

**Tabea  
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Uni Hannover  
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fzs

### *What does student engagement mean to you?*

For me, student engagement is a great opportunity to become active, take on responsibility and help shape your own environment. This gives you the chance to stand up for issues that are important to you and to initiate positive change - or to stand up for students who are less heard.

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

For me, the advantage is that I develop new skills and abilities that I would not necessarily learn during my studies. For the university, it means that it stays alive thanks to the engagement of the students. We students are the largest status group at the university - without student-friendly conditions, nothing would work for us. Committed students bring new perspectives that help improve teaching and shape campus life. From a social perspective, student engagement helps to address social issues and draw attention to grievances.

### *How did you get involved?*

At first very locally through my academic council, then my interest in the bigger picture grew, I then joined a list and that's how I got into university politics. I wanted to be able to actively shape my study environment and not just passively go along with changes. Quality in teaching, student participation in internal processes and recognition of student engagement are things that are important to me, alongside content-related topics such as criticism of racism.

### *What was the most decisive/important point (positive and negative) of your engagement for you?*

We set up a working group with which we organized a faculty-wide action week on criticism of racism. This week was not only a success in terms of participation and feedback from students and teachers, but also showed how important and urgent these issues are at our university. It was also a great example of how engagement can change the teaching environment, as we actively changed teaching during the semester through this week. We even received an award for our engagement at the time.