

Statement of Responsible Collaboration

Working with the tobacco industry and other potentially contentious sectors and organisations.

The University of Southampton has an excellent track record of collaborating with companies and other organisations across all sectors in our education, research and enterprise activities. In situations where the reputation of the University or its staff may be compromised, careful consideration should be given to the potential for reputational damage before any commitment is entered into.

The University relations with the tobacco industry are guided by the Codes of Practice issued by [Cancer Research UK](#) and the [Wellcome Trust](#). Staff from all disciplines within the University are required to fully comply with these Codes of Practice. Staff will not knowingly engage with, or carry out or supervise work for, whether directly or indirectly, the tobacco industry¹.

In addition, where a risk of reputational damage can be reasonably expected, staff should seek guidance from their Head of Academic Group, the relevant Associate Dean or Dean of Faculty before making any commitment. These risks may arise from the nature of the organisation, the nature of the project or may, for example, involve ethical or conflict of interest issues. In cases where further advice may be required, the matter may be referred to the University Ethics Committee who, in particularly sensitive or difficult cases, may escalate the matter to UEG.

The protocol for escalating projects where there is ambiguity or an identified risk is contained in the [Ethics Policy](#), the [Conflicts of Interest Policy](#) and the [Research Integrity and Academic Conduct Policy](#). If you need further information or advice, please contact Research & Innovation Services in the first instance.

¹ The Tobacco Industry includes companies directly involved in the manufacture and sale of tobacco products and those companies who derive more than 15% of their revenues or income from the manufacture of products & supply of services necessary for the production &/or sale of tobacco products.