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*Where were you active when you were a student?*

I studied at the RPTU in Landau. There I was active in various committees and functions in the student council and at the university. For the longest time, I was chairman of the AStA there, and in this role I was also active in the Rhineland-Palatinate State Student Council (LAK) and the fzs.

*What does student engagement mean to you?*

First and foremost, student involvement has always been fun for me! You can take part in important decisions and sometimes put your finger in the wound when the circumstances at the university or beyond are anything but good for students.

*What advantages do you see for yourself  
- with regard to your professional life - in your previous involvement?*

I studied social sciences and communication sciences with a focus on politics and media. In the course of my involvement, I was able to put a lot of the theoretical content of my studies directly into practice and thus deepen the content further. I was also able to learn many soft skills such as a confident manner, negotiating skills and a good feel for practical (political) communication. It can also help when looking for a job if you have not "only" studied after graduation, but also have practical experience.

*How did you get involved?*

Studying and the university system can be overwhelming and intimidating at first, especially as a working-class child. The active members of the student council gave me a lot of guidance. I thought that was good and wanted to get involved. I was also class representative most of the time when I was at school, I think I just like being active in the representation of interests. I also think that wherever democratic co-determination is possible, whether at school, work or university, you should take advantage of it.



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*What was the most decisive/important point (positive or negative) of your involvement?*

For the LAK-RLP, I was in the negotiation round for the state-wide semester ticket in Rhineland-Palatinate. There was an appointment at the ministry with the state secretary and other important players. Because something like that was new to me, I was quite nervous beforehand, but then I quickly realized that these are just normal people you can talk to. That was a real aha moment for me.

I was also able to work on many different committees during the restructuring of the higher education landscape in Rhineland-Palatinate, which led to the merger of Landau and Kaiserslautern to form RPTU. I was able to learn a lot in the process and benefit greatly in my professional life from the knowledge I acquired.