



**Franz Vergöhl**  
HafenCity Universität  
Hamburg  
SDG-Campus  
Podcast:  
Update-Hochschule

### *Where have you been active while studying?*

I was actively involved in volunteer work throughout my entire studies. From the first semester, I was part of our student council and later, together with other students, I founded an overarching student council for all departments of the Faculty of Education.

Additionally, I served several semesters in the student parliament (StuPa) and the senate. I was often involved in appointment committees and accreditations, both at my own university and at other universities. I believe I learned at least as much for my current profession from these activities as I did from my actual studies."

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

Commitment means for my fellow students and me to shape our own living environment and better understand the conditions that influence our studies. For me, it has always meant meeting many interesting people and building strong networks.

### *What advantages do you see in student engagement for students, but also for the university and society?*

The advantages lie in taking on important tasks to further develop the studies. This also helps in practicing taking responsibility in society.

### *What ways do you see to create more student engagement/participation?*

Universities should see engagement as part of the studies.

This requires physical spaces, but also support services. For example, offerings in the Future Skills or elective areas could focus on the competencies needed for more engagement.

There could be learning opportunities in the sense of service learning that directly link engagement with ECTS credits. Additionally, universities should provide support structures in the form of buddy and mentoring systems.