

# Where can I participate?

## Committees of the University of Heidelberg

**University committees** include not only students, but members of all status groups:

- Students/doctoral students,
- University lecturers
- scientific staff
- Employees in administration & technology.

### Doctoral Convention

The **Doctoral Convention** is the association of all doctoral students. It elects an Executive Committee (ExCo), the "representative body" of the doctoral students.

#### Its responsibilities:

- **Policy/Projects:** Consulting, events, recommendations to the university bodies, supra-regional networking
- **Persons:** Delegation of representatives to university committees
- **Money:** Decision on budget and projects (how much money for what/for which groups)

### Fachrat (subject council)

Departmental councils exist at the Faculties of Modern Languages and Humanities, as well as at the Faculty of Behavioral and Empirical Cultural Studies. The departmental council advises on departmental matters such as examination regulations, teaching, evaluations, etc.

### Fakultätsrat (Faculty Council)

Faculties comprise several institutions specializing in one or more disciplines. The **Fakultätsrat** advises on their matters, such as the establishment/closure of degree programs, examination regulations, new professorship appointments, teaching, and appointments. Decisions on these matters are generally made by the Senate.

### Senate

- The **Senate** is the university's highest decision-making body. Its final decisions include examination regulations, admissions, and the establishment (or closure or restructuring) of institutes.

# Why participate?

## Because you can!

Your time at our university is a chance to shape your surroundings and take on responsibility—without feeling overwhelmed. Even small contributions, like helping design the student council bulletin board, matter. After all, university life isn't just about hitting the books!

The best part about student councils is that everyone can get involved. You're welcome to attend meetings, share your thoughts, and put forward ideas. Whether or not you hold an official position, you can join working groups, take part in committees, and be active in plenary sessions. Even if you don't have voting rights in a particular setting, your voice still counts. You can influence how funds are allocated, what the student representatives stand up for, and how they take a stand on key issues. Through your contributions to discussions, you have a say —well beyond simply casting a vote — on things like study reforms and improvements to teaching. So get involved from the very beginning. Speak up and make your voice heard — wherever and whenever you can!



First-time voter  
information for the  
summer semester 2025

## StuRa? Fachschaft? Doktorandenkonvent?

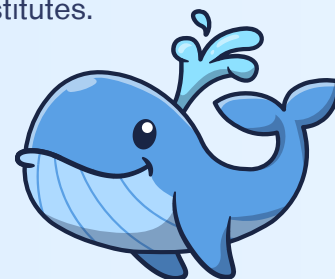
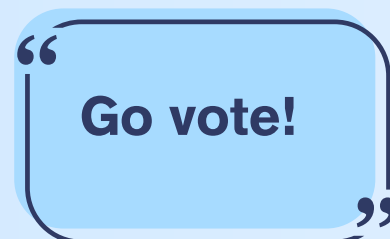
Join in!



[sturahd.de/mitmachen](https://sturahd.de/mitmachen)



[sturahd.de/wahlen](https://sturahd.de/wahlen)



[sturahd.de/flyer](https://sturahd.de/flyer)



# Where can I participate?

## Committees of the Student Body (VS)

### What is the VS?

The VS (Verfasste Studierendenschaft) is the elected representative body of all students at Heidelberg University. It advocates for the concerns and interests of students, be they political, cultural, social, and, above all, academic. Have you already used the following free services? Initial introductions, social consultations, legal advice, theater flat rate, Nextbike—then you've already come into contact with the VS.

### Student Council (StuRa)

The StuRa is the "parliament" of the VS. It consists of representatives of the Fachschaften (subject student councils) and directly elected candidates nominated by university groups. Its tasks:

Politics/Projects: Positions and actions on study-relevant topics and general student concerns

Persons: Election/delegation of officials (e.g. in departments, university committees, city committees)

Money: Decision on budget and concrete projects (how much money for what/for whom/for which groups)

### Fachschaftsrat

The Student Council (FSR) represents all students of one or more departments. It also chairs the student council general assemblies, in which all students in the student council are entitled to speak and submit motions. Responsibilities:

Policy & Projects: Support for groups, advice, introductions, game nights, positioning on examination regulations/curriculum offerings

Persons: e.g. election of representatives in the StuRa or institute committees

Money (FS funds): Decision on budget and projects (how much money for what/for which groups)

Money (quality assurance funds, QSM): financing of tutorials, teaching materials, additional teaching opportunities



“By the way,”

Here you can get personal information and gain insights:

at the meetings and events of your student council(s)

**Newbie consultation:** [sturahd.de/newbie](https://sturahd.de/newbie)

**Open day at the StuRa office:** May 28, from 2 p.m.

**Panel discussion on the StuRa election:** 02.06.

# Why participate?

Studying is an opportunity to help **shape your environment** and take on responsibility without being overwhelmed. Even small tasks, like designing the student union website, are important, because university life isn't all about studying!

The great thing about the VS committees **is that all students are welcome to attend the meetings**, have their say, and can submit proposals. You can **participate in working groups, presentations, and general assemblies, even without being an official**.

Even where you can't vote, you have a say. You influence how money is spent, what the student council advocates for, and how it positions itself on important issues. Through your contributions to discussions, you help shape how academic reform and teaching are discussed—even beyond voting.

**Be involved from the beginning - keep your voice and use it whenever and wherever you can!**



[sturahd.de/newbie](https://sturahd.de/newbie)



# Elections: Deadlines & Termine

### StuRa/Fachschaftsräte

29.04., 0:00: Activation of the candidacy forms until 19.05., 16:00: Submit candidacies & lists for the StuRa

until 04.06, 16:00: Submit candidacies for student council

10.06., 10:00 a.m. - 17.06., 12:00 p.m.: Election date

01.10.25-30.09.26 or 31.03.26: Term of office

### Executive committee of the Doctoral Convention

26.05. General Assembly

- 03.06. Candidacy deadline

June 10, 10 a.m. - June 17, 12 p.m. Election date

01.10.25 to 30.09.26: Term of office

### Fakultätsräte/Senate

from now until 09.05., 16:00

Submit nominations to the University Election Office

10.06., 11 a.m. - 16.10., 11 a.m.: Election date

01.10.25 - 30.09.26: Term of office

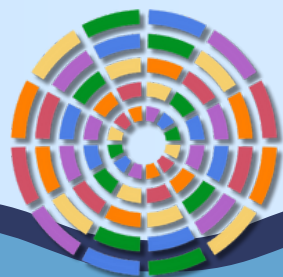
# Election portals:

### Fachschaftsrat, StuRa, Doktorandenkonvent, Fachrat:

[sturahd.de/wahlportal](https://sturahd.de/wahlportal)

### Senat, Fakultätsrat:

[gremienwahl.uni-heidelberg.de](https://gremienwahl.uni-heidelberg.de)



The StuRa meets in public.  
**All students (including you!) have the right to speak and submit motions.**