

# The FairLife Charity

## FairLife Student Current Account Mark

Student current accounts are generally well run by the financial services industry. FairLife are launching a Student Current Account Mark to further improve these products and to help protect students while they learn the principles of sound financial management.

### Criteria for the FairLife Student Current Account Mark

1. An interest free overdraft.
  - The first pre-agreed overdraft on a FairLife Student Current Account must be interest free.
2. No penalty fees.
  - Students may be charged an interest rate for borrowing more than the pre-agreed overdraft limit, but this should be a charged daily, on the excess borrowing, and should not trigger an admin or penalty payment.

The interest rate charged above any pre-agreed overdraft limit, and the hard-level above which no more credit will be allowed, are matters for individual providers to decide.
3. Limiting negative footprints in the student's credit history.
  - Both the account holder extending their overdraft beyond the pre-agreed limit and the account provider shutting-off the supply of credit must be considered part of the normal operation of the account. Students using these features must not have their credit histories marked in a manner which indicates negative behaviour. This criterion does not prevent the licensee from flagging other areas of concern to a CRA, such as where the account holder breaks the law or materially breaches the bank's terms and conditions.
4. Notification of account balances.
  - The licensee must offer to provide the account holder with an immediate email and/or text message notification should the account balance exceed a pre-agreed overdraft limit.
5. Extension of the terms beyond student status
  - The terms of the account should be honoured for a minimum period of one year after the student's course has finished.

The FairLife Mark is a mark of integrity, awarded based on the provider's own declarations.

## The FairLife Charity

### Licence fees

Number of paid employees in the UK	Minimum Annual Licence fee
Up to 10	£1
Up to 50	£50
Up to 100	£100
Up to 300	£200
Up to 500	£300
Over 500	£400

The Mark is free to charities, not-for-profit organisations and holders of any other FairLife Mark (the £1 fee is 'considered paid'). For commercial companies, the annual licence fees are designed to be a token amount which contributes to the running costs of the charity. It is hoped that firms may also make charitable donations to the FairLife Foundation as circumstances allow.

Licence fees will be invoiced by FairLife Limited following the award or renewal of a FairLife Mark. All donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the FairLife Foundation Limited.

### Displaying the Mark

The FairLife Mark may be displayed at the discretion of the employer on any relevant literature. Placing the Mark is only restricted if the employer sells financial products or services; the restrictions being only to avoid confusion.

Employers who wish to help establish the FairLife Charity as a fair trading mark for the finance industry are encouraged to display a FairLife Charity poster (available from the website), or a window sticker (available from FairLife Ltd) where employees, customers and members of the public can view it.

### Obtaining the Mark

This information and a licence agreement can be downloaded from the FairLife Charity website under Product & Service Marks / Student Current Accounts.

### Contact details

Contact details for FairLife Limited and the FairLife Foundation Limited:

**Telephone:** 020 366 40377

**Address:** Unit 40A, The Grove, Hatfield, AL9 7RN

**Email Addresses:** [admin@fairlifecharity.org](mailto:admin@fairlifecharity.org)



# The FairLife Charity

## Appendix 1

### The FairLife Charity (background)

The FairLife Charity is a fair trading initiative designed to benefit everyone in the UK by improving everyday financial products and educating the public.

The charity is applying the principle of fair trading to the banks and finance institutions of the British economy; awarding its trademark logo, the FairLife Mark, to products and services that meet defined criteria. The FairLife Mark is a mark of integrity. Providers self certify and agree to follow the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.

The mark will span all areas of finance, eventually forming an umbrella of trust known as the FairLife Family, and will ultimately help to highlight minimum standards of sound practice. The Mark will act as a beacon, helping to guide consumers, whilst allowing competition and customer choice to flourish.

Together with raising standards, the FairLife Charity is encouraging companies, including those outside financial services, to make commitments in areas such as pension funding, adult education and the treatment of vulnerable customers. The criteria of these different marks can be interlinked to deliver outcomes for the public that are otherwise hard to achieve.

There are three types of FairLife Mark:

- Product and Service Marks highlight where companies have signed up to help establish fair trading in finance at the product level.
- Commitment Marks highlight where companies have made an organisational-level commitment to improve peoples' lives financially.
- Guidance & Education Marks are awarded in recognition of educating or directing the public in the responsible management of their financial affairs.

### FairLife's Product and Service marks

The FairLife Mark is about putting the customer first and rebuilding the good reputation of the country's finance industry. The mark highlights firms willing to accept The FairLife Foundation as a body that will ultimately help to define minimum standards of sound practise for the finance industry. The Foundation is being gifted to the nation with a remit to represent the best interests of the public and to help grow a strong and profitable finance industry.

The criteria may be strengthened over time thereby increasing the scope and effectiveness of the mark. Firms adopting these early marks are demonstrating, in a highly visible manner, their commitment to putting the wellbeing of the public at the heart of their business.

More information is available on the charity's website at [www.fairlifecharity.org](http://www.fairlifecharity.org)