

## The “Fachrat” elections

# Get involved in the “Fachrat” – have a say in the structure of your programme!

### Background information

At Heidelberg University, the various faculties, such as the Faculty of Philosophy or the Faculty of Biosciences, are departments that comprise several BA and MA programmes with similar fields of interest. For example, the Faculty of Philosophy (Philosophische Fakultät) comprises the BA East Asia Studies (Ostasienswissenschaften), the MA Global History, and many more. These programmes are called “Fach” in German. Hence, the “Fachrat” (Fach=subject, Rat=council) is a council for and within the individual programmes.

**Disciplines that already got a Fachrat: Fächer mit Fachrat:** Anglistik, Assyriologie, Ägyptologie, Alte Geschichte, American Studies, Bildungswissenschaft, Byzantinische Archäologie und Kunstgeschichte, Computerlinguistik, Deutsch als Fremdsprache, Ethnologie, Europäische Kunstgeschichte, Germanistik, Geschichte, Islamwissenschaft/Iranistik, Japanologie, Klassische Archäologie, Klassische Philologie, Musikwissenschaft, Ostasiatische Kunstgeschichte, Osteuropastudien, Pflegewissenschaften, Philosophie, Psychologie, Religionswissenschaft, Romanistik, Semiotik, Sinologie, Slavistik, Sportwissenschaft, Südasienswissenschaften, Transcultural Studies, Übersetzen und Dolmetschen, Ur- und Frühgeschichte/Vorderasiatische Archäologie

### What is the Fachrat?

The Fachrat constitute of democratically elected students' representatives, professors, “Mittelbau” (academic staff) as well as administration and technology staff. These representatives convene at least once a semester to discuss and decide on issues relating to course offers, programme regulations and evaluation procedures. Thus, the Fachrat gives you the opportunity to know about the decision making process within your “Fach” and also the possibility to participate in these processes. Your participation will help create an enabling environment for communication and information flow in and around your programme.

### How can you get involved?

Everyone can contest for a student seat in the discipline's council “Fachrat”. If you would like to run for office, please follow the given link:

<http://www.fsk.uni-hd.de/fachrat-kandidaturformular>

During the Fachrat election, if you don't want to stand as a candidate for an office, you can elect the students that you deem capable of representing your needs at the Fachrat. You can encourage the elected to give feedbacks (by means of a general meeting of all students of your programme or by publishing a protocol via email) regarding the decisions made in (at) the Fachrat meetings. Furthermore, you can inform the Fachrat representatives on any problem or demand that you think should be articulated to the teaching staff.

**Take this opportunity to have a voice!**

**Are there still questions? Do you want to participate?**  
Send us an email to [ag-fachrat@fsk.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:ag-fachrat@fsk.uni-heidelberg.de) or visit us in the ZFB (Zentrales Fachschaftenbüro) at Albert-



## Fachrat FAQs

### What is the purpose of the Fachrat?

The Fachrat develops and coordinates suggestions and concepts for studies, teaching and related tasks concerning one discipline (programme).

### Why is the Fachrat necessary?

Before the Fachrat was established, there was only the “Fakultätsrat” (a council on the faculty level, not within the individual programmes). The problem with this system was that many questions and demands relating to specific programmes could not be extensively addressed. Furthermore, as there were only 8 members allowed in this council (4 students and 4 teaching professionals), it was impossible to guarantee equal representation of all programmes. The Fachrat, in contrast, consists of an equal amount of representatives of students, professors, teaching staff and administrative staff, who are all part of the same discipline. This way, more specific needs can be directly addressed, which increases efficiency and the transparency of internal communication.

### What does the Fachrat do?

The Fachrat gives advice on the following topics:

1. Conceptualization of regulations concerning admissions, exams as well as module-handbooks
2. Distribution and usage of rooms for teaching and studying
3. Organization of the course schedule
4. Evaluation and development of courses
5. Official statement concerning orientation and occupation of teaching-positions
6. Information for students, professors and other staff about activities of their respective Fachrat



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### Who may elect and who may be elected?

Each and every student as well as full-time teaching staff is allowed to vote, be they Bachelor, Master, Magister, Diplom or students doing their teacher's training certificate. They can also run for candidacy and it also does not matter whether it is their major or a 25% minor. The form for candidacy can be filled out online at: <http://www.fsk.uni-hd.de/fachrat-kandidaturformular>

### When and where does the election take place?

The election is decentralized. Each discipline votes at its own institute. The dates for the elections are scheduled individually for each discipline.

### Who organizes the election?

Every Fachschaft (student body) is responsible for the election of their respective Fachrat. The central coordination is run by the Fachschaftskonferenz (FSK).

<http://www.fsk.uni-hd.de/fachrat>

