



FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

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Statement of Principles

Purpose of the Financial Regulations

These Financial Regulations set out the principles of the financial control to be applied to the management of the University and its resources including all subsidiaries ("**University**"). The Financial Regulations are supported by financial policies on individual areas and may be further supplemented by departmental rules.

Compliance with the Financial Regulations and Policies

For the purposes of these Financial Regulations, the **definition** of "**staff**" is all employees, workers and contractors including external examiners, visiting lecturers and fellows of the University, as well as for members of the Board of Trustees and other formal committees or boards of the University or departments insofar as they are acting on University business.

Compliance with the Financial Regulations is **compulsory** for all **staff**.

Staff are individually responsible for ensuring that they understand the University's Financial Regulations and how they apply to the conduct of their role and all other staff in their departments. Further guidance and training is available from the Finance and Planning Department.

Anyone who fails to comply with the Financial Regulations may be subject to disciplinary action under the University's Disciplinary Procedure (24 September 2008) including summary dismissal. Any breach resulting in disciplinary action will be notified to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

Failure to adhere to any University financial policy may also constitute a disciplinary offence if approval to deviate from the policy has not been pre-obtained from the Chief Financial Officer.

Departments are permitted to have specific department rules on the application of financial policies to their areas provided that: (i) no departmental rule contradicts or undermines the Financial Regulations; and (ii) they are agreed by the Chief Financial Officer. **Staff** are also required to adhere to any departmental rules in relation to financial matters, as approved by the Head of Department.

Where a financial regulation or policy requires reporting to the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Financial Officer is permitted to delegate receipt of such information to another member of University staff as detailed in the applicable financial regulation or policy.

Financial Regulations Applicable to all Staff

1. Conduct of All Members of Staff

The University expects that all staff will observe the following principles when undertaking their financial responsibilities:

- **Openness** – to be open as possible about all decisions and actions that they take
- **Integrity** – to be straightforward and honest in all academic, professional and business relationships
- **Accountability** – to take responsibility for their actions and submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office
- **Selflessness** – to not act in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends
- **Objectivity** – to not allow bias, conflict of interest or undue influence of others to override academic, professional or business judgements
- **Professional Behaviour** – to comply with relevant laws and regulations and avoid any action that discredits the University

2. Prevention of Financial Malpractice (Fraud, Corruption, Bribery, Money Laundering, Modern Slavery and Facilitation of Tax Evasion)

All members of staff are responsible for protecting the University from financial malpractice.

A member of staff must be alert to potential financial malpractice (including but not limited to fraud, corruption, bribery, money laundering, modern slavery and facilitation of tax evasion), to prevent such malpractice taking place, and to report any evidence of malpractice to the Chief Financial Officer as a matter of the most serious urgency.

In cases where a member of staff believes that informing the Chief Financial Officer would be inappropriate, they should consult the University Secretary and/or follow the procedures outlined in Ordinance 23 (Public Interest Disclosure which sets out the University's 'whistleblowing' procedure).

All staff are responsible for ensuring they understand and heed by the University's policies on fraud prevention, anti-bribery, anti-money laundering, anti-slavery and prevention of the facilitation of tax evasion.

As well as sanctions under the University's disciplinary procedures, staff and members of University committees may be personally liable to criminal prosecution if they do not comply with the anti-fraud, anti-bribery, anti-money laundering, anti-slavery and prevention of the facilitation of tax evasion legislation from which these policies derive. The University may also take legal action to recover any financial loss from the culprit.

3. Conflicts of Interest

The conduct of individuals should not create conflict, or the suspicion of conflict, between their official duty and their private interest. All staff must comply with the University's policy on conflicts of interest set out in Annex 1 of Ordinance 8.

Each individual must declare any private business and / or financial interests, and in particular any that would conflict with their role and duties with the University.

The action of individuals acting in an official capacity should not be influenced, or give the impression (to any member of the public, to any organisation with whom they deal or to their colleagues) that they have been influenced, by a benefit to show favour or disfavour to any person or organisation.

4. Income of the University

All monies receivable by the University are to be regarded as income of the University. All University receipts must be paid into a University bank account promptly and be properly accounted for.

All sales, fees and income claims to funders (including student, library, housing fees, research grants, projects and consultancy fees etc) should be raised through the University's financial system, be appropriately authorised and be subject to acceptable credit risks.

5. Authorisation of Expenditure and Compliance with the University's Procurement Policy

No staff member will commit the University to a financial obligation unless they have been given formal authority for that amount of expenditure under (a) the University's Scheme of Delegation or (b) financial policy on travel, hospitality and other expenses or (c) Annex 2 of Ordinance 6 setting out standing functions delegated to University staff.

All staff are required to understand and comply with the University's procurement policy.

6. Donations

All staff receiving gifts, benefactions and donations (whether cash, shares or goods) to the University are required to follow the University's Policy on Acceptance of Gifts and Donations. Legal Services and Finance and Planning will provide guidance on how such receipts can be used and recorded by appropriate department or institute.

7. Access to Records

All staff must promptly provide access to any records, whether electronic or paper, when requested by the Chief Financial Officer, External Auditor or Internal Auditor.

8. Private Consultancy Work

Full time members of staff may undertake consultancy work in a private capacity with the agreement of their Head of Department, providing this does not interfere with their duties to the University nor place any liability or reputational risk on the University.

Staff accepting such private commitments are responsible for their own insurance and personal taxation arrangements.

Where University materials or resources (including office and laboratory space) are consumed in the course of private work, payment at a commercial rate (inclusive of VAT) should be agreed prior to the work commencing with the Head of Department.

Additional Financial Regulations Applicable to Budget Holders

1. Efficient Use of Allocated Resources and Timely Reporting

Budget holders are responsible for the efficient and effective use of allocated resources. They must ensure that there is timely monitoring and control of spend against agreed budgets.

Budget holders must provide sufficient explanation of activity, both past and future, on a monthly basis to the Chief Financial Officer to enable monitoring of performance of both the University and individual cost centres. See Financial Policy on Financial Planning, Reporting, Performance and Investment for details on budgeting, forecasting and reporting processes.

2. Ensure Compliance with the University's Procurement Policy

All budget holders must ensure that they and their staff understand and comply with the University's procurement policy as well as any additional requirements imposed by funding bodies.

No lease of property or equipment for any duration of period will be valid unless the terms of the transaction have been agreed in advance in line with the Ordinance 6, Annex 2 (Standing Delegations to University Staff) and/or with the Chief Financial Officer as appropriate.

No advanced payment to a supplier will be authorised unless this payment has been agreed in advance with the Chief Financial Officer.

3. Maximisation and Safeguarding of Revenue

It is the responsibility of all budget holders to ensure that revenue to the University is maximised by efficient costing, pricing and billing, and by the identification, collection and banking of income. In particular, this requires prompt notification to the Financial Services Unit of sums due so that collection can be initiated.

Each budget holder shall make and maintain adequate arrangements for the collection, custody, control, disposal, and prompt and proper recording at the time of receipt, of all cash and cheques received, in such manner as advised to be appropriate by the Finance and Planning Department.

Budget holders are required to follow the agreed process for their area of revenue generation as detailed in the applicable financial policy and all budget holders are required to promptly notify the Chief Financial Officer of all monies due to the University under agreements prepared by them (including contracts and any other agreement which involves the receipt of money by the University). At the earliest opportunity, they shall provide the Chief Financial Officer with a copy of each completed document.

No agreement in relation to the sale or lease exceeding one year of any University property will be valid unless it is in line with the requirements of Ordinance 6, Annex 2 (Standing Functions Delegated to Staff) and/or, as appropriate, the terms of the transaction have been agreed in advance with the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Legal Services.

4. Insurance and Safeguarding of University Assets

Budget holders shall ensure that all insurance cover requirements are arranged solely through the Finance and Planning Department. Claims for reimbursement of expenditure pertaining to any other insurance will only be paid at the discretion and with prior approval of the Finance and Planning Department.

Budget holders shall immediately notify the Finance and Planning Department of any new types of risks, new premises, or equipment valued in excess of £100,000, to be insured, together with the amount of cover required, and, further, shall notify any change in circumstances which may affect existing risks and insurances.

Budget holders shall advise the Finance and Planning Department immediately of any loss or circumstance that may give rise to an insurance claim. All claims shall be prepared by the Finance and Planning Department, in conjunction with the Head of Department, for submission to the insurers.

Budget holders shall not give an indemnity to any person unless its terms have been approved by the Chief Financial Officer.

Responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer under the Financial Regulations

1. Ownership of the Financial Regulations and Policies.

The Chief Financial Officer will ensure that the Financial Regulations and the supporting policies are up to date and fit for purpose.

The Chief Financial Officer may authorise departures from the financial policies where this is unavoidable and where such departures adhere to the Financial Regulations. The Chief Financial Officer will provide a summary of any such departures to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee annually. Where the proposed departure from a financial policy is sufficiently material in nature, then pre-approval will be sought from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

2. Financial Risk Management and Compliance

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring that risks relating to the University's financial operations are identified and managed appropriately.

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring that the University is compliant with all applicable law governing the financial operations of the University in the UK and overseas including tax and regulatory.

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring that action is taken to reduce the risk of fraud, corruption and money laundering within the operations of the University as outlined in the Fraud Response Plan set out in Annex 1 to Ordinance 27.

The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that: (a) there are adequate controls over the raising of invoices in respect of all University activities (including student accommodation, student fees, research projects, consultancy fees, etc.); (b) all debts are collected promptly; and (c) outstanding balances are reviewed regularly.

3. Financial Reporting, Planning and Administration.

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring that the University prepares and submits in a timely fashion, annual accounts and other financial statements required for governing authorities. The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee will review the audit aspects of the financial statements. On the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, they will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for preparing annual budgets and monitoring in a timely fashion the University's performance against budget.

Auditors

Authority of External and Internal Auditors

The external auditors and the internal auditors shall have authority to:

- access University premises at reasonable times
- access all assets, records, documents and correspondence relating to any financial and other transactions of the University
- require and receive such explanations as are necessary concerning any matter under examination
- require any member of staff of the University to account for cash, stores or any other University resource under their control

Other Auditors

The University may, from time to time, be subject to audit or investigation by external bodies such as the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), research funding bodies, the National Audit Office, the European Court of Audits, HM Revenue & Customs. They have the same rights of access as the appointed external and internal auditors.

Status of Financial Regulations

These Financial Regulations apply to the University and its Central Academic Bodies, academic and other activities and departments including any subsidiary undertaking.

The Financial Regulations are subordinate to the University's Statutes and Ordinances and to any restrictions contained within the University's Financial Memorandum with HEFCE.

Where external funders' rules are more restrictive than the Financial Regulations, those rules will apply in addition to, or in place of, University processes.

Order of precedence within the Financial Regulations:

1. Specific rules in the Financial Regulations
2. General principles in the Financial Regulations
3. General financial policies
4. Departmental rules

Where there is an apparent inconsistency or contradiction between general principles, specific rules and other policies, guidance should be sought from the Chief Financial Officer in advance of any action being taken.

Appendix A – Financial Policies and Other Related University Policies

All financial policies are approved by the Chief Financial Officer, with the exception of *FP01 – Scheme of Delegation*, which is approved by the Board of Trustees.

Document	Owner
Scheme of Delegation	Chief Financial Officer
Procurement	Procurement Director
Travel, Hospitality and Other Expenses	Head of Financial Services
Sales – Pricing and Contract Approval	Head of Financial Planning
Expenditure – Purchase Orders, Use of Credit Cards (One Card) and Payments	Procurement Director
Salary and Payments to Individuals and Volunteers	Director of HR
Research Grants and Contracts	Head of Financial Services
Consultancy	Head of Financial Services
Asset Management	Head of Financial Services
Investment Assets	Head of Financial Services
Inventory Control	Head of Financial Services
Financial Planning, Reporting, Performance and Investment	Head of Financial Planning
Capital Planning and Infrastructure Projects (including Project Charter)	Chief Financial Officer
NB: Other policies may be added as deemed necessary from time to time.	



Document	Owner	Approver
Anti-Bribery Policy	University Secretary	Board of Trustees
Anti-Money Laundering Policy	Chief Financial Officer	Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Corporate Social Responsibility Policy	University Secretary	Board of Trustees
Conflicts of Interest Policy	University Secretary	Board of Trustees
Disciplinary Policy and procedures	Director of HR	Vice-Chancellor in line with Statutory Requirements
Fraud Action Plan	University Secretary	Board of Trustees as Plan set out in Ordinance 27
Acceptance of Gifts and Donations Policy	University Secretary	Board of Trustees
Intellectual Property	Director of Legal Services	Board of Trustees
Insurance Policy	Chief Financial Officer	Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Investments Policy	Chief Financial Officer	Board of Trustees
Risk Management Policy [Ordinance 22]	Head of Planning and Projects	Board of Trustees
Treasury Management Policy	Head of Financial Services	Board of Trustees
Public Interest Disclosure (whistleblowing procedure) [Ordinance 23]	University Secretary	Board of Trustees