

1. UoE to divest entirely from companies tied to Israel

We accept that some of the companies in which our investment managers or their agents have made minor investments can be shown to have indirect links to Israel but these do not include directly funding weaponry or the armed forces.

It is likely that indirect links to many countries of the world could be demonstrated, and some of those countries may have governments with which we do not agree.

We do not agree that the University's investments make us "complicit in genocide". We have a responsible investment policy which includes not investing in controversial weapons (as well as considerations on the tobacco industry, fossil fuels etc). This policy is constantly under review – we will be inviting you and all members of the University community to contribute to a consultation which will be launched on 31 May, broadening the original scope of the policy review so that students and staff can actively contribute and make their views known.

[Responsible investment policy](#)

2. UoE to sever all research collaborations affiliated with Israel's genocidal project (Leonardo's, AnyVision, BAE, Ben Gurion University)

All of our research partnerships undergo rigorous due diligence procedures to assess potential risks, to align with best practice, and to comply with our commitment to responsible research. UKRI bodies provide further due diligence and are not engaging in boycotts of this work. Any work produced in collaboration with defence companies is tightly defined and dependent on ethical review. If appropriate, research outputs are also subject to UK-wide export control and dual-use regulation.

[Research ethics policy](#)

Universities UK does not support academic boycotts and, as an active member organisation, we agree with that position. Opposition to governments with which we disagree is often centred in universities in those countries. Many people disagree with their government, as is true in all democracies: blanket actions against a country because we disagree with its government punishes many with whom we would agree.

3. UoE to reduce and prevent policing on campus which severely impacts minorities

The police have a responsibility for safety and the law in all parts of the city and this includes the University campus. If there is criminal behaviour anywhere on our campus, we would expect the police to respond in the same way that they would in any other part of the city.

4. UoE to issue a statement acknowledging Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people

We deplore conflict and the loss of innocent lives anywhere in the world, and see with great upset the loss of life in Palestine.

When deciding whether to issue a statement on a particular issue, we primarily focus on our own community rather than seeking to comment on world events. We also scrutinise planned or actual statements made by sector organisations such as Universities UK and the Russell Group: if we agree with them we will align with those. Statements from large groups of universities are naturally more authoritative and influential than those from individual organisations.

5. UoE to openly denounce its historic role in the settler colonization of Palestine and its imperialist ties

Our comprehensive, academically-led review of Race and History is examining these issues as part of its work. The review is due to complete and deliver its recommendations at the end of 2024.

[Addressing contemporary and historic racism | The University of Edinburgh](#)

6. UoE to remove the painting of Arthur Balfour in Playfair Library Hall

As stated before, the portrait of Arthur Balfour is not currently on display. A project is underway to review and update the collection of artworks on display in the University's iconic Old College building, and we will be seeking your input and those of our University community throughout 2024.

[Old College Artwork | The University of Edinburgh](#)

7. UoE to combat antisemitism through removal of IHRA definition and re-engage discussions of alternative frameworks to tackle anti-semitism

Our University's approach to Antisemitism is actively under review including at executive meetings this week and next, with alternative approaches to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition being actively considered in discussion with our Jewish staff and students and wider communities.

8. UoE to pay reparations to rebuild Gaza equal to the profit of its investments in Israel

Our investment managers seek to achieve as effective a return on our investments as possible and this makes a major contribution to the success of our University and our ability to invest in the staff and students of the future. Separating out items within those investment returns is complex and problematic, so this is not something that is under consideration.

[Responsible investment policy](#)

9. UoE to provide scholarships to Palestinian students from Gaza

We have a long history as a university of sanctuary and have increased our support for students and academics displaced by conflict around the world. This includes a new scholarship programme for postgraduate programmes and, in partnership with the Councils for At-Risk Academics, a fellowship programme for academics and their families.

[Israel and Palestine | A University of Sanctuary](#)

[Education Beyond Borders](#)

10. UoE to take measures to ensure no person who participated in genocide are permitted to join the University.

Staff and students are required to disclose certain criminal convictions. More information is available on our [Academic Services website](#) and from Human Resources. The University does not consider it necessary to amend its policies on disclosure or recruitment.