



Sascha Wellmann

Former fzs executive board, StuPa HS Darmstadt, European University Alliances, GEW Hessen

Which committees/bodies have you been or are you currently active in?

My past engagement includes the Faculty Council, the Senate, the Student Parliament, and the AStA, as well as various committees at Hochschule Darmstadt. Within the fzs, I served on the executive board (2023/24) and in the International Committee; at ESU, I was part of the Task Force on European University Alliances for two years. In the EUt+ Alliance, I represented Hochschule Darmstadt on the Student Board for two years.

Currently, I continue to be a member of the Student Parliament and the Senate's Finance Committee at Hochschule Darmstadt. Beyond that, I'm primarily involved in union work, serving as head of the Higher Education and Research division of GEW Hessen."

What does student engagement mean to you?

For me, student engagement represents added value and a way to break out of a rigid, performance-driven education system.

In a standard course of study, far too many aspects beyond subject-specific qualifications are neglected.

Student engagement enables active participation and shaping of university life –even though the structures and resulting power dynamics at universities often stand in the way.

What benefits do you see for yourself, your university, and society as a whole through your engagement?

First and foremost, I see the benefit of being able to learn and experience a great deal outside of lectures and seminars – often things that are much more relevant for life than what's outlined in the module handbook.

For the university, student engagement holds tremendous potential – always depending on how seriously students are taken and where the institution is willing to embrace change.

Society and universities influence each other mutually, and both thrive on the engagement of their members.



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How did you get involved in student engagement?

A mix of political curiosity and coincidence led me to it. During my study year abroad in Ghana (2018/19), I happened to come across a call for applications for a position in the AStA. Shortly after returning to Germany, I already had my first appointment to introduce myself to the student parliament. Once I got started, there was so much to discover and get involved in.

It has enriched my studies immensely – and still does.

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

Without the engagement and the experiences, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

Even though it's not always easy, I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities and the exchange.

Looking back, I found the contrast before and after the COVID-19 pandemic – and its impact on student engagement – truly fascinating, especially how activities shifted into virtual spaces.