

As a student body, we have the opportunity to switch from the current semester ticket to the Germany-wide ticket. The change would take place in winter semester 24/25. As part of this decision, a ballot is currently being held to ask your opinion on the change.

The choice of ticket is a long-term and financial decision that will affect the cost of the semester fee for the next semesters.

We have answered some of the most frequently asked questions here.

If you have any more questions about the topic, please contact us at [asta@tu-braunschweig.de](mailto:asta@tu-braunschweig.de).

A digital consultation hour ([https://studip.tu-braunschweig.de/plugins.php/meetingplugin/room/index/baed6e94a657919d0adb2744fea0799/a19928a69d30fd4bc6aec2ff06e3f8f8?cancel\\_login=1](https://studip.tu-braunschweig.de/plugins.php/meetingplugin/room/index/baed6e94a657919d0adb2744fea0799/a19928a69d30fd4bc6aec2ff06e3f8f8?cancel_login=1)) will take place on 14.05.2024 from 10-11 a.m., during which all open questions will be clarified.

### **What is a ballot?**

A ballot is a vote to which all students at the university are called. The ballot is carried out by the ÜgWa (<https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/wahlamt/studentischewahlen>), which was commissioned to do so by the Student Parliament (StuPa) (<https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/stupa>).

In the ballot, students can give their opinion on the change. The result of the ballot serves as a recommendation for the decision-making process in the StuPa. It is important that as many students as possible vote, because the result of the ballot is the opinion of the entire student body.

### **Which tickets are available?**

You can choose between the current semester ticket (Braunschweigerverkehrsverbund (VRB) + Niedersachsenticket) and the Deutschlandticket for students.

The current semester ticket allows you to use regional transport in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) and Bremen as well as local transport in Braunschweig.

With the Germany-wide ticket, you can use all regional trains, buses and trams in Germany.

### **Why is my vote important?**

The semester ticket makes up a large part of the semester fee. Considering the rising cost of living everywhere, the increase in the semester fee represents an additional financial burden for many students. A change to the Germany-wide semester ticket should be decided democratically by the student body and therefore the ballot makes a recommendation to the StuPa on behalf of the student body.

If the nationwide semester ticket is accepted, the AStA would terminate the current contracts with the VRB and the Niedersachsen-wide ticket. However, the price development for the Germany-wide semester ticket is still unclear. It is possible that there may be significant price increases in the coming semesters. The current semester ticket will also become more expensive, but in winter semester 24/25 it is still slightly cheaper than the Germany-wide ticket and is generally linked to fixed prices and fare and usage indices.

The decision and the resulting financial consequences must be borne by the entire student body. Therefore, it's important that a broad representation of the student body is involved in this decision.

### **What are the costs of the current semester ticket?**

The current semester ticket is regulated by a fixed price model for the VRB ticket with a 3€ increase per year. The Niedersachsen-wide ticket is adjusted to a tariff and usage index every year.

Currently, the VRB ticket for WiSe24/25 costs 112€ and the state-wide semester ticket costs 61.03€, so that the total price of the semester ticket in WiSe24/25 is 173.03€.

### **How much does the Germany-wide semester ticket cost?**

The Germany-wide semester ticket costs 176.40€ for the entire WiSe24/25. We pay 60% of the Deutschlandticket (49€), if the price of the Deutschlandticket increases, the price of the Germany-wide semester ticket will also increase. The price for the next semesters has not yet been clarified.

Example calculation: If the Deutschlandticket increases to 60€/month, the Germany-wide semester ticket will cost 216€ (36€ x 6 months).

### **What is the price forecast for the Germany-wide semester ticket for the next few years?**

The Deutschlandticket is a politically motivated ticket. The long-term financing of the Deutschlandticket has not yet been clarified and depends on decisions at federal and state level. It is therefore not yet possible to forecast the price development of the Germany-wide ticket.

The ticket prices are based on the "normal" price for the Deutschlandticket by 60%. The price of the Deutschlandticket is currently 49 euros, so the Germany-wide semester ticket costs 29.40 euros per month. If the price of the Deutschlandticket rises, the price of the Germany-wide semester ticket will also rise.

Example calculation: If the Deutschlandticket rises to 60 euros/month, the Germany-wide semester ticket will cost 216 euros per semester (36 euros x 6 months).

### **Is the Deutschlandticket compulsory?**

Just like our current semester ticket, the Deutschlandsemesterticket is a solidarity ticket. The entire student body is obliged to purchase or pay for the ticket. The semester ticket is included in the semester fee and must be transferred as usual at the start of the semester.

There are exceptions where you can have the cost of the ticket reimbursed, as in the current solidarity model.

### **What is a solidarity model?**

A solidarity model means that the semester ticket is part of the semester fee, whether you use it or not. The fact that 16,000 students at the TU pay for the ticket together means that the

semester ticket can be offered at a low price. Solidarity means making a contribution so that everyone can benefit.

### **How does the reimbursement of the Germany-wide semester ticket work?**

The semester ticket is refunded according to the same criteria as the current semester ticket.

### **What happens if the Germany-wide ticket is accepted?**

If the Germany semester ticket is accepted, the contract for the state-wide semester ticket for Lower Saxony/Bremen will be terminated in due time and the contract with the VRB will be "put on hold" or paused.

The contract for the Germany semester ticket will then be concluded with the relevant tariff organization in a timely manner and introduced for the winter semester 2024/2025.

### **If we take the Niedersachsen-wide ticket, is the upgrade to the Deutschlandticket for 22€ still available?**

No, the upgrade option for 22€ expires in winter semester 24/25.

### **Is the ticket still on the TUCard (student ID card)?**

The Germany-wide ticket will generally be offered as a digital ticket. A concrete implementation is currently still being planned.

### **Why is the Germany-wide ticket worthwhile for me?**

The Germany-wide ticket is worthwhile for you if you are travelling outside of Lower Saxony on regional trains or are dependent on local transport (buses and trams) in another city. As with the Deutschlandticket and the current Semesterticket, the use of long-distance trains such as IC/ICE is excluded.

### **What happens after the ballot?**

The result of the ballot is a recommendation for the StuPa. The StuPa makes the final decision on the semester ticket. The decision will be communicated to the student body in a timely manner. After the decision, the contracts will either be concluded with the Germany-wide ticket and the current semester ticket will be terminated, or the current contracts will remain in place.

### **Does the Germany-wide semester ticket already exist at other universities?**

Some student bodies at German universities have already switched or are switching to the Germany-wide semester ticket for the winter semester.

The reason why some had a Germany semester ticket so early on is mainly due to the fact that these universities had already called up corresponding (higher) contributions and already had a suitable digital ticket medium.

However, the majority of student bodies will not switch to the Deutschlandsemesterticket

until the winter semester 2024/25, as the above-mentioned points plus the preparation of a draft contract take a relatively long time. In addition, the universities will have to adapt their contribution regulations.

**If we opt for the Germany-wide ticket, what options do we have to switch back?**

The Germany-wide semester ticket has a notice period of three months. However, the Landesnahverkehrsgesellschaft reserves the right to terminate the entire contract if a lower limit of 25,000 students is reached. This means that if too few student bodies use the state-wide semester ticket, the contract will be terminated one way or another.

It can currently be assumed that all student bodies in Lower Saxony/Bremen will switch to the Germany semester ticket. Even if the contract for the state-wide semester ticket is terminated and the Deutschlandticket and thus also the Deutschlandsemesterticket subsequently becomes disproportionately expensive or, in the worst case, is discontinued completely, it can be assumed that the transport companies are very interested in resuming the "old" semester ticket contract.