**For immediate release: xx/xx/xxxx**

**Working with students to shape our future**

**Academic work that shapes the world**

Climate change, sustainability and questions about our future mean that the world is in a precarious position. As an organisation, researching global and local sustainability is important, but we don’t have the time, resource or expertise to complete it ourselves.

That’s why we have become a member of NUS’ new scheme, **Dissertations for Good (www.nus.org.uk/dfg)**. It’s a website that partners organisations with students completing dissertations, allowing them to work together to produce ground-breaking, impactful work together and use education to shape the world.

“Dissertations for Good is an important way for NUS to promote the importance and relevance of sustainability for all students and organisations.” *Rob Young, NUS VP Society & Citizenship*

**Rules and regulations**

The only proviso of the work is that it must be ‘for good’: it must have some sort of positive effect on the organisation, the topic being studied or wider society. NUS defines this as work that contributes to social, economic or environmental sustainability.

There are numerous other benefits for everyone involved too. We are contributing to social good not only by completing the project but also by providing students with the opportunity to partner with us, developing their skills and helping boost their CVs.

“Dissertations for Good is a really neat little project…just one of the ways in which NUS helps students to make an impact on the world around them.” *Jonathon Porritt, writer, broadcaster and commentator on sustainable development and Chancellor of Keele University.*

**But my area isn’t relevant to sustainability…is it?**

Completed projects span a huge range of different fields, from building performance with CIBSE to time-of-use tariffs with Islington Borough Council, and from food instability in Plymouth to feedback from a support programme for young fathers. All of these projects have led to exciting developments for the organisations and resulted in brilliant experiences for the students.

“It is a good scheme which allows organisations to investigate areas which would normally be beyond their means.” *John Kolm-Murray, Seasonal Health and Affordable Warmth Coordinator at Islington Borough Council*

By becoming a member of the scheme, we have joined organisations including the Fairtrade Foundation ([www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)), Catch22 ([www.catch-22.org.uk](http://www.catch-22.org.uk)) and the Canal & River Trust ([www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)) in helping students use their education as a force for social good.

**Ends**

**For media enquiries, please contact Kim Croasdale** **kim.croasdale@nus.org.uk** **or** **dfg@nus.org.uk****.**

**About NUS**

The National Union of Students (NUS) has 600 students’ unions from across further and higher education in its membership, representing 7 million students across the UK. NUS shapes education to create a fairer and more prosperous society, while promoting, defending and extending the rights of students.

**About Dissertations for Good**

Dissertations for Good is NUS’ new scheme connecting students with organisations to complete research projects into sustainability together. The website is at [www.nus.org.uk/dfg](http://www.nus.org.uk/dfg).