

# Welcome on Campus

The AStA Student Guide 2022





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We at AStA would like to welcome you to your new phase of life in Göttingen.

You're probably wondering what the AStA is about - you can find out more about that and how we can support you in during your studies in this booklet. If you have any questions - whether about your studies or our work - you can always get in touch with us.

In this issue, we would like to briefly and concisely introduce some political committees and initiatives at our university and give you a little insight into life in Göttingen. On our website, under Student Involvement, you can also find all kinds of university groups and specialist groups - ideal if you want to get involved in feminism or theatre, for example. There's something for everyone!

No matter if you're the type to party in the Stilbrvch (a student club with many great offers), like to go to pubs, prefer cosy game nights with flatmates or if extensive walks to the Kehr sound more like your thing - we're sure you'll find something in Göttingen!

#### How to contact us:

We always keep you up to Date on Instagram, but you can also reach us at:

✉ sekretariat@asta.uni-goettingen.de  
 🌐 asta.uni-goettingen.de  
 📷 asta\_unigoe

## Student Self-Administration

You've probably already wondered how the individual people you've already met relate to each other. AStA, Fachgruppe, Fachschaft, Senat and all of that? What's the difference and why are there so many of you? In this section, we want to shed some light on this.

At the University of Göttingen, students administer themselves just like all other members of the university, meaning they elect representatives at different levels, collect contributions, administer them and make decisions about expenditures, self-imposed rules, as well as demands on politics and other committees at the university.

#### Fachgruppe - the subject group

Every student belongs to a certain degree (or subject, as we will call it in this text), a student council and the student body. The representatives for your subject are organised in your subject group, for instance FG Politics or FG Biology. They take care of specific problems with exams, usually know the teachers of the subject personally and have a small budget with which they can organise barbecues or other events, among other things. Only one person is elected as spokesperson for the subject group. Everyone else there just gets involved informally. Some subjects (usually with few students) may not have an active subject group. In such a case, you can contact your student council with your concerns or, if you feel like it, simply

run for spokesperson (Fachgruppensprecher\*in) yourself and thus ensure that there is a direct representation of your subject's student group.

The student council (Fachschaft) is the representative body for all students in a faculty, e.g. chemistry or medicine. The official tasks are carried out by the student council, although there are also many people who get involved without holding an office. The members of the student council are elected by the student council parliament, whose composition you decide on once a year during the university elections. The tasks of the student council are similar to those of the departmental council, but cover topics that affect the entire faculty. Its size enables it to exert even more influence on examination regulations and faculty processes and to organise even larger events, e.g. as part of the O-week. In addition, representatives of all student councils meet regularly in the Student Council Assembly (FSRV) to exchange their experiences and to take a joint position on important issues.



## The AStA and the StuPa

The AStA (short for general student committee) is the highest representation of students at the university and is responsible for all subjects and faculties. It consists of various representatives who are elected by the student parliament. This is also voted on in the university elections. The parliament is supposed to control the AStA, gives it a budget in which all expenses and income of the student body are determined and can change the regulations that govern a large part of the committee's work. The AStA itself takes over the operative business. It takes care of the semester tickets, supports the student councils and subject groups with their finances and other concerns and represents the students in many university committees and working groups. It also offers services such as a rental service for university groups or the promotion of initiatives and organises social support services such as the semester ticket refund, social counselling or the instant loan for students in need. In addition to these mandatory tasks, however, the AStA also organises events and takes political positions on behalf of the student body through public relations work. This year, its departments include the chair, the finance department, the university/internal department, the social department, the external department, the department for political education, the department for climate justice and the department for gender and diversity. In addition to the elected officers, there are also many administrative staff who organise, for example, public relations (hello!) or first-semester support.

In addition to the above-mentioned committees and organisational levels, there are also counterparts in which not only student representatives sit, but also representatives of the other status groups, i.e. professors, academic staff and employees from technology and administration. These committees are also important and are intended to create a balance of interests between the groups on common issues. The bodies are the faculty council for each faculty and the senate for the university as a whole. This is where examination regulations are decided, large amounts of money are distributed and important people such as the deans or the president are elected. Both also have commissions on various topics, such as examination issues or sustainability, in which decisions are prepared and whose members are appointed by the representatives in the main body. Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, the group of professors is represented with an absolute majority in the academic committees and their commissions, as they are granted the corresponding number of seats by law. We find this undemocratic and would like to change it. The student senators and faculty councils are also elected by you in the university elections.

## Getting involved

The easiest way for you to get involved is to take part in the elections once a year, usually in spring, and cast your vote for the various committees and for the semester tickets. You will receive an election notification with all the necessary information to your student email address in good time, giving you the opportunity to vote online or by postal vote during the election period.

Of course, you can also stand for election yourself by running for election on one of the established lists or by submitting your own election proposal to the university by the deadline. You can find all the information you need under the heading "Elections" on the university website. However, not all important activities take place in the official committees. You can find an overview of all registered university groups on the AStA website, and if you keep your eyes and ears open over the next few weeks, you're sure to become aware of one or two introductory evenings.

## Getting Involved

## Semesterticket Reimbursement

### LeMSHO

Students can have their semester ticket fees reimbursed. The "Regulations on Benefits to Mitigate Financial Hardship Caused by Semester Tickets" (LeMSHO) regulates reimbursement on financial grounds. So if you have limited financial means, you can submit an application to the AStA Social Department and if it is accepted, you will receive a full refund of your semester ticket fees.

Applications for the winter semester can be submitted between 1 October and 15 January. You can find all the important information on the AStA website (<https://asta.uni-goettingen.de/services/semestertickets/semesterticketrueckerstattung/>). There you will also find all information about the reimbursement of train and bus tickets in the case of double enrolment or if you are in possession of a severely disabled pass.



# Central Representatives

## Representation for International Students

Students who are not or not only German citizens are represented by the Parliament of International Students (PaIS) and the Council of International Students (RIS). The PaIS is also elected by these students in the university elections in January. The RIS, similar to the AStA, advocates for student interests, but focuses on international students. Here, networking opportunities are created for international students and the interests and needs of the student group are represented politically. There will be occasional events and projects to involve international students. If you want to get in touch with other international students or have questions and concerns, this is the right place to go. If PaIS and RIS have piqued your interest and you would like to learn more, feel free to check out their Instagram page and homepage or send them an email.

✉ [isc@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:isc@uni-goettingen.de)  
 📷 [isc.uni\\_goettingen](https://www.instagram.com/isc.uni_goettingen)  
 🌐 <https://www.iscgoettingen.de/>

VfSB

We are the Representation for Students with Disabilities (VfSB) and we advocate for students with disabilities, chronic illnesses, neurodiversity (e.g. ADHD, autism...) and mental illnesses to make studying at our university more accessible. If you would like to join us and/or have any questions, please get in touch!  
 Everyone is welcome to join us.

✉ [vfsb@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:vfsb@uni-goettingen.de)  
 📷 [vfsb\\_goettingen](https://www.instagram.com/vfsb_goettingen)  
 🌐 <https://vfsb.asta.uni-goettingen.de>

LSV

We are the student teacher representation, i.e. we are a colourful group of student teachers from all subjects who stand up for your interests. Our tasks are:  
 - coordinating the teaching-related work of the student councils and subject groups - supporting the work of the Study Commission for Teacher Education and the ZEWIL board - organising various events Our home is the so-called LuLZ - the "Teachers' Room". It is a meeting place for all student teachers and a place for weekly meetings. Would you like to get involved or just drop by? Then the door of the teachers' room is open for you every Thursday from 6 pm. We are also happy to help you with any other concerns you may have.

✉ [lsv@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:lsv@uni-goettingen.de)  
 📷 [@lsv\\_uni\\_goettingen](https://www.instagram.com/@lsv_uni_goettingen)

# Central Councelling

Mit dem Studium beginnt ein neuer Lebensabschnitt voller neuer Herausforderungen und Ansprüche an dich selbst oder von außen, denen Du nicht immer gerecht werden kannst. Wir wollen Dir mitgeben, dass Du damit nicht alleine bist und dass es viele Unterstützungsangebote gibt, die Dir in solchen Momenten helfen können.

**Eine ausführlichere Liste und weitere Informationen zu den Beratungsstellen findest du auf der Website des Sozialreferats und über diesen QR-Code:**



AStA-Offers

**Sozialberatung** Our team helps with all social questions that arise during your studies. Whether it's student finance, barrier-free studies, psychological stress or studying with a child - we'll be happy to advise you or direct you to the relevant offices.

**trans\*Beratung** Peer-to-peer trans\* counselling for students in cooperation with aqut\*

**AStA-Rechtsberatung** For an initial legal assessment, the AStA offers advice from a lawyer.

**Psychotherapeutische Ambulanz für Studierende (PAS)** Diagnostics, counselling & treatment by licensed psychotherapists for students in psychological crisis situations.

**Psychosoziale Beratungsstelle (PSB):** The PSB of the Studentenwerk offers initial support in psychological and social emergencies related to your studies in the form of initial and counselling talks. You can also find coaching and courses here (autogenic training, motivation, time management, etc.)

**Nightline** Anonymous night phone by & for students.

## Studentische Rechtsberatung

Students advise under the supervision of a lawyer.

**Refugee Law Clinic** Legal advice for refugees and migration laws

**Rechtsberatung an der Göttinger Tafel** Student legal advice in the rooms of the Göttinger Tafel

Mental Health  
Legal Councelling

## Arbeits- und sozialrechtliche Anfangsberatung für Studierende

The cooperation centre of the universities and trade unions offers a consultation hour, where you can ask questions about your part time job.

The **Sozialdienst** of the Studentenwerk has a wide range of financial support services and will help you with social questions and problems in an open consultation hour.

## Beschwerdemanagement

Your contact persons for suggestions or criticism regarding advisory or service offers, requirements or contents of a degree programme, examination or recognition practice and equipment and infrastructure.

## Queeres Zentrum Göttingen

Meeting place, event and counselling centre for queer\* people & more info about queer life in Göttingen, such as equity\* and trans\* counselling.  
**aqut\*** University group that campaigns for the interests of and against discrimination against queer and trans\* people.

## Familienservice der Uni Gleichstellungsbeauftragte

Support services & advice for student parents offer support for experiences of discrimination in the university context in addition to their work on university policy. There is a central contact point for general enquiries and decentralised contact points for specific enquiries at the respective faculties.

Studies

Diversity



# Sightseeing!

## Alpacas ( > Am Fassberg 11)

The Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry is located in the middle of nowhere, so it is quite associatively appropriate to keep South American animals there. These animals are also extremely fluffy, of manageable size and spit less often than llamas. Unfortunately, they can only be seen from the outside.



## Autonomicum ( > Platz der Göttinger Sieben 5)

Political struggles of students - sounds like 68. But the last major university strike in this country was only in 2009, and the Autonomicum is a very tangible reminder that political struggles always remain possible. Wrested from the university during the strike by an occupation of a room, it is still a self-administered free space that everyone can use for various purposes at any time. There are sofas for resting, tables for studying and working, a poster board for informing about upcoming events, a public bookcase for quiet reading. Especially during the O-phase, lectures and workshops are often held here.



## Historical Observatory ( > Geismar Landstraße 11)

Completed in 1816, Carl Friedrich Gauss first made his home in the classicist building for the next 40 years - he even lived there. Today, the old halls are no longer used for researching the structures of the starry sky above us; instead, they serve the university as a magnificent conference centre for its quest for the stars in the sky of excellence.



**More sights are on our Instagramaccount!**  
@asta\_unigoe

# FAQ für Erstis

## How do I find out which lectures have to be included in my timetable?

During your orientation phase, your tutors will show you how to draw up your timetable and put the lectures on it. Your student council can also help you with this process.

## I would like to contact my Fachgruppe (subject group). Where can I find their contact details?

The easiest way is to go to the relevant section on the AStA website.

## How and where do I get my matriculation certificate or other important university documents?

You will receive your first certificate of enrolment after you have successfully registered at the university. Other important documents, such as your transcript of records, can be obtained from the electronic campus. You will be shown this during the orientation phase.

## Can I repeat a failed exam?

Twice. You will only be deemed to have definitively failed the exam if you still fail it on the third attempt. In rare cases, you can also repeat a failed examination in order to improve your grade. If this is the case, it will be explicitly mentioned in the corresponding course.

## Where can I find examination regulations and module descriptions?

Generally, on the website of your seminar, under the heading 'Studies'. At the end of the examination regulations there are often also sample timetables.



Alle Konditionen und  
Anbieter findest du hier:



## The Kulturticket

Did you know that you can go to the theatre for free or at a reduced price with your student ID? Or attend live concerts and go dancing? With a free ticket allotment to the 1. SC. Göttingen 05, the BG or the Veilchen Ladies? Be inspired by art exhibitions and readings? You can experience all this and much more with your Culture Ticket.

You have already paid for it as part of your semester fee. So take advantage of the Kulturticket at our partners' by simply showing your student ID. Cultural institutions from the areas of theatre, art, music, sport, literature, film and many more are looking forward to your visit. You can find the exact overview of which institution is participating and which benefits you can enjoy there on our website (<https://asta.uni-goettingen.de/services/semestertickets/kultursementicket/>).

Want to know which events are taking place this week with the Kulturticket advantage? Take a look at our Instagram. The Göttingen Cultural Office also offers an event calendar. If you have any questions, just send us an email and we'll be happy to help!

✉ [kulturticket@asta.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:kulturticket@asta.uni-goettingen.de)  
📷 [kulturticket\\_goettingen](https://www.instagram.com/kulturticket_goettingen)

## Sports Department

During your studies, there are not only countless opportunities to be active in sports, but also a variety of student competitions & tournaments where you can compete and get in touch with students from other universities! This gives you the opportunity to represent the University of Göttingen in competitive sports on a national and international level. We will support you organisationally and financially. If you are interested, you are welcome to contact us in person or by e-mail for more information.

✉ [sportreferat@sport.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:sportreferat@sport.uni-goettingen.de)  
f [SportreferatGoettingen](https://www.facebook.com/SportreferatGoettingen)  
📷 [sportreferat\\_unigoettingen](https://www.instagram.com/sportreferat_unigoettingen)

Who and what is the AStA Sportreferat?

For about two years now, the University Sports Department has been operating a new digital sports and health platform where you can find information and get moving on the topics of "Sport and Exercise", "Health and Training" and "Mindfulness and Stress Reduction". On

**[myhome.sport.uni-goettingen.de](https://myhome.sport.uni-goettingen.de)**

you will again find various online courses, health topics, podcasts and more that you can integrate into your everyday study life.

For some time now, competitive sports have been almost completely possible again due to the improvement of the Corona situation. Since the current regulations can change at any time, please contact us if you are interested to see what is possible. Current information on the situation of university sports can be found here: [my.sport.uni-goettingen.de](https://my.sport.uni-goettingen.de)

**Adresse:**  
AStA Sportreferat  
Sprangerweg 2  
37075 Göttingen  
Raum 2.155

We are Dirk, Anna and Pia and together we form the AStA Sports Department of the University of Göttingen. Our main task is to organise and run competitive student sports at our university. This includes organising competitive sporting events in Göttingen, such as the German University Championships, as well as sending athletes to national and international university competitions in which students and staff of the university can participate. In addition, we coordinate student self-administration within the framework of university competitive sports and cooperate with general university sports. Among other things, we organise an annual joint honouring of athletes with the city of Göttingen and support university sport in various ways. In Göttingen University Sports we act as a mouthpiece for many student concerns. Furthermore, we represent the student side of Göttingen University Sports in the General German University Sports Association (adh) and actively shape the association's work.



Pay attention to your surroundings and try not to endanger anyone. Even if the start of your studies is important, you still have to comply with the rules.

Don't be afraid to ask questions.

The O-Phase planners are available at all times to answer questions and help with problems of all kinds. They can help you with a wide range of concerns.

State your limits so that others can recognise them more easily. Create an atmosphere in which it is easy for others to show their boundaries.

You should be able to have fun in the O phase on your own terms. No means no and is not an invitation to discussion.

State your preferred name and pronouns in the groups. No one can infer gender from appearance.

During O-Phase you should find a wide range of events, if not in your subject, then for example through Alternative O-Phase.

# 1 Code of Conduct

## 2

**The O-Phase is meant to be an event for everyone to settle into their studies and form new, hopefully long-lasting friendships and relationships. In order to make the O-Phase as pleasant as possible for you, we have created a Code of Conduct, an implementation protocol. If you notice that someone is violating it, you can contact the O-Phase teams. The code is as follows:**

## 3

## 4

## 5

## 6

## 7

## 8

## 9

The O-Phase teams are there for you. Contact them if you notice unpleasant or problematic behaviour.

You don't have to do anything you don't want to do. You are free to choose what you want to do and what you don't want to do.

Alcohol is not part of the compulsory programme at university. If it fits in with the events, you can drink, but behave responsibly - also towards others.

## When the WG room costs 180€, but also your freedom

Finding an affordable room at the beginning of the semester has become increasingly difficult in recent years. Advertisements for rooms in magnificent villas with a house community and bar for under 200€ rent seem like a dream in these situations - But what normal WG consists of exclusively male flatmates in large villas?

Connections often seem particularly attractive because they present themselves as communities full of security, cohesion and connection. To become part of this community, however, new members have to commit to the Lebensbund principle: Even after they leave, they continue to be part of the fraternity as an "old man" and must continue to co-finance active members.

To become part of the community, new members must also follow the Comment - the code of conduct - of the fraternity, which structures living together and provides for regular participation in fraternity-internal events, for example. Apart from the fact that the strict and binding integration into the fraternity hardly allows for free time and individual development, there are always new "masculinity competitions" almost every day. An evening in the pub here does not mean a nice get-together, but compulsory drinking and the pressure to prove drinking resistance. The "beer comment" is enforced by a separate presidium and often provides for severe punishments for weaker fraternity members.

Similarly, in striking fraternities, mensuration is a special form of fencing designed to prove one's "manliness" by exposing oneself to pain and permanent scars without flinching. In this context, the fencing of the Mensur also serves as a rite

of passage to initiate new members into the fraternity. In this way, their willingness to submit and sacrifice themselves for the community is tested.

In keeping with this outdated image of men, fraternities propagate gender roles from 150 years ago. As a rule, fraternities are male associations. The view that there are only two sexes, which are fundamentally different by nature, is the consensus here. This is not just about "slightly antiquated" ideas of the roles of men and women; it is about a determined denial of the basic pillars of a society based on equal rights and equality. A discriminatory practice can also be seen in the fact that racist or anti-Semitic attacks and statements repeatedly occur in fraternity rooms.

While such attitudes are not fully developed in all fraternities, they are very common. If you want to know more or need evidence for our statements, we recommend the research by Leon Enrique and our reader 'Student Fraternities Yesterday and Today'. We as AStA reject the way of life and way of thinking of fraternities and therefore actively campaign for more flats to be kept in public hands and affordable there, so that suspiciously cheap offers are no longer a temptation.

Fraternities & similar



# F\*ck, that's expensive!

Studying can be really nice, but it can also be hella expensive. Somehow, we need to finance it. But how? Our Social Department put together a couple of options on how to stock up your monthly income. Here are the 5 most important tips:

## 2. Part Time Jobs

In Göttingen there are a variety of opportunities to work alongside your studies. For example at the university's job centre, where many student-friendly jobs are offered. One popular option is to work as a student assistant at the university. Apart from earning money, you can also gain exciting insights into research and work directly on campus. Vacancies are advertised on the pages of the faculties and the university as well as in the news section of eCampus. news section.

## 1. BAföG

You can apply for BAföG at any time. However, BAföG is NOT paid retroactively, which is why you should take care of your documents early. The approval period is one year, after which the eligibility for support will be re-examined. The application must be submitted to the Studentenwerk in Göttingen. You can receive up to 861 € or 934 €. You will have to pay back part of this amount at the end of your studies.

## 3. Scholarships

Another way to finance your studies is to apply for a scholarship, which is offered by various sponsors from political parties, religious communities, private foundations and the economy. A scholarship does not have to be repaid. Most scholarships provide non-material support in the form of seminars, language courses, etc. In addition to good academic performance, most scholarship providers also include commitment or a special characteristic (student with child, migration background, etc.) among the selection criteria. Therefore, it often makes sense to apply even without top grades! However, it is also difficult to get a scholarship, so an application can still be worthwhile!

## 4. Bildungskredit

Die bundeseigene Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) bietet Bildungskredite für Studierende an. Dieser ist unter den Krediten für Studierende der kostengünstigste. Bevor ihr euch aber dafür entscheidet, solltet ihr alle anderen Möglichkeiten der Studienfinanzierung durchgehen, da ein Kredit mit einer Verschuldung einhergeht. Der Studienkredit wird in monatlichen Raten gezahlt. Die Bürgschaft wird vom Bund übernommen.

## 5. Studienabschlussdarlehen

For the last phase of your studies, it is possible to take out an interest-free student loan from the Social Services of the Studentenwerk. This loan is only granted for a maximum of the last eight months of your studies and repayment begins seven months after graduation. In order to be eligible for the loan, you must present a certificate stating that you are about to graduate and another person must act as guarantor. You can find more information at [www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/sozialberatung.html](http://www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de/sozialberatung.html). You may think at first that you are definitely not eligible or have no chance, but most of the time it is worth a try. We are happy to support you.

## The interest-free instant loan

If you are short of money in a month, you can get a loan of 100 € from AStA, which has to be paid back after four weeks at latest. However, we do not charge interest. This offer is only available to students of the University of Göttingen. We provide more information about all these offers on our website and on page 3.



