including the following forms of giving:

- **Buildings, land and equipment/other assets that remain the property of the University.** Assets include (but are not limited to) artworks, shares, unit trusts, fine wines, financial instruments, cash, equities and any gifts-in-kind.
- **Funding for staff appointments** providing there is no donor control over the appointment and neither consultancy nor work under research contract is included.
- **Funding for scholarships and bursaries** as long as the student recipient is not required to undertake specific activities of economic benefit or other advantage to the funder (e.g. research projects, work placements) and the donor does not select the recipient.
- **Endowment** of lectures, studentships and other academic activities.
- **Funding of research** where the University retains control over how the donation/gift/grant is spent and exclusive intellectual property and exploitation rights to the research results.

3.2 **Donor:** A donor can be an individual, partnership, trust, foundation, institution, charity or company. The key issue is that the funding is given philanthropically with no expectation of a return either financial or in kind. This does not refer to acts of public recognition, e.g. signage or room or building naming. DAC will provide advice on whether a donor or a specific gift or grant is deemed to be philanthropic.

3.3 For the purposes of this policy, those giving donations are referred to as 'funders' or 'donors', and this should be interpreted as including all associates of the funder/donor which can be any individual, agency, corporate body, charity or foundation.

## 4. PROCEDURES RELATING TO DONATIONS

### 4.1 The role of the Development Office ("Development and Campaigns" - DAC)

DAC will co-ordinate and lead fundraising across the University, maintain details of all donations on its database for reporting and audit purposes, ensure correct standards of stewardship, and coordinate contacts with donors. By having an overview, DAC can ensure that donations are consistent with the goals and policies of the University and can coordinate relationships between academics, Centres and donors to ensure no conflicting requests or multiple approaches from different parts of the University are made.

All intentions to approach existing or potential donors should therefore be notified to DAC before contact is made, and in the event that anyone in the University becomes involved in the negotiation of a donation, DAC must be involved at the earliest opportunity. Likewise, when in receipt of philanthropic funding, Schools, Faculties and Centres will cooperate with DAC to thank donors appropriately and to ensure that the funding is disbursed in a timely manner and according to the wishes of the donor. An individual academic, student or School should not accept a donation on their own initiative without first referring to DAC.

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<sup>4</sup> As broadly distinct from gifts/hospitality received by members of staff as *individuals*, which fall under the University's Anti-Bribery Policy. Staff must be alert to any blurring of the individual/institutional boundary.

## **4.2 Guidelines and procedures for the acceptance of donations**

### **4.2.1 General principles.**

The University will actively seek donations on the basis that:

- The donation is consistent with the University's values and strategic goals.
- The funder can have no influence over the academic freedom and independence of the University, or over the assessment of the academic performance of any student or member of faculty, or over any other area of University activity.
- The project involves no, or minimal, net cost to the University in terms of financial commitment at the end of the period covered by the gift, unless agreed otherwise with the donor and specified as part of the process of accepting the donation.

### **4.2.2 Due diligence principles**

The University will follow due diligence processes to ensure that the *bona fides* of potential donors (and particular donations) have been rigorously researched and verified. In doing so, the University will follow a risk-based approach. A preliminary screening will be conducted by the Development Office on all pledges and intended donations totalling £10,000 or more or where cumulative donations exceed £10,000<sup>5</sup>. Should any concerns emerge from this initial screening, a more detailed and thorough screening will be conducted in order to inform the decision of whether or not to accept the intended donation. Pledges of £100,000 and over will undergo the more detailed due diligence process and may be outsourced to an independent provider. Where a donation at this level comes from a Trust or Foundation governed by The Charity Commission, the independent regulator for charitable activity, this detailed due diligence process will not be required for financial purposes but, consideration will still be paid to ensuring that the donation is made in accordance with the principles in 4.21.

Due diligence is to be conducted at the earliest possible opportunity, and ideally before embarking on the solicitation process with a potential major donor. The detail of the University's due diligence procedures is set out in the supporting operational processes and guidance.

Because of the requirement to conduct due diligence research on all pledges over £10,000 or where total donations exceed this amount, pro-active consultation with the Development Office should take place at the earliest opportunity and before any approach or response is made to the potential donor.

The University will engage third parties to assist with due diligence where this seems appropriate after a risk assessment has been conducted.

### **4.2.3 Acceptance/Refusal of donations**

In deciding whether to accept a donation the University will consider if the donation is compatible with the general principles set out in section 4.2.1, and whether the donation is consistent with its current Corporate Strategy. The University will not accept any

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<sup>5</sup> Gift Aid should be considered when calculating the potential size of the gift.

donation which is deemed, via due diligence, to have been funded through activities which:

- a) Are unlawful, including any form of theft, fraud, tax evasion, money laundering or terrorist activity, whether in the UK or under the jurisdiction from which the donation is to be made;
- b) Violate international conventions that bear on human rights;
- c) Limit freedom of enquiry, or encroach on academic freedom.

In addition, the University will refuse a donation if due diligence indicates that the donation, or any terms of it, will:

- d) Require any action (or actions on behalf of the University) that is illegal, including any form of unlawful discrimination;
- e) Have the potential to seriously damage the reputation of the University, e.g. by attracting negative publicity;
- f) Have the potential to harm the University's relationship with other benefactors, partners, potential students or research supporters;
- g) Create unacceptable conflicts of interest for the University;
- h) Constitute any form of bribery.

Indicators that would, if present, give the University cause to scrutinize a potential donation with particular care include (but would not be limited to):

- i) Irregularities in the form of the donation, e.g. large cash donations by single transactions, the use of offshore financial mechanisms or unnecessary involvement of third parties in transactions;
- j) The source of the donation being a jurisdiction with high perceived levels of corruption<sup>6</sup>;
- k) The nature or level of the gift being such as to create current or future financial liabilities for the University beyond those built into the University's financial plans

#### **4.2.4 Safeguards against specific areas of conflict of interest**

##### **a) Donations from current or potential suppliers**

As part of the due diligence involved in accepting a gift, the University will identify if there are any present or upcoming University tenders that may be of interest to the donor. If there is a possible link, donations will not normally be accepted or discussed until the University has ensured that this risk no longer exists.

##### **b) Donations from the parents/relatives/other associates of students**

The University will accept gifts from the parents/relatives/other associates of current and prospective students but will make it clear within the gift agreement and related communication that the gift will in no way have any bearing or influence on the students' academic progress.

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<sup>6</sup> As defined by Transparency International – <http://www.transparency.org.uk/>

#### **4.2.5 Gift agreements**

A written gift agreement is generated and offered for all philanthropic donations or pledges (excluding gifts towards the UEA's regular giving campaign) to the University over £5,000. All gift agreements provided to donors by the University should be in the form of templates which are signed off accordingly to scale by . the Director of Development (or his/her deputy), the CRO or the Vice-Chancellor

Gift Agreements must include:

- Donor name and address
- Gift amount and payment schedule
- Type of gift – cash, endowment, gift-in-kind, stocks/shares, equipment etc.
- Purpose of the donation and how it will be utilised by the University
- Management of gift – who is responsible for the donation at the University
- Details of any stewardship commitments – recognition, memberships, publicity, reporting etc.
- Any agreements made with respects to naming
- How amendments to conditions are dealt with
- Data protection agreement

Restrictions related to the use or purpose of a donation should be written as preferences to allow the University the ability to ensure future use.

Gift agreements for endowments must include a standard clause reserving the right of UEA to change the use or purpose of the donation when its focus is no longer feasible. For example, where UEA no longer offers a course for which a restriction has been accepted.

#### **4.2.6 Donor rights**

Donor privacy will be respected in accordance with principles and rights under the General Data Protection Regulations (2018).

The University adopts a principle of not normally accepting wholly anonymous donations, i.e. cases where the donor will not make his/her identity known to University, even on a confidential basis via an intermediary.

Exceptions to this principle may include:

- i. Small, anonymous donations collected in community fundraising activity.
- ii. Gifts or donations presented in a manner where impossible to identify the donor and therefore impossible to return or identify the origin.
- iii. Gifts from unnamed individuals presented through legitimate bodies/charities governed by UK/EU law who are in turn able to provide written assurances that rigorous due diligence has been undertaken. In such cases an even more rigorous level of due diligence will be conducted via third party organisation.

The University accepts and will facilitate the wishes of donors who do not wish to have their identity published or otherwise made generally known, other than personnel of the Development Office dealing with the management of the gift. However, the minimum set of University officers to whom the identity of the donor must be disclosed is set out (for different levels of donation) in section 6.1 below.

#### 4.2.7 Named recognition linked to donations

Where the University offers to name a building, academic post or other aspect of its activities in recognition of a particular benefaction, the University reserves the right to withdraw such named recognition in the future if it subsequently transpires that the source of funding arose in whole or in part from any activity listed under sections 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 or if future information becomes available which means that continuing to recognise the gift publicly would cause adverse publicity or harm to the University.

### 5. SAFEGUARDS RELATING TO ACADEMIC INDEPENDENCE

This section details provisions to underpin the principle that “the funder can have no influence over the academic freedom and independence of the University, or over the assessment of the academic performance of any student or member of faculty, or over any other area of University activity.” Where a donation funds (in whole or in part) an area of academic activity:

- a) Donors will normally have no influence over the process of appointing staff or scholars, including the composition of the appointing committee, the short-listing process, the interviews or the decision-making process of the appointing committee.
- b) If donors indicate a wish to suggest suitable candidates for roles created by their donation, the University will respectfully seek to decline to accept such suggestions, and will advise that the donor may him/herself flag the advertisement for the new role(s) to any potentially suitable candidates.
- c) The composition of short-listing and appointing committees, via their internal and external membership, will be such as to ensure their independence as well as the proper range of academic expertise and conformity to other aspects of good employment practice.
- d) Normal selection and appointing processes will be followed for the roles in question.
- e) After appointments are made, the independence of post holders in relation to the possibility of undue influence will be safeguarded by normal mechanisms, in relation to line management and transparent scrutiny of academic developments via local and University-level teaching and learning bodies. The protection of confidential information and intellectual property will be paramount.

### 6. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OR REFUSAL OF DONATIONS

- 6.1** The University will conduct due diligence on all potential donations of £10,000 and over, following the risk-based approach outlined. The responsibility for accepting and refusing a gift, following the relevant due diligence process, will fall to:

Size of donation	Officers to accept gift	Commentary
Up to £150,000	Director of Development	In cases that may be in conflict with the guidelines set out in sections 4.2.3/4.2.4, the Director of Development will discuss these with the Registrar

		and Secretary. Third parties may assist with due diligence if thought appropriate
Between £150,000 and £500,000	Director of Development and the Registrar and Secretary (CRO)	Third parties may assist with due diligence if thought appropriate.
Between £500,000 and £2m	The Vice-Chancellor, CRO and Dir DAC.	Third parties may assist with due diligence if thought appropriate or where new donors are being solicited.
Over £2M	The Executive Team	For major donations, consulting the Executive Team gives an appropriate range of views, which also allows for individual declarations of interest and withdrawal from the process. Third parties may assist with due diligence if thought appropriate.
Over £5M	Council	For the most significant proposed donations, which may have strategic implications, it is appropriate to consult Council. Third parties may assist with due diligence if thought appropriate.

Where there is a clear connection with the academic or teaching portfolio, the relevant Head(s) of School will be consulted as appropriate.

- 6.2 Ongoing monitoring and due diligence will be maintained on all lead donors (giving £100K and above) following the acceptance of a donation.
- 6.3 Once a donation has been agreed, any School likely to benefit from or otherwise be engaged in developments arising from the donation will be notified, if they have not already been involved.

## **7 RESPONSIBILITIES, RAISING A CONCERN, CONTACTS**

- 7.1 The Director of Development has responsibility for the development of this policy and for ensuring that it is effectively implemented, that progress is monitored and that the policy is regularly reviewed.
- 7.2 The Finance Division working with the Development Office team takes lead responsibility for the correct financial administration of donations, and related internal procedural guidance.



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- 7.3 Anyone wishing to raise a concern about the operation of any aspect of this policy may contact the Director of Development.
- 7.4 Below are key contact details for individuals within DAC who can be contacted to discuss issues relating to fundraising activities and due diligence.
- David Ellis, Director of Development ([d.ellis1@uea.ac.uk](mailto:d.ellis1@uea.ac.uk) ext.1168)  
Debbie Graver, Head of Data, Research and Finance ([Deborah.Graver@uea.ac.uk](mailto:Deborah.Graver@uea.ac.uk))
- 7.5 Notification of due diligence requests should made by completing the appropriate form. An initial response will normally be made to any such request within one working week.

September 2014

Revised December 2015

Revised December 2016

Revised January 2018

Revised May 2018

Revised Aug 2020

Revised Sep 2021

Revised Dec 2023

## **Legislative context**

These Acts are referred to within the due diligence process and consulted directly from the Government website in order to capture all amendments and to consider pending amendments [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Data Protection Act 2018 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted>

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)  
<https://eugdpr.org/>

Bribery Act 2010  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/23/contents>

The Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/692/made>

Fraud Act 2006  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/35/contents>

Freedom of Information Act 2000 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>

Equality Act 2010  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

## **Regulatory authorities**

Financial Conduct Authority for register of individuals and companies registered and regulated by the authority. <https://www.fca.org.uk/>

The Charities Commission regulates charities in England and Wales. <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator regulates charitable organisations in Scotland.  
<http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Companies House registers all companies in the UK incorporated under the Companies Act and related legislation. <http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/>.

Fundraising Regulator regulates charitable organisations in the UK  
<https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/>

Information Commissioner's Office is the data protection regulator for the UK  
<https://ico.org.uk/>