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What does student engagement mean to you?

For me, the importance of student engagement lies in the matter itself, in participating and helping to shape things both inside and outside the university. Student engagement gives me personal scope for creativity and enables me, in collaboration with many other people, to actively bring about improvement through change.

What advantages do you see for yourself, your university and also society in your engagement, which goes far beyond the university?

The advantages that result from engagement always depend closely on the respective activity. Since I have already held various positions in the interest group, I can say that it is both an advantage in terms of being able to work even better in a team and that a lot of soft skills are learned. In my view, these include, above all, dealing with complex tasks under time pressure, understanding political decision-making processes, giving public speeches and being approachable for other students.

How did you get involved?

On the one hand, my commitment is linked to my family's political background. As a bricklayer, my grandfather was a union member for many decades, and my parents showed me early on that the democratic participation structures that we have are not something to be taken for granted. Especially when I think of my relatives in Iran, I am aware that our situation in Germany, with the protection provided by the Basic Law, is not something to be taken for granted. I go one step further and say that this also means that we share responsibility for improving the political situation for everyone on a daily basis.