

What is the AStA?

The General Students' Committee (AStA) is the executive body of student representation at the University of Potsdam. It is mainly politically active and stands up for the rights of students before the university and state politics. Its aim is to actively participate in shaping the university and to set its own priorities, which are important from a student perspective. In addition, student initiatives are supported in networking and becoming active - whether they are student councils, university groups, initiatives or loosely organized students. In addition, the AStA provides numerous advisory services - for example for examinations, tenancy law or BAföG and social counselling.

What awaits you?

You should be able to work independently and on your own responsibility, but you should also be able to work in a team - because even if everyone works in their own departments, AStA work is first and foremost teamwork. The weekly AStA meeting and the meeting of the student parliament every three weeks serve as a platform for exchange and discussion. There you can get suggestions and support. Reliability and communication skills are important so that the AStA members can rely on each other and the students can count on the AStA. You will soon realize that there are some things you want to change and numerous projects that can be supported.

So take your time for the work. A year awaits you in which you will learn a lot, make contacts and of course have fun making a difference together!

Which task fields and departments are there?

A large proportion of general tasks are handled by the entire AStA.

- Office hours: Each AStA Officer takes over weekly office hours to carry out general AStA tasks in the office - this includes office maintenance and cleaning.
- Answering study requests
- Distribution of information material
- Meeting with the university management (Jour Fixe) and participation in committee meetings
- Collaboration in projects that require the support of other AStA members
- Preparation of the weekly meetings including chairing the meeting, taking notes, team care etc.
- A special aspect of the work of the AStA is the responsibility for the employees: there are many people working in the AStA, who are responsible for finances, the advisory services, the KuZe and other projects. Therefore, AStA officers should be responsible and reliable contact persons.

In addition, the AStA members concentrate on their thematic reports, which are determined by the student parliament (StuPa). The lectures can be attended by several people. Possible for the coming year would be:

- Antifascism
- Antiracism

- Campus policy
- Studentisches Kulturzentrum
- Education, politics and teaching
- University politics
- International
- Culture
- Press and public relation
- Gender politics
- Social politics
- Finances
- Ecology, Sustainability and Transfer
- Network policy and digitization
- Student council

If several people are assigned to a paper, paper meetings are recommended. There you can exchange information about public relations, your website or future projects. All speakers of the AStA can order information material or design their own. Events such as workshops, lectures, parties and film evenings can also be used to draw attention to topics.

A detailed description of the individual presentations with topics and possible tasks can be found below.

Three speakers also take on the role of the AStA Board of Directors. The board consists of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson with equal rights and the financial officer. Their signatures are necessary, for example, if bank transfers have to be made.

Antifascism:

In a time when we are experiencing a worldwide shift to the right and there are racist terrorist attacks on prayer houses, BiPoC and committed people in the fight against right, as well as an increasing amount of racist motivated police violence, it is important to make right and fascist discourses visible in a university context. Also, at universities there is an increasing presence of right-wing ideas. In order to counteract this, you can build and maintain support and networking from and to already existing projects in Berlin and Brandenburg as a speaker. It is important to show a clear edge against queer hostility, anti-Semitism and racism and to take consistent action against them. You are relatively free to shape your work as a speaker. It is possible to organize information events, provide information for students, create information material or build up politically interested groups, establish contact with urban structures or make the world a better place by hand. A possible important topic could be the invitation of the #fckAfD to the New Year's reception of the University President. Set your own priorities and raise awareness of social grievances!

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- Student Parliament (StuPa), Assembly of Student Representatives (VeFa) and other bodies of student self-administration
- University management and senate
- Brandenburg Student Representation (BrandStuVe)
- free association of student councils (fzs), especially the campaign "never again!"
- Tolerant and Safe Potsdam Service Center (ToSiP) and "Potsdam! shows its colors"
- Centers for Political Education

Antiracism:

Racism is a balance of power that we have all internalized. Therefore, racist discrimination is a reality in the lecture hall as well. Although it may cause sudden speechlessness, fear, anger or paralyzing resignation in some, it is still not or not enough perceived, talked away, relativized or even ignored by many others. As a result, racist incidents often remain unsanctioned - with the consequence that stereotypical images become entrenched and violent behavioural mechanisms are perpetuated as a postcolonial legacy. The Department of Anti-Racism can start here by drawing attention to various forms of racism in everyday life in film, information and discussion events, intervening in the case of racist incidents and working in corresponding committees to ensure that migrant and refugee perspectives are taken into account in the decisions of university policy and administration. In cooperation with the Brandenburg Anti-Discrimination Counseling Center and the university's Equal Opportunity Officer, complaints can be recorded, documented and addressed. In cooperation with self-organized groups of affected persons and allies, campaigns, further training and actions to identify and reflect on racism can be planned and carried out. The establishment of a complaints office for cases of discrimination is a declared goal of the department. The support of student projects critical of racism also falls within the AntiRa area.

Interesting is certainly also an examination of the university's attitude towards fugitives, which is expressed for example in the Refugee Teacher Program, or the question of dealing with religious affiliations and/or attributions. The work in the Department of Antiracism cannot do without the willingness to constantly and consistently reflect on internalized racism. Of course, this task varies according to one's own positioning, but the examination of empowerment and critical whiteness concepts can help to be connectable for different groups in order to come closer to the goal of a racism-sensitive university. How do we develop recognition and complaint structures in which racism is addressed and overcome on an equal footing and intertwined with other forms of unequal treatment such as sexism, classism, heterosexism or ableism? A strategic networking with inclusive alliances in the city of Potsdam is certainly helpful in approaching this goal. The work in the Department for Antiracism needs courage, continuity, composure and mutual support. Working in a team is therefore advisable and an application to several is desirable.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- University groups & projects, also beyond the University of Potsdam, like Postcolonial Potsdam or Black Lives Matter
- Senate Commission on Antiracism
- Senate Commission for Equal Opportunities (CGK)
- Central Equal Opportunities Officer and the Coordination Office for Equal Opportunities (KfC)
- Refugee Teachers Program
- free association of student councils (fzs)
- Anti-discrimination consulting Brandenburg

Education, politics and teaching

Teaching connects all students and brings us together in new compositions. Even though there are many examples of good teaching, it does not take long before we experience frustrating, non-achieving, non-critical teaching. Unfortunately, most of us don't get to implement our criticism of teaching in a constructive way. There are various instances of this. The Educational Policy Department is committed to quality standards and the development of teaching and studies at university level, supports student work in study commissions and commissions for teaching and studies, participates in the accreditation of study programs and the improvement of evaluation possibilities, and should also devote itself specifically to teacher training.

It is finally time to take up the criticism of the teacher training students. Finally, students should be sensitized to the possibilities of influencing teaching. In particular the student representatives in the study commissions of the different subjects should be strengthened.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- Student councils and the assembly of the student councils (VeFa)
- Senate Commission for Teaching and Studies (LSK), Assembly of the ZeLB and other committees of the academic self-administration
- University legal advice from the AStA
- Initiative chalk dust
- Center for Quality Development in Teaching and Studies (ZfQ)
- student representatives of other universities
- free association of student councils (fzs), especially the committee for study reform
- Ministry of Science, Research and Culture (MWFK) and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MBJS)
- Centers for Political Education
- BrandStuve

Campus policy:

Growing student numbers mean that the responsibility for networking and the "quality of stay" at the various university locations is increasing proportionally. This is precisely why a separate so-called Campus Policy Unit is essential for the student body. Within the framework of networking, the department cooperates with the various student committees, university groups (especially Studicafé, Lesecafé, Eselsohr, StuGa), projects and initiatives. The exchange with the university management and the city of Potsdam is also important. The meeting of the student councils is also indispensable, as they often also provide the student members of the faculty councils. The other AStA departments may also need to be sensitized to the groups that affect them. In general, establishing communication, organizing joint meetings and putting the most moving topics on the agenda can be a very long and fruitful process. In addition, new buildings are planned for the Golm campus, and with a lot of effort, the campuses could be made more sustainable and student-friendly.

One task is to improve the quality of stay on campus, with a focus on maintaining and creating student open spaces, expanding the cafeteria, opening university buildings on weekends. Furthermore, the amendment of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act, which should be critically accompanied, is also on the agenda. Further (permanent) topics include the forced de-registration of students who have reached twice the standard period of study, the prevention of inadmissible attendance requirements in courses and information on legal action. The opening hours of libraries should also be evaluated and extended if necessary.

A major topic is the strengthening of volunteer work at the university. For this purpose, it would be good if you were involved in the corresponding volunteer work group. There, the possibility of giving credit points for volunteer work to students, the development of a website for volunteers at the university and a concept for an autonomous student council are being discussed. Adjustments in the amount and the way in which expense allowances are awarded will also be important in the future. Of course, you should also set your own focus and pursue your own topics, and you should also coordinate with the other papers on the topics.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- student projects & free space on the campus
- various committees of the student self-administration (especially VeFa)
- academic self-administration, especially the faculty councils
- AG honorary office of the senate
- User Advisory Board of the University Library (UBB)
- General election committee (AllgWA) and student election committee (StWA)
- University - Facility Management - Potsdam (HGP)
- Brandenburg Student Representation (BrandStuVe)
- Studentenwerk Potsdam
- Ministry for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg (MWFK)

Student councils:

The student bodies are the heart of our student body and often the first point of contact for students on their way to student self-administration. This makes it all the more important to support the student councils and ensure that information is passed on over several generations of student representatives. As a student representative you are the link between the FSRs, the assembly of the student councils, the student parliament and the AStA. You can improve the work of the student councils in the long term, for example by creating guidelines and information material for the work in FSRs and various other (e.g. study commissions) committees of student and academic self-administration. Your organizational skills are in demand when it comes to the planning of initial weeks and student council trips as well as major events. It would also be desirable to help build up new or inactive student councils, as they often feel abandoned. In addition, you could, in close cooperation with the financial department, support the student councils during the audit process and thus actively help to improve the results of the audit. Your commitment is needed to enable student councils to have their own premises, because unfortunately this is not always the case. Ultimately it is up to you to feed the department with more ideas and find creative ways to strengthen and network the student councils and support their work.

For this paper it would be an advantage if you have already gained experience in a student council. Since the student council department is to become an autonomous department (elected by the student council assembly) in the long term and is so far only planned for the 20/21 legislative period, it would also be good if you could help to work out a restructuring.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- Student councils
- Assembly of the student councils (VeFa)
- academic committees, which are often staffed by FSR members in personal union Study Commission, Faculty Council, etc.
- AG Honorary office

Finances:

In order to stand up for students' rights, to fight social grievances, which are also reflected at our university, and to be able to actively shape life in and around the University of Potsdam in the long term in the students' interest, various advisory structures are created by and for students, projects are supported and, for example, student culture is promoted with the KuZe.

An annual budget of 600.000€ is available for this purpose, which is based on the solidarity principle. The responsibility for a good administration of this money lies with the financial officer. To this end, a budget must be proposed that regulates the framework of the various financial pots from which the various student bodies, such as VeFa, StuPa and AStA, decide on expenditures. In addition, as a financial officer, you have to take care of the day-to-day business: the bookkeeping has to be kept correctly, payments have to be made properly and on time, and accounts have to be checked.

There are clear guidelines that have to be followed: the basic rules are the national budget, the financial regulations and the financial guide of the financial officer. In the case of the latter, it is also desirable that you, as a financial officer, consider where there is a need for reform and work out appropriate change concepts. For example, for a clearer breakdown of all regulations. In addition, there are ongoing contracts that must be adhered to and should also be maintained regularly.

In all this, it is important to maintain a clear overview of the current status of income and expenditure so that they can be planned appropriately in the long term. For this purpose, it is your task to create regular quarterly reports and updated statements of reserves and to disclose them to the StuPa, among others.

Good communication is also essential for your work as a financial officer: for example, in budget planning, so that you can determine the respective requirements. But also in supporting applicants in how they have to account for their projects correctly, in working with the audit committee and in accounting for semester ticket refunds.

And above all, good communication with employees and the other AStA officers is important. As a Finance Officer, you are automatically a member of the AStA Board of Directors, and your area of work is a crucial interface to ensure that everything works. Mutual teamwork and assumption of responsibility are therefore particularly important here!

In order to fulfil these tasks, there are three employees in the AStA who will assist you, but you should also be able to have at least 20 hours per week at your disposal. As described, the work in the financial department is accompanied by a lot of responsibility. You should therefore have a sense of duty, conscientiousness, enjoy working with figures and tables, and the commitment of the AStA should be close to your heart.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- Bodies of the student self-administration, especially the student parliament (StuPa) and the assembly of the student councils (VeFa)
- student cultural center (KuZe)
- University management
- Department 4 for budget and procurement
- Department 3 for personnel and legal affairs
- Banks & Payroll Office

Gender politics:

The discrimination of people based on their gender is unfortunately part of everyday life at university. Unequal treatment in seminars, a surplus of professors and precarious positions in the mostly female mid-level faculty, sexist or homophobic and transsexual comments by fellow students or lecturers, and even sexualized violence on campus are part of the range of experiences of those affected by this sexist (in)culture. Every day people fight against these structures that are so embedded in our society: in the organization of free spaces and demonstrations, in the struggle for order at the university and the student body, or in the debate and political education in feminist subject areas. Legalization of abortions, redistribution of care work, breaking up heteronormative images of society, intersectional analyses of race, class, gender, sexuality, dis_ability, mental health and body - many debates and discussions fall into the area of gender politics. If you know of such struggles and want to continue them, apply for a position as a speaker for the AStA!

At events like the Purple Over Night, March 8th or the Critical Introduction Weeks you will have the opportunity to get involved and stand up for gender politics. In cooperation with the fem_archiv, different feminist groups and people from the student body, the university or the city you can certainly achieve a lot.

Another project is the introduction of a free distribution of menstrual articles in the university, which is currently being discussed in the Commission for Equal Opportunities.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- fem_archive
- University groups & student projects like UPride
- Senate Commission for Equal Opportunities (CGK)
- Central Equal Opportunities Officer and the Coordination Office for Equal Opportunities (KfC)
- free association of student councils (fzs), especially the campaign gesellschaft*macht*schlecht

University politics:

BAföG, Corona assistance, student housing and urban planning, semester ticket negotiations or the amendment of the University Law - all these points have a fundamental influence on the life of students and the quality of a course of study and with all these points it is important that the interests of students are heard. The Department of Higher Education Policy is responsible for this. Because for these issues it is important to have good political networks and to fight political battles. Here the Department of Higher Education Policy is a central and important networking point. Whether it be discussions with politicians, participation in alliance meetings, or planning political campaigns - in all of these areas, the Department of Higher Education Policy is the interface for bringing ambitious and progressive higher education policy to the student body, the AStA, and the StuPa. In this time- and work-intensive department, you can achieve and move a lot and, in addition, you can bring the students' opinions loudly into the political discourse in Potsdam and the state of Brandenburg. Does urban planning not consider student residences once again? Does the state's amendment to the Higher Education Act also take the opinion of Potsdam students into consideration? Is the Federal Ministry of Education refusing to really help students in times of Corona? Everywhere here the department for higher education policy has to inform itself and fight for the interests of the students, plan actions, work out strategies, talk to actors, do press work and stand up for the fight for better study conditions and a more social study system. It is therefore important to have a certain basic political understanding. It is also desirable to invest at least 20 hours a week in the departmental work. Furthermore, one should be present in official contexts and not be a communication muffle.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- Bodies of the student self-administration, such as the student parliament (StuPa) and the assembly of the student councils (VeFa)
- Brandenburg Student Representation (BrandStuVe)
- free association of student councils (fzs)
- other student representatives at Brandenburg's universities and universities of applied sciences
- Initiative "Deadline is frustration"
- Actors from local and regional politics
- Brandenburg Conference of State Rectors (BLRK)
- Ministry for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg (MWFK)
- Committee for Science and Research (AWFK) in the State Parliament
- Spokesperson for science policy of the state parliamentary groups
- Youth and university policy associations of the party landscape
- Youth trade unions and student associations of the trade unions (e.g. GEW-Studis)

International:

Every year hundreds of students study at the university without a German passport. Many ERASMUS students, students from abroad, who complete an entire course of studies here, or refugees who start their studies after the long process of asylum recognition. They all have in common, in different forms and shapes, that many obstacles are put in their way during their studies and in everyday life. Be it the stubbornness of the administration, racist practices of lecturers and university selection processes or the lack of political representation. For this, there is a department for international affairs in the AStA. They offer information on how studying at the University of Potsdam is going and can help with questions or pass on information. You represent the interests and lobby for international students vis-à-vis the university committees and the student body. Would you like to get involved in this field of activity and are you perhaps an international student yourself? Then this is the right place for you!

Every year hundreds of international students join the university potsdam to pursue higher education. These students could be ERASMUS who come for few semesters, exchange students from non-European countries, refugees who start their studies after the long process of asylum recognition, or non-European students who join whole course of program. From the first day of arrival, several kinds of obstacles come in the course of abroad studies. e.g. university selection processes, administration related issues, racist practices by lecturers, cultural shock, or the lack of political representation. International department of the AStA assist to internationals with all kinds of issues with. They offer information on how studying at the University of Potsdam works and can help with questions or pass on information. You represent the interests and lobby for international students vis-à-vis the university committees and the student body. Would you like to get involved in this field of activity and maybe you are an international student yourself? Then this is the right place for you!

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- Bodies of the student self-administration, especially the assembly of the student councils (VeFa)
- ERASMUS Student Network (ESN) Potsdam
- Consulting services of the University of Potsdam & the City of Potsdam
- Advisory Board Internationalization
- International Office
- Refugee Teachers Program
- Studentenwerk Potsdam
- BAS - Federal Association of Foreign Students

Culture:

The student body of the University of Potsdam creates countless cultural offerings every year. From FSR festivals to readings, discussion events, concerts, workshops and small festivals, everything is included. In many places in the city, too, student cultural offerings can be found, giving the city its own, often socially critical focus. The AStA also has a cultural department which is responsible for this focus within the student body. On the one hand, this involves networking and supporting many existing actors in this field, such as the KuZe, FSRs, university groups, but also non-university organizations. Classically, the cultural department also often organizes events itself. Many small events, depending on personal or student interest, are part of the repertoire. But also major events such as the University Winter Festival, the Purple over Night or the University Summer Festival. The current situation around the Covid-19 pandemic poses particular difficulties for the cultural sector, as many events can only take place on a small scale or have to be cancelled. Here it would be good to get creative and come up with suitable formats that could help the cultural landscape to survive this crisis. Would you like to enrich the cultural offerings in Potsdam and make them more diverse?

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation and collaboration:

- student councils and the assembly of student councils (VeFa)
- Student Cultural Center (KuZe)
- various university groups of the University of Potsdam
- Studentenwerk Potsdam
- Filmmuseum Potsdam and other potential cooperation partners
- Art and culture professionals in Potsdam and surroundings

Studentisches Kulturzentrum (KuZe)

The KuZe-Referents primarily takes care of the representation of interests of the student cultural center (KuZe). This includes above all the communication between the committees of the student self-administration (as carrier of the KuZe) and the honorary structures in the KuZe (e.g. the ekze association). In addition, the advisor also represents the KuZe to third parties (e.g., the Studentenwerk Potsdam as the owner of the building complex) or introduces it (e.g., when welcoming international students). The KuZe advisor is supported by four full-time employees and numerous volunteers. As a KuZe instructor, you will have the opportunity to gain practical experience in project management, team communication and public relations/cultural work, i.e. skills that you can use in various areas.

The Kuze lecture is one of the most demanding but also one of the most beautiful lectures in the AStA. You are involved in the AStA, you do board work in the ekze e.V., which is a great club and organizes many concerts, readings and so on besides running the most beautiful bar in town. In the AStA and StuPa you have to fight for the project, the employees, but also for hundreds of volunteers. With the AStA behind you, you can organize concerts or proximity events, do screen printing, try your hand at the theater, organize exhibitions and if you don't like all this, you can do something completely new. The department demands a lot of committee work and involves you as an employer in a very time-consuming process. You can really bend a full-time course of study in the meantime. But once you have found your way around, it is one of the most beautiful presentations in the world. It is best to fill it with at least two people so that knowledge can be passed on and work can be shared.

You should network with these people and strive for cooperation:

- Employees and volunteers at KuZe
- ekze e.V.
- Student parliament (StuPa)
- Studentenwerk Potsdam
- Art and culture professionals in Potsdam and surroundings

Network policy and digitization:

Your heart beats for open source software and the word "privacy" does not scare you off? You are familiar with social discourses on digitalization and maybe you even have a knack for Wordpress? If so, the Net Policy Department has a variety of tasks for you to tackle!

From campus licenses to sensitization, tracking, cyberbullying and DSGVO, there are many areas that are important for everyday student life. You can bring your ideas for more sustainable and secure cooperations to the university management, support workshops and training courses on digital media and help the student self-administration with data protection issues concerning their websites. In addition, you would manage the new website in the AStA and revise the AStA Wiki together with other speakers.

Especially important are information events about security on the net, surveillance, right-wing extremism in social media, but also how-to's and options for action for students. Maybe you organize a crypto-party for FLINT* or invite people who talk about bullying & shitstorms? In any case you can do a lot to raise awareness and give the university some critical impulses on their way to digitalization.

You should network with these people and strive for cooperation

- Bodies of the student self-administration, such as the student parliament (StuPa) and the assembly of the student councils (VeFa)
- University management and senate
- Data Protection Commissioner at Potsdam University
- Center for Information Technology and Media Management (ZIM)
- University groups and associations
- Brandenburg Student Representation (BrandStuVe)
- free association of student councils (fzs)
- local groups with net-political reference (Chaostreff Potsdam, CCC Berlin, etc.)
- UPlug (UPlug Potsdam Linux User Group)

Press and public relation:

In the department for press and public relations you will be responsible for the external communication of the AStA. You will be responsible for communicating to the outside world what happens in the AStA, networking, planning and support. This includes the monthly AStA newsletter, moderating the studi-list, revising and publishing press releases and supporting our online presence (including Twitter, Instagram and Facebook).

You are the contact person for the other speakers when it comes to publicity and support them in the creation of information material. You are the human competence when it comes to providing information for the student body and the public - you keep our online presence up to date, coordinate contributions and see what else could be done to bring the work of the AStA closer. Maybe with campaigns? A magazine? In any case, students should be able to inform themselves about current topics and projects at the AStA. For the presentation you should bring creativity, organizational skills and a little bit of fun with rhetoric.

A cooperation with the student magazine speakUP would also be possible. This could be supported by conducting regular interviews with Asta speakers or reporting from the university committees.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- University management, university groups & working groups of the University of Potsdam
- Student magazine speakUP
- Press office of the University of Potsdam
- Student Cultural Center (KuZe)
- Nile Student*inner Cellar
- further culture and event locations in Potsdam
- local press

Social politics:

The Social Policy Department takes care of the social needs of the student body. These include issues such as student housing, good conditions for students with children or accessibility. However, this only represents a small part of the Social Policy Department's field of activity. Basically, one can say that whenever students have problems that more or less, directly or indirectly affect their existence, the Social Policy Department is responsible. For this reason, the advisors in this department (ideally at least 2) should be able to work closely with the other departments and other offices at and outside the university, be well networked and always promote networking.

In order to help the students as much as possible, the AStA has a number of advisory services, some of which are its own, some of which are in cooperation with other organizations. One of the tasks of the SoPo department is to support and promote these advisory services. Furthermore, it is one of the (main) tasks of the department to promote more student housing. This task is accompanied by a lot of contact to city and state politicians and VERY much public relations, for example in the context of a (long-lasting) advertising campaign. Seriously, you won't achieve anything if you only publish a Facebook post on the topic once a month, you'll have to really go crazy. In addition, the Social Fund Commission is traditionally staffed with SoPo speakers from the AStA, so that the speakers are involved in the decisions on the reimbursement of semester ticket fees for social reasons.

Of course, there are many other construction sites on which the Social Policy Department can or should work. These include making the campus more accessible, negotiating a contract with the university to provide flexible childcare for students, fighting to ensure that students receive appropriate assistance in crisis situations such as the Corona crisis, working on the BAföG amendment, taking action against the miserable conditions at the Foreigners Authority, and much more.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation:

- Counseling services of the AStA, the University of Potsdam and the City of Potsdam
- Representative for students with disabilities
- Service for families of the University of Potsdam
- student representatives of other universities
- Studentenwerk Potsdam
- Initiatives and associations like ArbeiterKind
- Lawyers in Potsdam and Berlin
- Union of Education and Science (GEW), German Trade Union Federation (DGB), State Committee of Students (LASS)

Ecology, Sustainability & Transports

The Department of Ecology, Sustainability & Transport deals with all kinds of questions concerning the environment and the university or students: What is the ecobalance of the university? Where can we reduce our consumption of paper, water, chemicals, electricity and heat? Where does the waste go? What can we do to keep the semester ticket affordable?

The student body needs a voice vis-à-vis Nextbike, ViP and Bahn regarding Potsdam's city transportation and the connection to Berlin and rural areas. You can also support bicycle paths, bus stops instead of lines of sight, and open spaces and living spaces for the student body. Special needs for action and possible projects include the development of a long-term negotiating position vis-à-vis the VBB, the improvement of the Nextbikes infrastructure (in cooperation with the city, if possible without a price increase) and a collection of material on transport policy projects of the city and the state. In addition, an evaluation of the traffic safety at campus and train stations would be useful.

But the topics of waste separation and economical energy use also remain relevant. Here, the question of what the university can contribute in its teaching, operations, research, networking and student life to moving away from fossil fuels would be exciting. A possible starting point in this regard would be the expansion of solar energy on campus and at the KuZe and Studentenwerk. A larger supply of vegan food in the cafeteria and food sharing could be another possible project in terms of sustainability.

Together with local stakeholders, you could organize action days, bring lectures, film screenings or exhibitions to the university, introduce partners and raise awareness of the concept among students.

You should network with these actors and strive for cooperation and collaboration:

- student initiatives for a sustainable campus (SiNC)
- Bodies of the student self-administration, such as the student parliament (StuPa) and the assembly of the student councils (VeFa)
- Senate commissions for environment and traffic
- Studentenwerk Potsdam
- Local groups like Fridays for Future, Scientists For Future, Students for Future