

Electoral information for students of the University of Bremen

Although the elections to the Student Councils, Faculty Council and Academic Senate are usually held in the same week, they are two separate elections with different election rules.

The elections to the Faculty Council and Academic Senate (AS) are usually summarized under the term “committee elections”. The responsible body is the Election Committee of the University of Bremen as well as the Returning Officer of the Legal Office (Referat 06). Contact: wahlleit@uni-bremen.de

Each year, the Student Councils appoint three students and deputies to the Election Committee. They are responsible for the electoral process. Contact: srwahl@uni-bremen.de.

The institutions to be elected and their significance

- *Academic Senate (AS) / Akademischer Senat (AS):*

The AS is the highest decision-making body of the University (the quasi University parliament). Among other things, it decides on the general parts of the examination regulations, amendments to and dissolution of study programs, Faculties and central scientific units, the election of a University President, principles of resource management, and much more. A total of 22 members from the different status groups of the University are represented in the AS: 4 of its members are students (the other status groups are the University professors, as well as the academic, technical and administrative staff).

All students, irrespective of the Faculty they belong to, have one vote in the election of the four student representatives.

Further information under: <http://www.uni-bremen.de/as>

- *Faculty Council / Fachbereichsrat (FBR):*

The university is divided into 12 Faculties. A Faculty combines related or neighboring study programs.

Each Faculty has a Faculty Council (FBC). The FBC comprises up to 13 members from all status groups of the University. As a rule, students belong to the Faculty where their field of study is located. So the physicists belong to Faculty 1, the lawyers to Faculty 6, etc. Students who study several subjects are members of the subject in which they were first enrolled, or their main subject. According to University regulations, if you, as a student, belong to two study programs, you can vote in elections in the subject area of your choice. Whatever your decision, it remains valid until the next elections (one year). You can see which Faculty you belong to from your student ID. Unless you have these details changed (in the student office), this affiliation applies.

The Faculty Council is the highest decision-making body of the faculty. Here all other committees of the department are elected, e.g. examination boards, appointment committees or the study programme committee. The Faculty Council decides on the department's budget, habilitations and appointment reports. In addition, the Dean's Office is elected by the Faculty Council. The faculty council is elected for two years, whereby the student representatives are only in office for one year at a time, and consists of seven professors, two academic staff members, two students and two other staff members. The elections take place together with the other committee elections in the summer semester. The meetings are chaired by the Dean, who does not have the right to vote.

All students can cast one vote in the election of the two student representatives in the Faculty they belong to.

- Student Council / Studierendenrat (SR):

The Student Council (SC) is the highest decision-making body of the student body. Among other things, the SC has the following tasks: participation in the social and economic self-help of the students, promotion of student events, promotion of political education as well as self-organization and the administration and allocation of funds accruing to the student body.

The members of the SC elect the members of the General Student Committee (AStA). If one compares the SC with the Bundestag, then the SC is the parliament (the Bundestag) that selects and controls the AStA.

The SC consists of 25 members. All students, irrespective of the Faculty they belong to, are allowed one vote in the election, either a list or for a candidate.

Unlike the AS or FBC, only students are represented and none of the University's other status groups.

Your half-yearly semester contribution always includes a contribution for the AStA. The contribution amount supports the work of the AStA, which decides on how its funds are to be used. By participating in elections to the Student Council, you also choose the people who will later decide on how the money you contribute will be spent.

Further information can be found under: <https://sr.uni-bremen.de/wiki/Hauptseite>

Other institutions that are not elected during the election week:

-AStA:

The General Student Committee (AStA) consists of three members who are elected by the SC once a year (after the Student Council elections) as AStA board members. In addition, the SC can name up to nine other student consultants, including their function. Again, the term is one year.

The AStA manages the affairs of the student body within the framework of the AStA budget on its own responsibility. It also manages the funds of the student body and ensures the functioning of the organs of the student body.

In the scope of its tasks, the AStA offers many services that you as a student can use for free or for a small amount. This includes student loan and social counseling, a self-help bicycle repair shop, child care through the *Kinderland*, and much more. The AStA also organizes lecture series.

More information under: <https://www.asta.uni-bremen.de/>.

- *StugA / Stugen*:

The students of a subject are organized in the Departmental Student Committee (short *StugA*, plural *Stugen*). Each Faculty therefore usually has several *Stugen*. In other federal states, the term „Fachschaft“ (students of a department) is often used. The members of the *Stugen* are elected by the general assembly of the respective Faculty student body. *This does not take place in the election week.*

Often the *Stugen* are linked to the Faculty website, have their own websites and / or can be found on social media. Usually they also organize the orientation week for freshers. The *Stugen* live from the commitment of the students. For the most part, the Faculties also provide a room for the *Stugen*, which serves as a point of contact and information for you as a student. Several *Stugen* appear as a list in the elections for the FBC.

In addition, there is the *Stugen* Conference in which all *Stugen* of the University of Bremen can exchange views and network.

Depending on the organization of the subjects, there are nationwide (in some cases also worldwide) meetings of *Stugen*, where students can exchange and network.

For an overview of all *Stugen* at the University of Bremen see: <https://stugen.uni-bremen.de/wiki/Hauptseite>.

Election process and possibilities of participation

When and where do elections take place?

As a rule, you are free to choose which polling station to cast your vote (in exceptional cases, some students may only vote in the central polling station in the glass hall).

Polling stations can be found at the following campus locations:

- Glass Hall / Glashalle: (Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm)
- Grazer Straße Café: (Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm)
- GW 1: (Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm)
- GW 2: (Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm)
- Mensa: (Mon - Fri 11:30am - 2pm)
- MZH: (Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm)
- NW 1: (Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm)
- SFG: (Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm)

Every summer semester, one week (from Monday through Friday) is chosen for elections. The election week takes place during the semester, usually in late May / early June. Please

note the corresponding announcements on the homepage and also on the notices within the university.

Which documents are needed?

Your current student ID card counts as eligibility to vote.

Where do I find information about the candidatures?

Once the election candidatures have been determined by the respective election commissions, you can view the nominations (usually with sample ballot papers) for the Student Council at: <https://sr.uni-bremen.de/wiki/Hauptseite>.

Nominations for the committee elections are published under <https://www.uni-bremen.de/gremienwahlen/wahlvorschlag.html>. There are no sample ballots to be found here, but the ballot papers will list the candidates in the same order.

In addition, there are election posters and flyers everywhere (especially in the refectories). And, especially in the election week, many of the candidates can be found on the University Boulevard, where a direct exchange is possible.

Who can candidate?

Every student who is regularly enrolled as a student at the University of Bremen has the active and passive right to vote and stand for election.

You do not have to be a member of a party or its youth organization to stand. It is also commonplace for individuals to candidate in all organizations elected by the student body.

Elections are announced by notices and flyers about two months before the start. As a rule, the official announcements (“bulletin board”) of your Faculty administration contain the election details. Furthermore, the elections are published on the websites of the Student council and election committees. Here you will find details of how to submit a candidature and with which forms. The deadlines are exclusion periods and will only be extended in exceptional cases (if there are too few candidatures) for a few days.

Registered PhD students are included in the *committee elections* as members of the status group of academic staff and may only stand for the so-called “major elections” held every two years. It is different for elections to the Student council. According to their regulations, enrolled PhD students are part of the student body and may elect the Student council annually. This also applies to the passive right to vote.

Details of elections can be found under

- Committee elections: <http://www.uni-bremen.de/gremienwahlen.html>

- Student Council: <https://sr.uni-bremen.de/wiki/Hauptseite>

Announcement of election results

The counting of votes usually takes place on the Friday of the respective election week. The counting takes place separately after Student Council and the committee elections. The Student council counts a second time. Both counts are open to the University public. You as a student are allowed to watch. The announcement of election results then takes place asap on the homepages of the Student council and the committee elections.

Term of office

The term of office is one year for student representatives. Re-election is permissible.

The members of all other status groups of the University are elected for two years. Therefore, when it comes to committee elections, we also talk about the “big” and “small” elections. The "big" elections take place every two years; then all the status groups vote. The “small” elections in which only students can vote take place the following year.

Impressum:

Herausgeberin: Universität Bremen, Rechtsstelle

Stand: Juni 2024

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