

FAQ: Elections

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StuPa (Student Parliament)

What is the StuPa?

The StuPa is the highest decision-making body of the student body at TU Dortmund University. It functions as the students' parliamentary committee.

What is the StuPa responsible for?

The StuPa sets the guidelines for the student body, decides on fundamental issues and the budget, and issues statutes and regulations for the student body. It elects the AStA representatives and appoints students to other committees.

Who can run for the StuPa?

Every enrolled student has passive voting rights and can run for the StuPa. Students join lists or create new lists for this purpose. A list is like a party, but without formal membership.

Who can vote for the members of the StuPa?

Every enrolled student at TU Dortmund University has active voting rights and can vote for the members of the StuPa.

ASTA (General Student Committee)

What is the ASTA?

The ASTA is the executive body of the student body and its political representative. It consists of elected representatives (e.g., for finance, social affairs, culture) and implements the StuPa's decisions.

What is the ASTA responsible for?

The ASTA takes care of the everyday concerns of students (e.g., student financing, social counseling, semester ticket) and represents the student body externally. It is reconstituted annually by the StuPa and implements its guidelines.

Who can run for the ASTA?

Any enrolled student can run for a position as an ASTA representative (passive voting rights).

Who can elect the members of the ASTA?

The ASTA representatives are elected by the StuPa (i.e., by the StuPa representatives). Students do not elect them directly.

Autonomous Departments

What are the autonomous departments?

Autonomous departments are specialized interest groups within the student body for certain marginalized groups. They are established by the StuPa as permanent committees. At TU Dortmund University, there is the Autonomous Foreigners' Department (AAR), the Autonomous Disabled Persons' Department (ABeR), the Autonomous Queer Department (AQR), and the Autonomous Queer Feminist Department (QFR). Each autonomous department employs elected representatives.

What are the autonomous departments responsible for?

Each autonomous department represents the interests of its target group. The departments hold regular plenary meetings and have their own budgets and statutes.

Who can run for office as a representative for the autonomous departments?

Only members of the relevant group can run for office in an autonomous department (passive voting rights). For example, only students with disabilities or chronic illnesses can run for office in the Autonomous Disability Department. The same applies to the other departments. The specific conditions can be found in the statutes of the individual autonomous departments.

Who can vote for the representatives of the autonomous departments?

The departments are elected by the respective group concerned at a previously announced general meeting. The statutes of the individual autonomous departments specify which students are eligible to vote.

Representation for the interests of student assistants

What is the representation for the interests of student assistants?

In accordance with §46a of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia, there is a representation for the interests of student assistants at TU Dortmund University. This consists of two elected representatives (and four deputies) and is the point of contact for all student assistants (SHKs/SHBs).

What is the representation for the interests of student assistants responsible for?

The representation advocates for compliance with labor law provisions for SHK positions and promotes appropriate working conditions. It accepts complaints from student assistants and can help with problems.

Who can run for the representation for the interests of student assistants?

All enrolled students are eligible to run. Any student can apply, even if they are not a student assistant themselves.

Who can vote for the Student Assistant Representative Council?

All students enrolled at TU Dortmund University vote for the members of this SHK representative council. The elected representatives are elected for two years.

Senate

What is the Senate?

The Senate is the central participatory body of the entire university. It consists of representatives of the university teachers, research assistants, technical/administrative staff, and students.

What is the Senate responsible for?

The Senate participates in the election of the Rectorate, makes recommendations on planning documents and decisions on the allocation of funds, and enacts and amends the university's constitution and regulations. It is particularly responsible for university-wide issues relating to research, teaching, and studies.

Who can run for the Senate?

All students can run for the student seats in the Senate (passive voting rights).

Who can elect the members of the Senate?

These seats are elected by all students enrolled at TU Dortmund University (active voting rights). The term of office for student members of the Senate is one year.

Student councils (FSR, also known as Fachschaften)

What are student councils?

A student council is the representative body for students in a faculty or field of study. It advises students in the subject and acts as an interface between lecturers and students.

What are student councils responsible for?

The student council represents the subject-related interests of students, e.g., in matters relating to exams and studies. It comments on higher education policy issues, maintains subject-specific networks, and organizes subject-related events such as orientation week.

Who can run for the student councils?

All students who belong to the respective student council (usually students of the same degree program or department; in teacher training, the student council must be selected upon enrollment but can be changed later upon request) have passive voting rights and can be elected to the student council.

Who can vote for the members of the student councils?

All students belonging to the same student council can vote for the members of their student council during the general assembly (active voting rights). The general assembly must be announced publicly in advance. The specific modalities are regulated by the student council framework regulations.

Faculty Councils

What are Faculty Councils?

The Faculty Council is the central decision-making body of a faculty. It consists of elected representatives from all status groups (professors, academic staff, administration, students) of the respective faculty.

What are Faculty Councils responsible for?

The faculty council is responsible for deciding on all matters of the faculty that do not fall under the responsibility of the dean's office. In particular, it decides on research and teaching as well as interdisciplinary study matters of the faculty.

Who can run for the faculty councils?

All students of the respective faculty can run for the student seats on the faculty council (passive voting rights).

Who can vote for the members of the faculty councils?

All students of the respective faculty (whose degree program belongs to the faculty) vote for the student representatives on the faculty council (active voting rights). The number of student seats varies between two and three.

Examination Board

What are examination boards?

Each faculty has an examination board that acts as the authority for examination matters. Among other things, it makes decisions on admissions, credit transfers, and special cases relating to examination regulations.

What are the examination boards responsible for?

The board acts in accordance with subject-specific examination regulations and decides on exam registrations, recognition of achievements, missed exams, etc. It ensures the smooth running of studies in the examination area and is the point of contact for students with questions about exams.

Who can run for the examination boards?

Students are represented by at least one member on each examination board. All students of the faculty can run for office (passive voting rights).

Who can elect the members of the examination board?

The faculty council of the respective faculty elects the members of the examination board.

Quality Improvement Fund Commissions

What are the QVM Commissions?

The QVM Commissions exist in every faculty. Student members make up the majority. The members come from various student councils within the faculty.

What are the QVM Commissions responsible for?

The commission decides on the use of certain funds.

Who can run for the QVM commissions?

All students in the faculty can run for office (passive voting rights).

Who can elect the members of the QVM commissions?

The faculty council of the respective faculty elects the members of the QVM commission.

Other committees

At university level, there are other committees with student participation, such as the SK QSL (Standing Committee for Quality Improvement in Studies and Teaching) or the SK QVM (Standing Committee for Quality Improvement in Teaching and Studies). These are elected by the Senate.