



Tobias Deeg
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What does student engagement mean to you?

The fascinating thing about student volunteering for me is how incredibly versatile it is. Wherever students are affected, our volunteers do their best to advocate for the interests of their fellow students. What we do here alongside our studies not only helps all students but is also an easy way to acquire a wide range of skills at breathtaking speed. I have seen people in student volunteering learn skills in a few weeks or months that would normally take years – and that you often don't learn in your studies. From 'How do I supply a stage with high voltage' to 'How do I effectively lead a team of 40 to 50 people,' everything is included.

You don't have to dedicate all your free time here - getting involved in student culture on campus in some fun way is, in my opinion, an enriching experience for every student. It is all the more important that we continue to strive to keep everything as accessible, inclusive, and low-threshold as possible in the future.

Whether at the university festival or smaller departmental parties, in direct exchange with KIT offices up to the presidium, as a student representative in one of the approximately 80-90 committees of KIT in which we are represented, in one of our approximately 80 university groups, or after work at a cozy get-together - I encounter people in this volunteer work almost daily and regularly think: 'Wow, it's amazing what they accomplish alongside their studies.' And being able to work with and learn from these people is simply a huge privilege for me.

How did you get involved?

I got into student volunteering through my student council, the council for humanities and social sciences. I was 'recruited' directly during the orientation phase and then taken to a cabin trip organized by the council specifically to introduce new students to the council structures and enable them to participate as much as possible right from the start. Gradually, I took on more and more tasks in the student council (board member, treasurer, member of the faculty council, organizer of orientation phases, etc.) and eventually joined the AStA because I found the job profile there pretty cool.



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What's in your opinion the reason, that not more students engage themselves at KIT?

A major point for me with the central committees (the AStA, the Senate committees, etc.) is accessibility. This is even more important to me than visibility, because it's one thing to know that all of this exists, but quite another to realize that I personally also have the opportunity to quickly move into truly responsible positions where I can make a difference. Often, we only manage to reach people who already have several years of experience in the student body, and they are often relatively quick to finish their studies, which creates a massive knowledge transfer and fluctuation problem.