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

For me, student engagement means being active in university life and getting involved outside of your studies. This can be political, social or cultural, limited to the campus/university or degree program, but also at an overarching level.

### *What advantages do you see for yourself, also with regard for your position at KIT following your studies, in your previous engagement?*

It also helps to look beyond the subject you are studying.

I learned a lot, which also helped me in my studies.

You also learn a lot of new things and it opens up completely new opportunities. However, student involvement is not primarily for your own benefit, but for the benefit of the university and student community.

### *How did you get involved?*

In my second semester, I found out from a friend that the AStA at my university at the time needed support in the environment and mobility department, a topic that had always concerned me anyway, also from a student perspective.

I applied and was elected.

Quite quickly I also became interested in other university policy issues.

### *What's missing at KIt and in general for more student engagement?*

In general, there is a lack of recognition of student engagement in the structures of the degree programs. Without student engagement, the university community is missing a large part of what makes it special.

However, commitment also costs a lot of time, and degree programs and social support for students are often not designed to allow them to do other things alongside their studies, especially if they have to work at the same time. A first step would therefore be to make degree courses more flexible and thus make student engagement more possible; the next step could even be to partially recognize engagement as coursework. Some - a few - universities already do this.