



UNIVERSITY WITH A PURPOSE

Sustainable Investment Policy

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1. About UPES

UPES is a State Private University established in the year 2003 through UPES Act (2003) of the State Legislature of Uttarakhand and listed under Section 2(f) of UGC Act. The University is multidisciplinary with eight Schools focused on Engineering, Computer Science, Design, Law, Business, Health Sciences, Modern Media and Liberal Arts. Located in Dehradun, Uttarakhand with an area of over 40 acres across 2 campuses, the University offers over 141 programs to more than 12000 students and employs over 1000 faculty and staff. UPES is NAAC grade A accredited University with five of its School of Engineering programs NBA accredited as well. The NIRF 2021 ranked the University amongst Top 100 Universities in India (Rank 100) with School of Engineering ranked at 91, School of Law at 25 and School of Management at 46. The university is QStar Four-Star rated, as well as the first University to receive the IACBE accreditation for two of its School of Business programs. Apart from this the institution has been awarded the Advanced E-LEAD (E-Learning Excellence in Academic Digitization) certification by the QS I-GAUGE ranking agency, and has been ratified as a 'Great Place to Work' by the Great Place to Work® Institute for the past 3 years in continuation

2. Background

UPES is sponsored by Hydrocarbon Education Research Society (HERS). As a private University and under the provisions of the establishing act, it is not entitled to any grant in-aid or any other financial assistance from the State Government or any other body or corporation owned or controlled by the State Government. The Finance Committee is the principal financial body of the University to take care of financial matters and subject to the provisions of the establishing Act, Statutes and Rules, co-ordinates and exercises general supervision over the financial matters of the University.

In the current revenue model at UPES, the primary source of funds for the University is fee from students. Revenue from primary and other sources along with interest earned on these funds are invested in banks. Primary Sources include Tuition and other Fees. Fee to be charged from students is reviewed periodically for revision. These funds are utilized for the optimal upkeep and maintenance of services. The other sources include (i) Consultancy Projects (ii) Management Development Programs, Training Programs and Faculty Development Programs for peer Institutions (iii) Sponsorships for various events and conferences (iv) Interest on Saving and Fixed Deposit

UPES embodiment of core values of respect and trust and commitment to human values and sustainability as an organization requires appropriate consideration in its investment policy and practices. With a paradigm shift in philosophy and delivery of education, the higher education sector needs to revisit its revenue models particularly exploring

sustainable modes of investment.

This policy has been drafted towards a comprehensive collaborative commitment to sustainability in financial governance.

3. About Sustainable Investment Policy

The Sustainable Investment policy applies to UPES and sets out the framework of sustainable measures in financial strategies and practices and the management and day to day operations of the institution.

4. Objectives

- Protecting the environment and preventing pollution, taking direct responsibility for the environmental impacts associated with all activities and operations, through a life cycle perspective in pursuance of high standards of environmental management.
- Investment policy and practices to be aligned with organizational mission, strategic priorities and principles of sustainability.
- Optimal and prudent utilization and investment of financial sources that is beneficial to the institution and society.
- To maximize return on investments incorporating risk management measures and protect long term value of its funds, whilst ensuring fair and sustainable practices related to such activities at all times.
- Promote investment practices integrated with commitment to environmental and social impact.
- Enhancing UPES's place in the community, proactively working with external organizations to promote a better environment and encouraging best practice principles

5. Guidelines

This Sustainable Investment Policy is outlined on the framework as below:

- The authority to invest in accordance with the policy lies with the members of the Finance Committee.
- The Finance Committee is responsible to ensure financial performance and adherence to commitments made on issues of social responsibility and sustainability Sustainable Investment Policy.
- Asset Allocation Strategy: Undertake sustainability risk/impact assessments of infrastructure products and services to ensure compliance with the University's environmental management operations procedures.
- Investment Criteria: The University shall invest in diversified areas of business

taking into consideration social, environmental and governance issues, promoting sustainability and its goals of corporate social responsibility.

- Investment Exclusions: The University shall ensure that investments that are harmful to society or the environment are excluded.
- Fund Performance: Manage the procurement of commodities and services in order to minimise or reduce negative impacts on the natural environment e.g. waste, carbon emissions, transport miles, biodiversity and consumption of natural resources.
- This Sustainable Investment Policy will be reviewed annually by the Finance Committee and an Implementation Impact Report shall be prepared end of every financial year.
- The University shall integrate Environmental, Social and Governance considerations in the process of investment decision making. These initiatives shall be tracked and be incorporated in the Implementation Impact Report.
- Authorized signed copy of the Sustainable Investment Policy shall be available on the University website accessible