

Universidad San Francisco de Quito USFQ



UNIVERSIDAD SAN FRANCISCO

Sustainable Investment Policy Statement

Elaborated by:	
Sustainability Office – Smart Campus	
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Sustainable Investment Policy Statement

Introduction:

University San Francisco de Quito is the first campus in South America accredited with a STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) Golden Rating, validating our commitment to incorporate sustainability within operations, academics, and research. USFQ seeks to be a university of excellence in all its activities and unique in the world given its capabilities within the Liberal Arts philosophy and its fundamental principles.

The research developed at USFQ is focused on sustainability, environment, corporate responsibility, climate change and equity. It is carried out by a multidisciplinary team of experts and students that are concerned with the healthy maintenance and development of society and the environment. 86% of academic departments at USFQ incorporate sustainability themes in their courses having a link to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mission Statement:

The sustainable investment policy (SIP) establishes guidelines for an internal framework for the USFQ's investments on academic, research, innovation, scholarships and endowment funds.

To drive USFQ's growth, it is important to provide the necessary resources for its development while ensuring investment and financing practices that align with USFQ's mission and values.

Who should read this policy:

Campus users, potential investors, professors and researchers.

Important definitions:

Endowment: Term used to describe a donation of money to a nonprofit organization, which uses this investment for a specific purpose for the organization.

ESG: Environmental, Social and Governance, term used to describe environment, social and corporate governance factors whose omission may generate an important material impact on the value of an investment.

Impact investing: Term used to describe investments that are made with the purpose of generating positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.

Our principles:

1. Incorporate USFQ's values of freedom, truth, goodness and beauty into the analysis and decision making of investments.
2. Understand the investment implications of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors.
3. Incorporate ESG factors into investment analysis and decision-making processes.
4. Promote the incorporation and reporting of ESG criteria in financing and investment practices in the educational sector.
5. Strive for appropriate ESG disclosures from entities in which investments are made.
6. Commit to permanent training and the study of best practices in impact investing in Higher Education Institutions.

Our initial commitment:

- Publicly disclose the Investment Policy Statement that describes how the University aims to manage its investment practices to incorporate ESG criteria in its decision-making processes.
- Identify partners that already have investment policies to collaborate with and learn from their experience and knowledge to continually improve the university's' investment decisions.

What we are already doing:

USFQ is currently drafting an investment policy with a section dedicated to sustainability which will be publicly available.