Sheffield Students’ Union

Advertising Policy 2015-16

The Students’ Union shall advance the education of students at the University of Sheffield for the public benefit by representing the students of the University locally and nationally, organising services and activities to meet their needs, and providing opportunities for their involvement and personal development.

The Students’ Union provides numerous opportunities for organisations and businesses to work in partnership in order to profile their products and services to students. We seek to maximise revenue from these advertising and sponsorship opportunities, whilst promoting our ethics and values. In order to ensure we work only with companies who share our ethics, we have developed this policy to guide our partnerships.

All queries of this policy are to be directed to the Head of Advertising and Sponsorship Department. It is his responsibility to review the document twice every academic year, consulting with the Student Officers, relevant staff, students and other interested groups.

1. Organisations, products and services

Sheffield Students’ Union is keen to work with a wide range of organisations and businesses. There are however some who we choose to not work with, where we feel they are involved with or promoting products and practices which contradict our beliefs and policies. Certain activities are identified with our governing documents, polices and other statements:

Constitution

Under the terms of Bye-Law 19 of the Students’ Union Constitution, the Students’ Union “may resolve to have no dealings with, or facilitate the promotion of, companies or organisations on the grounds of:

• Involvement in the arms trade.
• Use of animals for cosmetic or nonmedical experimentation.
• Actions harmful to the environment.
• Actions which violate human rights.
• Unfair exploitation of Third World countries.
• Racist, homophobic, transphobic or sexist policies.”

Policies

Organisations or companies that contravene any Sheffield Students’ Union Policies may not be permitted to advertise with the Students’ Union. These policies include

• Occupation of the Palestinian territories
• No More Page 3
• Anti-Sexism Policy
• Sex Work Policy
• Bottled Water
Named organisations

There are some specific organisations, products and services which may not be advertised by the Students’ Union for the above reasons as defined below

- Nestle, and any sub brand of
- The Sun Newspaper
- Army, Navy, RAF - Full units.

Others Prohibited Categories

As a Students’ Union there are activities and organisations that we feel are not suitable for our student population due to the nature of their business. These may not be permitted to advertise with the Students’ Union and are

- Body-shaming, or reinforcing negative body image
- Cosmetic surgery
- Lap dancing
- Clinical trials
- Gambling
- Greyhound racing
- Money Lending
- Tobacco or e-cigarettes

Competitors

Companies or organisations that potentially constitute direct competition with Sheffield Students’ Union outlets and services will only be permitted to advertise on agreement by SU Development Officer in consultation with the Director of Social Enterprise.

Religious groups

Only those groups who are approved by the University of Sheffield Chaplaincy are permitted to advertise.

Charities

Only those charities approved by our External Engagement department are permitted to advertise. They will receive a discount of 1/3 off the standard rate.

Students’ Union Student Groups

Representative and Working Committees are encouraged to work in partnership with the Advertising and Sponsorship team to secure any agreements. This is to

- Avoid clashes with current partners
- Avoid repeat enquires
- Ensure correct organisations are targeted
- Ensure products are relevant and attractive
- Ensure all potential partners adhere to the advertising policy

Societies will be asked to consider not obtaining sponsorship from organisations involved in/contravening (a) prohibited areas; (b) SU Polices;(c) named organisations and (d) other prohibited categories.

Societies will be encouraged to provide details of sponsorship income to the Head of Advertising & Sponsorship. The Zone Desk will refer any student groups who have signed unfavourable contracts and/or who are having difficulty being paid sponsorship income, to the Advertising & Sponsorship Department for their advice. They may display the logos of their sponsors, providing they adhere to this advertising policy and are permitted to advertise and promote events, socials and...
activities, even though they may take place in venues other than Sheffield Students’ Union, as long as this is their promotion and not that of the external venue.

Arrangements with the University

a. Careers Service / Jobshop
The University of Sheffield careers service receive advertising free of charge as long as there is no cost to Sheffield Students’ Union and no commercial element to the booking. This does not include external graduate employers, as they are not considered part of the careers service. If a Careers Fair is to be advertised all stall holders must be Sheffield Students’ Union Policy compliant.

Local employers who book through Jobshop are entitled to a discount of 50% when they are promoting part-time vacancies to students at Sheffield Students’ Union.

b. Student Support Services
All Student Support Services are entitled to free advertising in the Students’ Union.

c. Sport Sheffield
Sport Sheffield’s non-commercial aspects (Social Sport) are entitled to free advertising in the Students’ Union, the S10 Gym receive a 1/3 off the standard rate.

d. Other University Departments
All Internal and other University Departments receive a 1/3 off the standard rate of advertising.

Blackwells Bookshop will receive advertising Free of Charge when a University lecture stall is arranged through the University department. Other advertising is charged at the standard rate.

e. Military/Service Units
Service Units, specifically the University Officer Training Corps (UOTC), Navy Cadets and University Air Squadron are permitted to establish a promotional stand on the concourse during intro week by arrangement with the University. This allows for student members of the Units to provide information for new students who might be interested in joining. The student members staffing the stand must not wear full military uniform, but be recognisable as Unit representatives. The number of representatives will be subject to agreement between the units and the SU Advertising team.

The Units may also attend the Freshers, Activities and/or Sports fairs charged at the standard rate and again not wearing full uniform.

Representatives of the Units may assemble on the concourse at 11.00am on 11 November as part of national annual remembrance events. Full uniform is worn on this occasion.

f. University Sports Clubs
Sports Clubs are allowed to obtain advertising and sponsorship independently and externally. Details of the agreements need to be passed on to the Advertising and Sponsorship Team.

They may display the logos of their sponsors and are permitted to advertise and promote events, socials and activities, even though they may take place in venues other than Sheffield Students’ Union, as long as this is their promotion and not that of the external venue.

Landlords
Landlords and letting agents that satisfy the below criteria will not be permitted to advertise with the Students’ Union between 1st September and 31st October in any given year.
The Students’ Union only wishes to promote landlords and letting agents who provide student tenants with good quality housing which is well managed and maintained. The Students’ Union does not have the resources to inspect properties owned, let or managed by landlords and agents. If a landlord or letting agent wishes to advertise through any of the Students’ Union’s channels, within their building or events (including the Housing Fair), they must satisfy at least one of these criteria:

- Some of their properties must be registered with the University private sector registration scheme (managed by propertywithUS)
- Some of their properties must be part of the City Council Snug scheme
- Be covered by the National Code for non-Educational Establishments (the ANUK code)
- Be registered members of National Housing Federation
- Letting agents acting on behalf of landlords must be a member of a redress scheme

The Student Advice Centre will determine and confirm that the above conditions are met or not. They also reserve the right to decline landlords and agents advertising where there are significant and unresolved casework issues.

Third party websites which showcase different properties must also satisfy at least one of the above criteria. These online platforms will not be permitted to advertise with the Students’ Union between 1st September and 30th November in any given year. While advertising is allowed for these services, attendance at the Housing Fair is not. They must also clearly show the disclaimer on any advertising inside the students union that will refer students to the Student Advice Centre for further advice and contract checking.

We recommend properties registered with appropriate schemes. Please check with the Student Advice Centre for more information on housing. 0114 222 8660 advice@sheffield.ac.uk

2. Process for banning a company

The process for banning and removing a company from the barred list is detailed in the constitution, Bye-Law 19

3. Style and content of advertising

- Advertisements must contain no false or misleading offers.
- Adverts must not show alcoholic strength, relatively high alcohol content, or the intoxicating effect, as a dominant theme.
- Adverts must not condone, encourage or glamorise excessive drinking/drunkenness or encourage anti-social behaviour. Effects of intoxication should not be referred to in any favourable manner.
- Adverts must not refer to consuming alcohol to recover from previous over-indulgence.
- The main message for pubs and bars should be the food offering rather than drinks and drinking
- Prices shown on adverts must adhere to Sheffield Alcohol Policy Model
- Overtly sexual images must not be used.
- Advertisements for housing must not actively encourage students into rushing to book their accommodation and must not refer to a desirable date to book by.
- Where a rental price is included within an advertisement, the basic contract structure relating to that price must also be referenced in the copy e.g. length of contract term and included items. A sample of the contract
relating to rooms at that price must be supplied to The Students’ Union Advertising & Sponsorship Department.

• Where any additional service (e.g. internet access, gym provision,) is referred to within an advertisement and rental price is also included in the copy, it must be made clear whether these services are included in the price or at an additional cost.

4. Review of Policy
The Student Executive Committee will review this policy in November (after the new intake activity) and April (in anticipation of sales for the next intake activity) each year.