

Student Engagement at KIT - BESSer@KIT



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Students comprise 2/3 of the KIT population and offer unique perspectives on how KIT runs – or not.

At the same time, the time as a student at KIT is a very special time for the students where they should involve themselves in the many offerings at KIT – many of which are organized and executed by students for the students.

The engagement of the students – in activities from hands on technical options over student politics to outreach, music, sports, and peer support – is an essential part of what makes KIT a community. Having as many students as possible involved in a broad range of activities is an essential part of being a student and engaging with KIT – both during the time at KIT but also afterwards – is why BESSer@KIT is important.

However, students, as most of the KIT community, have many different demands on their time and highlighting the importance of being involved at KIT is important to help ensure a substantial and diverse participation.

Development of skills for life, new friendships etc are advantages of participation and engagement – and ultimately to help make your alma mater – KIT – an even better place for yourself and, perhaps even more so, for future students. Involvement in society – be it politically, socially, artistically, or otherwise – is an essential element of a mature democracy.

The importance of understanding and living this cannot be underestimated.

This is something that needs to be a part of any education, including at KIT. It is important that people – students, alumni, participants – get a sense that their involvement makes a difference, that their efforts matter.

Demonstrating this must be a goal when attracting more people into active participation. Naturally, one must also accept that the student body is diverse and therefore are attracted to a variety of activities – not all wants to do politics or play in the big band.

I would like to highlight that a special effort may be warranted towards students coming to KIT with a more complicated social-economic background. These may benefit from additional support and mentoring to see the benefits of participation and to build the courage to be part of a community which is very foreign to them and where they receive limited support from home.

Reaching out to this group to get them involved should be a special focus – but also an option to change lives – including for future generations!