

Gifts and Hospitality Policy - Offers of Gifts and Hospitality Received

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This document is intended for Trinity College London (TCL) personnel and authorised external parties. This document must be handled in accordance with the TCL classification policy.

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Gifts and Hospitality Policy - Offers of Gifts and Hospitality Received

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Scope.....	3
Policy.....	3
Roles and Responsibilities.....	3
Change Control	6
Change History	6
Change Approval.....	6

Overview

To ensure that all employees, workers and any other individuals conducting business on behalf of Trinity College London ('Trinity') do not use their official position for personal gain, i.e. to receive gifts, hospitality or benefit of any kind which might reasonably be seen to compromise Trinity's position or the individual's personal judgment and integrity.

Scope

All Trinity employees and workers. All consultants, fixed term and temporary agency workers or other third-party service providers engaged by Trinity. Members of Trinity's Council and other non-executive committees. All staff and directors of Trinity's branches and subsidiaries.

Policy

Anyone engaged to conduct business on behalf of Trinity should be aware that they are prohibited from using their office for personal gain. The acceptance of gifts and hospitality is an area where perception is more important than fact, no matter that something is accepted with selfless motives and solely in the interests of Trinity, it could be observed as compromising Trinity's position.

This is particularly relevant where Trinity is tendering for products and/or services from third party providers. Trinity strives to maintain unimpeachable standards of honesty, impartiality and integrity in all its business relationships. The intention of this policy is to set out the rules and guidance to be followed to ensure that it can be demonstrated that no undue influence has been applied by any external organisation, or anyone else dealing with Trinity.

The contents of this policy are not contractual.

Trinity reserves the right to amend this policy, as appropriate, without compensation.

Roles and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every individual covered by the scope of this policy to familiarise themselves with, and to comply with the terms of this policy, and to ensure that an audit trail exists for all offers of gifts and hospitality.

Individuals should ensure that they are referring to the current version of this policy, which is available from the intranet or the People & Culture team.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the matter being investigated under Trinity's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure, or in the case of workers, contractors or other third-party service providers, the immediate termination of their engagement.

General rules

Employees and workers shall not use their authority or office for personal gain. Likewise, self-employed individuals or agency workers providing services to Trinity should not use their connection to Trinity arising from their contractual status for personal gain.

Those covered by the scope of this policy have a personal responsibility to ensure that an audit trail exists for all offers of gifts and hospitality which should be submitted to the People & Culture team via ANNEX 1 Form for Receipt of Offers of Gifts or Hospitality. This form should be completed for all offers of gifts or hospitality, whether accepted or not accepted.

Definition of gifts and acceptance of gifts

Gifts shall not be accepted where they appear to be disproportionately generous or could reasonably be construed as an inducement to affect or influence a business decision.

Where a gift has been accepted, it may not always be permitted for the individual to retain the gift. The gift must be declared to the People & Culture team for inclusion on the Register of Gifts and Hospitality (see section on Procedure below).

Where a gift cannot be retained by an individual, it should be displayed in an office in the case of a gift from a visiting organisation, distributed to the team where applicable, or be raffled for charity at an appropriate time. The individual receiving the gift should ensure that the donor is made aware of Trinity's policy on the receipt of gifts.

There may be exceptional circumstances, however, when a gift should not be declined. An example would be where an individual is travelling overseas and there are cultural reasons why a gift should be accepted e.g. it could be construed as an insult not to accept it. When making travel plans individuals should seek advice on this matter in advance.

Any individual who has received two gifts from any external organisation within a single financial year must not accept any further gifts during that financial year from the same organisation.

In cases of doubt, any individual concerned about issues relating to the acceptance of a gift or offer of hospitality, should contact either the Chief People & Culture Officer or a member of the Executive Leadership Team who will escalate the matter as appropriate.

Where a possible issue relating to this policy arises, the advice of the Chief People & Culture Officer should be sought.

Hospitality

Invitations to lunch or dinner: from an external organisation may only be accepted where the primary reason for accepting the invitation is to discuss business matters, either with representatives of the hosting organisation or with other parties that may have business interests or activities in common with Trinity and where the venue and hospitality are not in themselves an inducement to accept the invitation or the purpose of the invitation.

Invitations to conferences and trade shows: it is recognised that participation in certain events such as supplier or industry conferences, seminars and trade shows can be of particular value where they support the establishment of relationships with strategic partners or enhance Trinity's profile, knowledge or understanding of a particular area. For such events, the hospitality element should be incidental to the event and relevant business information is expected to be gained through attendance. For these events, should an invitation to a major cultural or sporting event be included, then this invitation should be declined except where the interests of Trinity can be clearly demonstrated.

Invitations whilst travelling abroad on Trinity business: it is recognised that when travelling on Trinity business and where business trips are hosted by a National Representative, Area Representative or other organisation engaged on Trinity business, such tours are likely to include some form of hospitality, for example, formal receptions, formal dinners, etc. In these circumstances where such hospitality is arranged, and especially where the culture of the country dictates it would be offensive to decline, then it is permitted to accept these offers of hospitality.

Invitations of a social kind e.g. sporting and cultural events should be declined except where the interests of Trinity can be clearly demonstrated in advance and the business justification is both compelling and exceptional. In these circumstances, acceptance must be agreed in advance in writing by the Chief People & Culture Officer or a member of the Executive Leadership Team.

Hospitality that includes travel and overnight accommodation must not be accepted. The only exception to this rule may be when an individual is speaking at a conference or similar event and travel and accommodation is provided by the organisers, and only then with prior written approval of the Chief Executive Officer or member of the Executive Leadership Team.

Repeated invitations are deemed to be inappropriate, and any individual who has accepted hospitality of a social kind from an external organisation should not accept any further invitations of a similar type from the same organisation within the following twelve months.

Procedure

Where an offer of a gift or hospitality has been made, the individual receiving the offer should complete Annex 1 to this policy: Form of Receipt of Offers of Gifts or Hospitality. This form must be completed whether the offer has been accepted or not.

The completed form should be sent to the People & Culture team using this email address: peopleandculture@trinitycollege.co.uk.

The People & Culture Team will maintain a Register of Gifts and Hospitality. This Register will be made available as required, for inspection by the Chief Executive Officer, Chairman and the Chair of the Audit Committee.

Any individual concerned with procurement on behalf of Trinity should take particular care. Any offer of a bribe or commission made by external organisations, or anyone else dealing with Trinity, must be reported at once to the Chief Executive Officer.

Change Control

Change History

The following changes have been made to this document:

Version	Date	Author	Change Summary
0.1	2010-06-01	Director of HR and Corporate Services	Policy implemented
0.2	2012-11-01	Director of HR and Corporate Services	Policy review
0.3	2022-04-22	People & Culture Projects and Data Manager	Policy review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update HR department to P&C team - In Policy section outline where to access the policy - Transfer policy to new template - Added location to Receipt of Gifts/ Hospitality
1.0	2023-05-30	Chief People & Culture Officer	Policy updated to reflect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of worker status - Minor changes of wording/order to facilitate ease of reading and consistency with new policy template
1.0	2024-04-02	Chief People & Culture Officer	Annual Policy Review. No changes made.

Change Approval

The changes to this document have been approved by the following personnel:

Version	Date	Approver
0.3	2022-07-11	Audit Committee
1.0	2023-02-30	Policy Management Group
1.0	2024-04-02	Policy Management Group

ANNEX 1 - Form for Receipt of Offers of Gifts or Hospitality

**To be completed for all offers of gifts or hospitality,
whether accepted or not accepted**

Name of Employee (recipient)	
Job Title/Department	
Location	
Description of Gift / Hospitality Offered	
Date Gift / Hospitality Offered	
Name and Address of the organisation that has made the offer	
Business relationship to TCL	
Estimated value	
State whether Accepted or Declined	
Reason for Acceptance / Decline	
Employee's Signature	
Date	

Please return this form to the People & Culture Team at peopleandculture@trinitycollege.co.uk for inclusion on the Gifts & Hospitality Register