

EXISTENCE INSTEAD OF EXCELLENCE:

It is the end of November while we are writing this text. **Awaiting the elections to the student parliament and to the Academic Senate.** In Manchester, students are currently protesting for extensive rent cuts because their living situation has become unbearable. In Hamburg, too, many of us are struggling with the social and psychological consequences of the crisis. At the same time, the Green Party in Hamburg (GRÜNE) as being part of the government faction are trying to introduce new economic hurdles in the form of fees for so-called study aptitude tests. Their plan with this is to unload the costs of the pandemic on the students' backs.

The Hamburg Senate also plans to cut the funding of the UHH.

The current budget debate is threatened by massive cuts, so that from the beginning of 2021, for example, a large part of the University College's positions could disappear.

An upside-down world?

Last year, we started with a quote from the recent Chilean protest movement at this point: **"We will not return to normality because normality is the problem"**. In current times, this motto seems to us to be more relevant than ever. Corona is a crisis for society as a whole, not just a natural disaster. Infectious diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans do not arise out of nowhere; they are becoming more and more probable due to the exploitation of our natural resources. The pandemic makes it clear once again that ecological crises will not "only" become dangerous in the future, but that they are already dangerous today and here.

The Corona crisis shows all facets of the multiple crisis of today's capitalism: economic, social and psychological precariousness increase especially among those who have no or little capital. This is expressed, among other things, in the current mass loss of employment and the increase of depression rates. Thus, the crisis increases above all the problems that already existed before.

Our university as it exists today also plays a relevant role in stabilizing this normality. Education within the Bachelor's/Master's system serves, as always, to stabilize the current social conditions. It urges students through economic barriers such as BAföG to study the matters in their degree in the shortest possible time. Students compete with each other for the hope of a career in science or for the best chances in the job market. Because of the economy's dependence on young scientists, the public higher education system has been restructured for years and funding **in the form of the excellence strategy, with the promotion of allegedly excellent research foci, is being turned against basic funding. As a result, teaching and learning conditions as well as employment conditions have deteriorated considerably, for example, due to temporary employment contracts.**

However, we want a university that, on the basis of a critical engagement with history, becomes a space for utopian thinking in which future possibilities are shaped.

Let us contribute to this together by creating real utopias of joint education from the bottom up and continue to fight for reforms against the current Bachelor-Master orientation.

Instead, it is important to us that all members of the university are in a exchange which is marked by solidarity and learn from each other through discussions in a non-hierarchical manner. We should discuss analyses of social conditions together in order to create perspectives for change.

To this end, we argue in various bodies, such as the Academic Senate and the student parliament, as well as at the student council and faculty level. We are also active in various projects and contexts at this university:



CampusGrün

**election to the
student parliament:**

+ postal vote: Dec. 2020
+ ballot vote: 11. until 15. Jan. 2021

**election to the
Academic Senate:**

+ postal vote: until 15. Feb. 2021



CLIMATE UNIVERSITY

In order to realize the transformative function of science more effectively, we have, among other things, created the Climate University from Below - a democratic, self-organized seminar in which we take education relevant to the climate crisis into our own hands. There, we want to develop critical perspectives on our society in order to discuss holistic solutions for the climate crisis.

CRITICAL-INTRODUCTION-EVENTS

At the beginning of the winter semester, we organized the Critical Introductory Courses for a week to give first-year students in particular, but also others who were interested, a political introduction to their studies. In various workshops, topics such as the effects of isolation, (post-) colonialism at the university, protest-culture and student precarity were discussed.

SOLIDARITY SEMESTER ALLIANCE

With the aggravated social situation caused by the pandemic, the demand for a "solidarity semester" became loud, i.e. a semester in which participation in courses is made possible as much as possible, but which does not count as a regular semester. This was and is particularly important for the BAföG administration. Direct financial aid for students also seems more than necessary during the pandemic. The "bridging aids" that have been decided by the federal government are only a drop in the ocean.

For this reason, we have initiated an alliance with various FSRs and other groups to fight for the implementation of these demands. After several press releases, a rally in front of the city hall and other actions, we were able to at least build up enough pressure for the implementation of the minimal demand: Throughout Hamburg, the summer semester 2020 was not counted as a regular semester.

StuPa List 13

AS List 2

TUITION FEE DISPUTE

Instead of enabling free education for all, prospective students should now also pay for their own selection in the form of aptitude tests in medicine. One wonders how long it will take until the Senate tries to push through the reintroduction of tuition fees. We have written a detailed statement on this issue. We are also continuing to fight against the implementation of these new fees in the committees of academic self-administration.

As you can see from our practical examples, we have no illusions that **our work in the student parliament** is sufficient to realize our political utopias. Rather, it can only be a support for all politically necessary movements - and these already exist in various forms on campus.

The foundation of every movement is its people. Therefore, we are happy about your vote - but we would be all the more happy if the election is not the high point but the starting point for your political commitment!

Only together can we overthrow these conditions which despise humans and nature! **Let us fight together for a better, more solidary world!**

Motivated & questions?
kontakt@campusgruen.org

ORGANISING UNIVERSITY FROM BELOW!