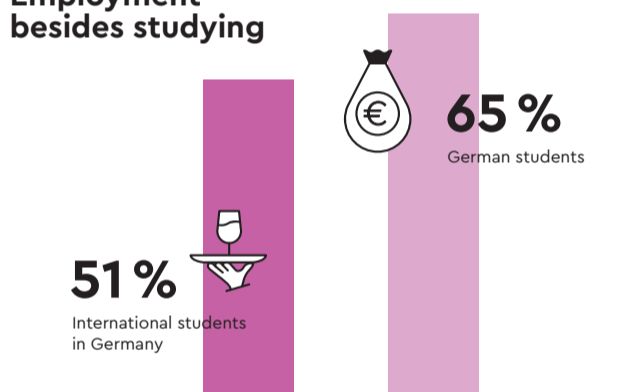


# Principles of Trade Unions

Information for Students

Are you interested in good working conditions, fair wages, and participation rights? Then we've got a match – let's get to know each other! We are the youth division of the German Confederation of Trade Unions – DGB for short. Our goal? To improve studying, working, and living conditions – making them more social, secure, and healthy in a democratic, ecological, and discrimination-free society. We are state-independent, but not apolitical.

## Employment besides studying



Source: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 22. Sozialerhebung Studierende

## How trade unions benefit students

Most students have to work, often under precarious conditions – poorly paid, highly flexible, and insecure. Far too few are entitled to scholarships or other types of educational support. Most of them do not benefit from collective agreements and have to work for a minimum wage, which is already too low, given the skyrocketing costs of energy, food, and rent. We fight for an end to this precariousness in student life.

## What are trade unions?

The DGB (in German »Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund«) is the largest umbrella organisation of trade unions in Germany. It has eight member unions with around six million members. The DGB covers all industries and economic sectors.

Trade unions represent workers' interests. With us, employees unite to address their workplace concerns. Among them are many students. Good salaries, regular pay raises, shorter working hours, special payments, more vacation days, professional qualifications, educational leave, and all this even for part-time jobs – that's what we stand for. Our collective agreements are our tools. Those are contracts between employers and a group of employees, represented by a trade union, which set the conditions of employment.

**SOLIDARITY  
FOREVER!**

# Reasons to unionize

- 1 In our DGB university groups, students unite for better working and living conditions. Join us to build pressure and achieve change. Remember, being a trade union member is a fundamental right!
- 2 You are better off with our collective agreements – in part-time jobs as well as in your career. They guarantee more money, vacation, self-determination and participation rights. Only trade union members have a legal claim to these benefits.
- 3 We support you in all matters of social and labor law. As a member, you are covered by legal protection insurance, including representation in court, if necessary. We are available to assist you in our online counselling forum and in our offices, located at about 30 universities. Of course, we also offer consultations in English.

## Goodbye rent madness!

Housing is becoming a luxury. Living space is limited and rents are skyrocketing – especially in university cities. This cannot continue! Our demands:

- **Housing must be affordable!**
- **Cap rents!**
- **Promote long-term housing for students!**

## Against racism at work and at university!

Whether as work councils in companies or through DGB legal protection – we stand against racism and for respect and equality. Our demands:

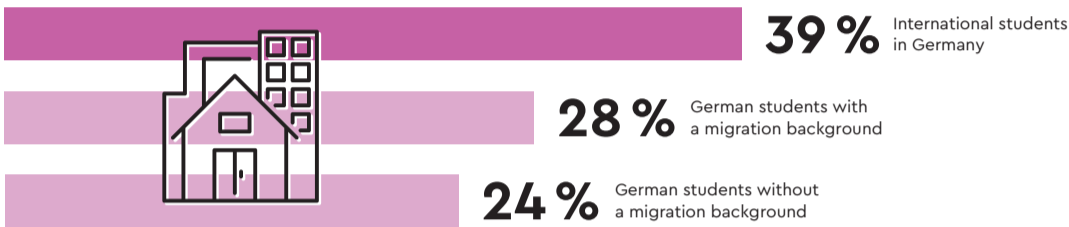
- **Equal pay for equal work!**
- **Accessible complaint offices!**
- **Strengthening the rights of those affected!**

## Bring on the good life!

40 hours a week, 48 weeks a year, 50 years a lifetime? The model of working overtime until we drop is outdated. We want more time for friends, hobbies, family, social engagement and, of course, ourselves. Our demands:

- **Shorten working hours!**
- **Pay full wage compensation!**
- **Value and fairly distribute care work!**

## Students reporting difficulties finding housing



Source: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, 22. Sozialerhebung Studierende

## Five good reasons to join!

### Best Work:

Fair wages, good working hours, secure contracts – our collective agreements make working more carefree.

### Best Education:

Seminars, international exchanges, summer schools, workshops – with us, you can learn whatever interests you. Usually free of charge.

### Best Advice:

Labor and social law, certificate checks – we answer your questions and support you. Offline and online, in English or German.

### Best Legal Protection:

Disputes in working life or exam issues – with us, you are insured for legal protection.

### Best Politics:

Do you want to change the world? We are in! Let's win together.

## We are the DGB Jugend – your network for studying and working

You can find us online – unbureaucratically, free of charge, and in English. Our advice forum gives you an overview of many general and specific questions. Of course, you can also address your personal concerns here. Simply fill out and submit the contact form. We will get back to you as soon as possible:

[jugend.dgb.de/studium](http://jugend.dgb.de/studium)

You are very welcome to join us! Become a member here:



There, you can also check if there is a DGB-group at your university!

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