



Jacob Bühler
fzs
VS Tübingen
LaStuVe

What does student engagement mean to you?

Working in committees, through discussions or with events to make studying, teaching and research a little more beautiful, social and sustainable. This commitment can take many different forms: improving examination regulations in accreditation procedures, showing first-year students around the university or organizing parties.

What advantages do you see for yourself, your university and society as a whole in your engagement, which goes far beyond the university and federal politics?

Science should serve society. I therefore think it is important that science is organized as democratically as possible. This includes, among other things, us students getting involved in the university and standing up for our interests as well as helping to decide on issues that affect the entire university. Student engagement can help to reflect the diversity of society more strongly in university decision-making. In addition, the higher turnover of students compared to tenured professors brings a breath of fresh air to the university. In addition to committee work, engagement in the student body also helps because we relieve the university of a lot of work with student advisory services and supplement campus life with a wide variety of events.

Personally, I have learned a lot through my engagement. Studying is a great place to try things out: How do you chair a meeting? How do you stand up for students with or against the rectorate? How do you organize with your fellow students? And even if something doesn't work out the way you wanted it to, it's usually not that bad and you learn a lot from it.

How did you get involved?

I'm the first person in my family to go to university and had no idea how it worked when I started. That's why I came into direct contact with the student council through the fresher's advice service and quickly made friends there as well as receiving support with my studies.

I then somehow stumbled into the student council via licensing issues with books and from there into various university committees.



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What was the most decisive/important aspect (positive or negative) of your engagement?

There are many. The most formative time was probably when I was on the board of the nationwide student representation (fzs), having paused my studies completely for a year and since then I have not only been active at my university but have worked with student bodies from all over Germany. During this time, I've learned a lot about how to deal with other opinions, different prior knowledge and interests. Instead of representing interests vis-à-vis the university management, you sometimes represent interests vis-à-vis the federal government together with university management.