Representation of interests

There are several interest groups that serve as contact partners for matters relevant to doctoral candidates or employees of the university. As a PhD candidate, you can participate in the election for the FSU Doctoral Council (DR. FSU). If you are a member of a structured PhD programme, you can also vote in the election for the Board of the Academy. As an employee of the university, you can additionally participate in elections of bodies of the University and in the election for the Staff Council. You are free to participate in all interest groups and actively run for election.

Doctoral initiatives

FSU Doctoral Council

The Doctoral Council of Friedrich Schiller University of Jena (DR.FSU) is elected to represent the interests of all doctoral candidates. The Council supports candidates in all matters concerning their doctorate and represents the candidates' interests at all levels of the University. The Council aims to facilitate a lively professional and social exchange among doctoral candidates of all departments in a variety of events. Every doctoral candidate can be involved in the DR.FSU's work by providing ideas and suggestions or by putting themselves up for election into the Council.

The members of the Doctoral Council are elected every year during the summer semester, at the same time as the elections for the Board of the Graduate Academy and the other bodies. The election is held as an online election. All eligible voters are contacted by email in good time before the election. All doctoral candidates have the right to run for election. The Council may consist of up to 17 members.

For more information, please refer to the DR.FSU home page.

Other Doctoral Initiatives

- Eurodoc (The European Council for Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers)
- Promovierenden Initiative (in German only)
- Other (mostly German only)
Board of the Academy

The Board of the Academy decides on all fundamental matters concerning the GA and elects the Executive Committee. It is responsible for the admission of new members. The doctoral candidates of the member institutions are represented as an own status group in the Board of the Academy and may advocate their interests there.

All status and subject groups of the member institutions are represented in the Board of the Academy. The allocation of seats is conducted according to the five selective groups:

- Professors of natural sciences, mathematics and informatics (3 seats)
- Professors of humanities and social sciences (3 seats)
- Postdocs (1 seat)
- Doctoral candidates of natural sciences, mathematics and informatics (2 seats)
- Doctoral candidates of humanities and social sciences (1 seat)

Members of the GA's member institutions associated with the FSU elect the representatives of their respective voting group. The term of the professor's representatives amounts to three years, the term of the young researcher's representatives only a year.

The doctoral representatives are elected by the doctoral candidates in the member institutions once per year. The elections for the Board of the Academy take place as an online election in the summer term each year. The electives are informed about the process of the election via e-mail and via mail. The election results and the composition of the Board of the Academy can be found here. You may receive further information from the elective office of the University Jena.

Staff Council

Friedrich Schiller University's Staff Council is the interest representation for the employees and civil servants who work at FSU Jena. The Staff Council's fundamental responsibilities are defined by the Thuringian Law on Employee Representation. The Council provides assistance in all matters concerning the compliance with employee rights and employee protection. It takes on suggestions or complaints from members of staff, and it is its duty to insist that the employer take remedial action. Moreover, it has rights to be involved in certain decisions taken by the bodies of the University (participation and co-determination right). The Staff Council homepage provides answers to a number of frequently asked questions concerning work life, such as:

- Seeing a doctor during your working hours
- Change of income group
- Is it true that you do not have to provide a doctor's certificate if you are only off sick for up to three days?
- Right to strike in public services
- Thuringian Higher Education Act
- When does an accident that occurs on your way to work count as an occupational injury?

The Staff Council is elected every four years by the members of the University. The election is held as a ballot box vote. Eligible voters can cast their vote by post upon prior request. Eligible voters are informed by means of an announcement on notice boards. For more information, click here.

Elections of bodies of the University

Every doctoral candidate who is a member of the University is entitled to vote in the elections of the University's bodies, i.e., the Senate, the Faculty Councils and the Equal Opportunity Committee. Enrolled doctoral candidates are members of the group of student voters, and can elect four student members into the senate every four years, three to six student members to the Faculty Councils, and two members to the Equal Opportunity Committee. Doctoral candidates who are employed by FSU Jena are members of the academic employee group of voters, and elect their representatives in each of the bodies of the University every three years.
Votes in the elections can be cast online or by post. As a rule, all elections are held simultaneously at FSU Jena. For information on the current members of the Senate, click here. Further information is available from the University of Jena's Electoral Office.