Discuss, Decide and Organize:

Information and tips on the participation in a student council for international students
Goethe University thrives on the participation of students. As an international student, you can **actively participate** in decision-making processes in the student council of your department.

This handout will give you an overview of what a student council is, what a student council offers you, and where you can get relevant information on it. We hope you enjoy reading this guideline!
What is a Student Council?

- A student council (Fachschaft) is a **self-administration institution** that represents the interest of students at Goethe University.

- **An active student council** consists of students who are involved in committee work (e.g. organizing an orientation week, various cultural events and working as contact persons for other students).

- A student council is basically open for **every student** in your department.

- The ones who are elected by a student council (Fachschaftsrat) takes on a **representative role** that connects students to its faculty.
Besides a student council, students can also participate in committee work at University (Gremien). What does this mean exactly?

- Committees (Gremien) are self-governing organizations at University that make important decisions for students.
- Students can also organize a status group (Statusgruppe) that represents certain interests in the committees.
- Here is a list of student committees where you can participate in:
  - Fachschaftsrat (student representatives in each department)
  - AStA (general student committee)
  - StuPa (student parliament)
  - Examination Board and Senate
What does the committee work in a student council look like?

- At the department level, a student council provides a connection between students and administration. They collect problems and wishes from students and propose solutions for conflicts.
- In the inter-university conferences of student councils, the student representatives discuss issues such as the content of teaching materials in the lectures and assigning financial resources for student councils.
- A student council can send out its student representatives to the committee conferences.
How can I Participate?

As an active participant of a student council, you can work in the following fields:

- Handling **cultural issues** such as shaping the campus culture
- Handling **academic issues** such as the examination regulations, accreditations and statements on the quality of teaching and lectures in your department
- Handling **economic issues** such as finance management of your student council and the distribution of it
- Allocating (autonomous) academic **tutorials**
- Offering **social advisory** service for other students in your department
- Helping with the implementation / realization of **student projects**
Furthermore, you – as an international student - can share your specialized knowledge and skills with other students in the following fields:

- Living and working in Frankfurt am Main
- Arranging and gathering specific wishes and needs of international students at Goethe University
- Organizing study plans in your degree program

As you exactly know the needs of international students by yourself, your knowledge on these topics will be a great help for other international students.
How can I Participate?

Are you worried that you may not be qualified to participate in a student council or committee work? You do not need to worry about it at all because...

- Anyone who wants to be a part of a student council is very much welcomed!
- A student council is a **dynamic organization** which consists of and is based on different perspectives to reflect a diverse view of different students.
- Therefore, your participation in it will be a great help to improve the studying conditions of international students!

Check out the various **workshop programs of the International Office** which will help you earn and achieve soft-skills and important competencies for study & work and inform you about different engagement opportunities on campus and in the region (please see the following page).
What is a student council?

How can I participate?

Contacts and Links

Useful Contacts and Links

- Service center of the International Office for engagement
  www.uni-frankfurt.de/engagement
  https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/78548141/Trainingscenter

- Student self-administration organization
  https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/64349693/

- A list of student councils at Goethe University
  https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/85335555/

- A glossary and Uni-ABC for student participation
  https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/64349680/

- Information about student council and committee work
  https://www.luq.uni-frankfurt.de/76056850/
  https://asta-fra-uas.de/was-sind-gremien/

- YouTube channel #einmischen about student participation at Goethe University
  https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=%23einmischen
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