

Charter on the acceptance of private funding

Preamble

Emile Boutmy founded the Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques in 1872 as a limited liability company with the help of private funding. The entrepreneurial and philanthropic spirit that enabled the creation of Sciences Po, composed of the Fondation nationale de sciences politiques (hereinafter FNSP), which is responsible for the administrative and financial management of the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (hereinafter IEP de Paris), remains one of the main pillars of our institution.

As part of the development and internationalisation of its public service missions and the affirmation of its social responsibility, Sciences Po has been working for nearly twenty years to diversify its resources. It encourages efforts to raise additional funding for its teaching, research, and library and information services activities, and increasingly solicits the generosity of donors and the support of partners. These contributions are now essential to the proper functioning of the institution.

The purpose of this charter for the acceptance of private funding, hereinafter the "Charter", is to set out the values and principles that guide Sciences Po's action relating to the funding of its activities.

Article 1 — Purpose of the Charter

This Charter defines the main principles applied by the FNSP when entering into funding agreements with legal entities under private law (foundations, associations, companies, etc) and individuals.

The purpose of the Charter is to:

- guarantee the independence of the FNSP's strategic choices;
- guarantee compliance with the principle of neutrality to which research and teaching activities are subject;
- ensure the respectability of private funding sources, and respect for the use of the funds received;
- define the reciprocal rights and obligations of the parties involved, namely the FNSP and its funders.

The Charter sets out specific, but not exhaustive, principles designed to foster and maintain a genuine culture of integrity and respect for the FNSP's values and commitments, both within the FNSP and in its relations with the people and entities that make it up or with which it deals.

Article 2 - Scope of the Charter

The Charter applies to the following categories of agreement entered into or accepted by the FNSP:

2.1. Donations from individuals

This category includes:

- donations made without the involvement of a notary,
- gifts, donations, and bequests made by notarial act,
- voluntary work

2.2. Financial contributions from legal entities under private law

This category includes:

- donations in cash or in-kind (including goods, services, and time) which are tax-deductible in accordance with current sponsorship regulations,
- financial contributions made to Sciences Po to finance its institutional activities.

The FNISP's suppliers or service providers may provide cash or in-kind donations on the same basis as any other company, as long as this support remains disinterested: it must not be considered a commercial advantage or an attempt to gain preferential treatment for the supplier or service provider to the detriment of another.

Article 3 — Sciences Po values and principles

The goal pursued by Sciences Po since its inception has been to provide a foundational, multidisciplinary education with an international outlook, geared towards action and leadership. Sciences Po's mission is to educate free thinkers and enlightened citizens capable of understanding their time so as to shape the world. To this end, Sciences Po focuses its institutional vision on:

- academic excellence and scientific integrity;
- social, cultural, and geographical inclusion;
- seeking innovative and creative solutions to societal challenges;
- the ethics of debate and the exchange of ideas as founding values of citizenship.

The fulfilment of this mission and respect for these founding values depends on the principles set out below, which are of paramount importance in the context of fundraising.

3.1. Independence and respectability

The FNISP undertakes to maintain complete and total independence from funders in its strategic choices concerning teaching, research, library and information services policy, and management.

This independence comes to the fore in two key areas of university life:

- the selection and recruitment process: the selection criteria for candidates (students and faculty) to Sciences Po are based exclusively on their skills, qualities, potential, and personality; under no circumstances may a donation from an individual or an organisation influence the outcome of a candidate's application;
- the conduct of teaching and research projects: financial support from a funder, whether an individual or legal entity under private law, may under no circumstances influence the independence of the teaching and research carried out by Sciences Po staff.

In ensuring the respectability of its funding sources, the FNISP works to uphold its values.

3.2. Respect for the funder and mutual commitments

If a donation or any other financial contribution from an individual or legal entity under private law is accepted, the FNISP will ensure that it is used in accordance with the agreement signed and the intentions expressed by the funder. Should the FNISP envisage modifying or adapting the use of the received donation for justified reasons, it will obtain the prior consent of the funder or their assignees in accordance with the applicable regulations.

The FNISP and the funder, whether a legal entity under private law or an individual, undertake to mutually respect the conditions of communication and information about the act of sponsorship or partnership, these conditions being stipulated in agreements or written documents.

The FNISP naturally complies with all French regulations relating to the type of funding provided and the protection of personal data.

Therefore, it will not share or sell the list of funders to other organisations for commercial purposes, with the exception of those which act on its behalf to promote, raise awareness of, communicate about and fundraise for Sciences Po, such as the Sciences Po Alumni Association and, abroad, the US Sciences Po Foundation and the Sciences Po Alumni UK Charity Trust.

3.3. Transparency in the use of funds raised

The FNSP will use rigorous methods to manage donations and account for their use. It will also provide the funder, upon request, with all information relating to the use of their financial contribution and issue an annual report on funds raised and their allocation.

The FNSP has its accounts certified annually by an auditor who attests to the accuracy of the information presented in the Use of Resources Statement and its consistency with the accounting documents. The FNSP issues a tax receipt to funders for their donation, in accordance with the applicable French regulations.

3.4. Social and environmental responsibility and civic values

These values are intrinsic to Sciences Po's mission of teaching, research, and library and information services focused on the humanities and social sciences, the ultimate aim of which is to understand and advance societies. The FNSP is committed to ensuring that these values are respected within the institution.

Sciences Po's partner organisations are expected to take the necessary steps to identify and prevent any serious violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, or harm to the health and safety of people or the environment resulting from their activities.

Partner organisations are also expected to have adopted a model and strategy compatible with the transition to a sustainable economy in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C, in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

Finally, the FNSP expects them to make explicit commitments to contribute positively to several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as appropriate to their business and strategy, and not to undermine the other SDGs.

The Donations Committee may examine compliance with these commitments, based, inter alia, on the decisions of the public authorities.

Article 4 - Freedom to accept and refuse financial contributions

The FNSP reserves the right to refuse funds from individuals or organisations in the following situations:

- Anonymous donations: the FNSP reserves the right to refuse financial contributions if the source of the funds cannot be established with certainty, whether the funder is an individual or a legal entity under private law.
- Infringement of scientific autonomy: the FNSP reserves the right to refuse financial contributions from legal entities under private law or individuals if these are designed to induce actions, publications or acts that are contrary to the values promoted by the institution or whose purpose would be to influence or use for personal gain the work and findings of Sciences Po researchers, in disregard of the code of research ethics.*
- Doubts about the legality of the funder's activities: the FNSP reserves the right to refuse financial support from an individual or legal entity under private law if the legality of their activities is in doubt.*
- Unacceptable conditions attached to the funding: the FNSP reserves the right to refuse financial contributions with overly restrictive conditions that would be detrimental to its public interest mission, hinder the proper functioning of the institution, or entail additional costs in excess of the financial support offered.*
- Risk to Sciences Po's reputation: the FNSP reserves the right to refuse financial support if it is likely to damage its reputation for excellence or if the funder's practices run counter to its ethical principles, particularly if the funder is the subject of disciplinary or legal proceedings. In this case, the funds received will not be returned.*

Should any of these behaviours occur during the term of the agreement, the FNSP reserves the right to terminate the agreement.

Article 5 - The Donations Committee

A Donations Committee (hereinafter the Committee) is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Charter and for ruling on any situation that raises questions. The Committee's role is to ensure that all the values and principles defined by Sciences Po and set out in Article 3 of this Charter are respected.

5.1. Composition of the Committee

The Committee is made up of six members:

- A member of the FNSP Board of Directors, elected by the Board;
- The chair of the Academic Board, ex officio;
- Three qualified outside members appointed by the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the chief administrator;
- The student chair of the Student Life and Education Committee, ex officio.

The chair of the Donations Committee is appointed from among the outside members.

Qualified outside members are appointed for a renewable three-year term.

The Director of Strategy and Development attends all meetings in an advisory capacity, without the right to vote. Other members of Sciences Po's management team may be invited to attend Committee meetings as required.

5.2. Referral to the Donations Committee

The Donations Committee may be convened by the chair or the chief administrator of the FNSP, under the conditions defined in this article.

i. Questions concerning the policy for accepting donations:

The chair or the chief administrator of the FNSP, on their own initiative or at the request of the Strategy and Development Division or any other division of Sciences Po, may convene a meeting of the Donations Committee to discuss questions of consistency between the fundraising policy and Sciences Po's values and the impact of accepting a donation.

- ii. The Donations Committee will examine the following questions, *inter alia*, concerning the donation:
- is it contrary to the institution's mission, vision, or values?
 - does it jeopardise the independence of the institution's research or educational approach?
 - is it conditional on a candidate's acceptance to Sciences Po?
 - does it expose the institution to negative publicity?
 - does it stem from illegal or fraudulent activities?
 - does it involve discrimination (racial, gender, social, or religious)?
 - has the partner taken the necessary steps to identify and prevent any serious violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, or harm to the health and safety of people or the environment resulting from their activities?
 - has the partner adopted a model and strategy compatible with the transition to a sustainable economy in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C, in accordance with the Paris Agreement?
 - has the partner made explicit commitments to positively contribute to several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and not to undermine other SDGs?

iii. Question concerning the naming of spaces and programmes:

One means of thanking and recognising a major corporate or individual funder, particularly when a campaign involves a real estate project, is to name buildings, facilities, or programmes after them or a person whose memory they wish to honour.

A naming policy is drawn up by the Strategy and Development Division and submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. This policy ensures compliance with the principles set out in this charter.

The FNSP reserves the right to withdraw or modify the name given to a space or programme if the morality of the company, person, or foundation that has given their name to this space or programme is subsequently called into question under conditions liable to damage the reputation of the FNSP and the IEP.

In the event of difficulty concerning the attribution or withdrawal of a space or programme name, the Strategy and Development Division, in conjunction with any other Sciences Po division concerned, will inform the chair or the chief administrator of the FNSP, who will decide whether or not to refer the matter to the Donations Committee.

5.3. Donations Committee intervention and decision-making

When a case is referred to the Donations Committee, prior to the meeting at which the Committee issues its opinion, the members will receive all relevant information and the sources of this information on the projects concerned, the funders— legal entities under private law and individuals—and the questions concerning the legitimacy of the funding.

Committee members may request additional information and/or hold any hearings necessary, by any appropriate means, to ensure that it can fulfil its duties.

The Committee may only validly deliberate if the majority of its members are present. Members who attend by videoconference or other means of telecommunication that enable them to be identified are deemed to be present. In the absence of a quorum, the committee will reconvene within eight days and deliberate validly regardless of the number of members present.

An opinion/vote by proxy is allowed. The Committee's decisions are made by consensus. If it is not possible to reach a consensus, the Committee's opinions will be adopted by an absolute majority of those present or represented. In the event of a tied vote, the chairperson has the casting vote.

Each opinion of the Committee is recorded in minutes, together with all the information used. The minutes are not made public, unless the chair or the chief administrator of the FNSP decides otherwise.

The opinions of the Donations Committee are regularly reported to the Board of Directors.