



UCL Centre for Ethics and Law: Sponsorship Guidelines

UCL's Centre for Ethics and Law promotes and enhances collaboration between corporates, practitioners, civil servants, academics and others around the broad themes of professional ethics and the ethics of risk

UCL Guidelines for sponsorship

UCL Centre for Ethics and Law, ("the Centre"), as part of a global education institution, welcomes organisations who wish to support its objectives and subscribe to its aims and philosophy.

The objective of this document is to provide guidance to the Centre on the solicitation and acceptance of external, non-UCL, sponsorship.

In making these judgements, those representing the Centre must not allow individual or collective personal, political or commercial interests, nor personal views on political or ethical issues, which are not directly related to the interests of the Centre and UCL to affect their judgement.

The term "sponsorship" applies to monetary gift and services in kind and any other forms of assistance provided to the Centre.

The following principles should guide the solicitation and acceptance of any form of sponsorship:

Does the potential sponsorship further the objectives of the Centre?

Does the potential sponsorship fall within the principles for gift acceptance set out by UCL?¹

• is there any reason to suspect that the proposed sponsorship may be made from a source that arises in whole or in part from an illegal activity, or, more generally, from activities that may have:

- evaded taxation or involved fraud?
- violated international conventions that bear on human rights?
- limited freedom of enquiry, or encroached on academic freedom?

¹ See <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/finance/policies-procedures/accordion-financial-regs/10-income-fees-donations> and https://www.ucl.ac.uk/finance/docs/docs-policies-procedures/Guidelines_-_for_the_Acceptance_of_Donations.pdf . It might also be helpful to refer to UCL Research Funding Ethics Policy in this context: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/integrity/research-funding-ethics-committee>

- is there any possible expectation of personal advancement otherwise than in accordance with UCL's requirements for the admission and progression of students or the appointment of staff?
- is there any possibility that acceptance of the sponsorship might:
 - require action that is illegal?
 - seriously damage the reputation of the Centre and/or UCL?
 - create unacceptable conflicts of interest?
 - harm the Centre's or UCL's relationship with other sponsors, partners, potential students or research supporters?
 - encroach upon academic freedom?
 - cost the Centre and/or UCL more than the benefit it derives from it?
 - not otherwise be in the interests of the Centre and/or UCL and its objectives?

If any potential sponsorship may give rise to concern in light of these principles then the Director of the Centre in consultation with the Laws Faculty Dean will decide, on the basis of further inquiry and consultation, whether further discussion should be pursued with the potential sponsor.

The Centre will not accept any anonymous sponsorship.

There will be transparency with the Centre's communications with its sponsors. The Centre and/or UCL reserves the right to make public any communications between it and the sponsor.

If the situation changes after the sponsorship has been accepted, the Centre will review the original sponsorship against these guidelines and act accordingly.

Every sponsorship agreement must be in writing and a record retained. This agreement must be signed by a senior, authorised individual at the sponsor, usually the General Counsel or equivalent, and it must contain the following statement:

“Statement of Academic Freedom

It is a requirement that sponsorship of the Centre does not afford the sponsor any expectation of benefit from the sponsorship. Neither the Centre nor UCL will entertain any pressure to link sponsorship with any student or staff application to the University or any act that constrains academic freedom. Nor will the sponsorship be used, or be perceived, by the sponsor as advocating any views or actions. Further the sponsor is permitted to refer to its sponsorship of the Centre but agrees not to use its sponsorship as any form of endorsement or condonement of its actions or views in public or in any other way.

The Centre retains the right to revoke this agreement should information become available which indicates that the sponsorship breaches the Guidelines.”

Unless otherwise agreed the Centre and UCL will be permitted to refer the sponsorship on its websites and other publications.

Sponsorship agreements must be signed by someone other than the member of staff who solicited or agreed the sponsorship. If this was the Centre's Director then the agreement must be signed by a Faculty Vice-Dean.

These Guidelines will be reviewed and updated as required.