

HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



LET'S CHANGE HIGHER
EDUCATION TOGETHER

Students in the GEW

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Would you like to see more solidarity? Better study conditions? A student grant big enough to live off and available to all? Fair pay for student jobs? Then come and join us! Higher education can be changed. Together with the German Trade Union for Education and Research (GEW).

Studying shouldn't depend on money.

Getting a degree should not be confined to the privileged few. It should be open to anyone who qualifies for higher education – whatever their financial situation.

That's why we campaign for true reform of the loan and grant system (BAföG).

Financial support for students must be enough to make ends meet. And it must take the form of a full grant because fear of debt stops people from studying, especially young people from low-income families. More students should be eligible for these grants. Eventually we would like everyone to receive this support, regardless of parental income. And financial support must reflect how long it takes to complete the course, not some artificial time standard dictated by bureaucracy.

No more numerus clausus or overcrowded lecture halls.

The problem is not how many students enrol but chronic under-financing for higher education institutions. That's why we are campaigning so hard to expand capacity. Numerus clausus needs to be replaced by greater capacity to meet the demand.



We want better basic financing for higher education.

For years now, federal and state governments have muddled through from one legislative period to the next by adopting temporary programmes. The quality of study suffers as a result. Meanwhile there has been a steep rise in the share of third-party funding for university budgets. That not only makes planning less secure; it also undermines the freedom of teaching and research.

Students must not be excluded from collective rights.

Every student employed in teaching and research should be protected by a collective bargaining agreement (TVStud) – without exception! Students in these jobs must be represented in works councils so they can have a say on matters like wages, annual leave and sick pay. Our campaign #KeineAusnahme: TVStud für alle! aims to ensure that students working in IT, libraries and advice centres are paid in line with their skills and responsibilities, just like any other employee, as set out in the existing collective agreements with employers.

Studying must encourage social responsibility.

Graduates need skills to take on social responsibility in their future careers and as active members of society. Higher education institutions have a role to play in framing society to meet the demands of social, environmental and economic sustainability. Studying should not be weighed down by compulsory formats and exams; the focus must be on learning through self-directed research and critical reflection.

Higher education institutions must be structured around democratic principles.

We campaign for all status groups to be equally represented on the committees set up by higher education institutions to conduct their academic business. That means autonomy without autocracy: administrators must abide by the democratic decisions of these committees. Every federal state in Germany must legislate for a statutory student body with a political mandate, financial autonomy and the right to decide on its own affairs.

For diversity: No to racism and exclusion!

We want higher education institutions that are open to the world and where everyone is valued and supported. That's why we are committed to a society with equal opportunities for all, regardless of social origins, gender, sexual identity, age, disability or chronic illness, religion or world view, ethnic roots or migration history.

The GEW is a strong community.

The GEW is the education union in the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB). We organise in every segment of education from early-childhood education through to further education. Our members include undergraduates, post-graduates, post-docs, lecturers (tenured or not), researchers, teachers, professors and people working in higher education and research management, services, technical units and administration.

The GEW defends the interests of its members.

And it helps them to understand and assert their rights – with advice brochures, face-to-face advice and legal support. We firmly believe that solidarity, rather than a strategy of dog-eat-dog, is the best way forward for higher education, just as it is anywhere else.



The GEW supports you locally.

The GEW has an organisation in every federal state, so you can contact us directly in your region – at the GEW offices or through our student committee, the GEW higher education committees or our union committees in the institutions. All of them will be happy to answer your questions and listen to your problems.

As a member of the GEW

- you can campaign on trade union and education issues together with other students in the GEW,
- you can take part in the seminars we offer and access our material on many themes related to education and research; we also publish a free student newspaper every semester called “read.me”,
- you can benefit from trade union legal support in matters relating to your studies or your student employment,
- you will receive the monthly magazine “E&W – Erziehung und Wissenschaft” and a newspaper published by the GEW branch in your federal state.

For more information see: www.gew.de/studium
Subscribe to the GEW newsletter “Hochschule und Forschung” to stay up to date about important developments in education and research and to find out what seminars we are offering:
www.gew.de/wissenschaft/anmeldung-newsletter-huf



11 GOOD REASONS

1 **Representing your interests**

Whether in collective bargaining or in minor conflicts with your employer – we're on your side! Because that's what trade unions are about: standing together – for all our interests!

2 **A community of solidarity**

Solidarity means sticking together! In the union movement, we fight together for our common needs. 'Beamt*innen' and 'Angestellte', teachers and early child-care workers, academic staff and social workers – from students and apprentices to our members in retirement!

3 **Better working conditions, better wages**

Your professionalism at work is worth a lot! This is why we fight collectively for better working conditions and better wages!

4 **Defend your rights – Our legal service has your back**

Your pay scale or pay point is incorrect? Your qualification or experience from abroad wasn't recognised? An appraisal was unfair? We're not gonna take it! The GEW provides free legal advice, and comprehensive legal protection in all professional matters as well as in training matters and as a student employee.

5 **Active in your union**

The GEW is a democratic trade union based on grassroots participation. We are the right place for your political commitment and activism.

6 **For a just society**

Climate justice, feminism, a society without racism and antisemitism – there is a lot to do! Join the GEW – together we can make a difference!

S TO JOIN THE GEW

7 Employee liability? You're insured!

If something goes wrong at work, you won't be left alone. From lost keys to broken glass in the lab – we will cover you with our professional liability insurance.

8 Your working conditions are your students' learning conditions

In the GEW, we don't just fight for us as employees. As education professionals, you and your colleagues know best what is needed to provide good education.

9 Striking pays off!

If the employers won't listen in pay negotiations, we don't really have a choice. Strikes called by the GEW are legally protected industrial action. If the employer docks your wages, the union will pay you tax free strike pay. This applies to student employees as well as in training matters and as a student employee.

10 Active in higher education

We stand for democracy in the workplace. With GEW colleagues in works councils and in academic self-governing bodies, you can have a say at work.

11 Lifelong learning

Our union magazine 'E&W' as well as numerous brochures and guides not only help you in your everyday work, but also in the debate on education policy. In addition, we offer many interesting training.



Join online!

www.gew.de/mitglied-werden



www.gew.de

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