



Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg · Postfach 3520 · 91023 Erlangen

### Studierendenvvertretung

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### Press information

## The semester ticket for students is going to come soon!

*In the ballot that has been conducted among the students of the metropolitan area Erlangen-Nuremberg, a narrow majority voted in favour of the ticket.*

The students of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU) and Technische Hochschule Nuremberg (TH) have come out in favour of the much-debated student ticket. 50,73% of the FAU students and 58,20% of the TH students voted for the ticket. So the votes of 350 students at the FAU made the difference. It will be financed solidarily.

The overall turnout was 59,91%, which is composed of 61,31% at FAU and 55,64% at TH Nuremberg.

Consequently, the offer that has been negotiated between the Erlangen-Nuremberg student services (Studentenwerk Erlangen-Nuremberg), the transport system of the metropolitan area Nuremberg (Verkehrsverbund Großraum Nürnberg, VGN), and the cities of Erlangen, Nuremberg, and Fürth, is considered as having been approved.

The offer entails the following:

Every student is going to pay a mandatory basic amount of € 65 per semester. As a result, they can use all public means of transport (tram, S-Bahn, metro, busses, and trains, except for IC and ICE) in the entire region (traffic level 10+) all day long at weekends and on public holidays, and between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. on workdays. The ticket is valid for 6 months including the semester breaks, which is a major difference from the present Semesterwertmarken model.

For an optional amount of € 193, students can buy an additional ticket which is valid in the entire VGN area without limitation (24/7). This ticket is also valid for 6 months.

Thus, a total amount of € 258 per semester has to be paid for a student ticket without limitation, which equals an amount of € 43 per month. This is the cheapest ticket available for the entire VGN area. According to FAU SprecherInnenrat member Henriette Hofmeier, "Many students have to commute between Erlangen and Nuremberg for their studies. Others have to use public transport in the metropolitan area because of their housing situation. Until now, there has been no ticket in the VGN area comparable to this offer. The new student ticket is cheaper than everything else so far. Therefore, it is a novelty."

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In the last few weeks, the proposed offer has been debated in detail in the local press. Moreover, it has been subject of controversial discussion in social networks. This can also be seen in the results of the ballot, as Tobias Langer explains: “The high turnout of 59,91% shows a great interest in the topic among students. The required quorum of one third of all students was already achieved on the second day of the ballot.” Students could cast their vote via the internet within a period of ten days, from January 01 at noon until January 21 at 11:59 p. m. Every student received an automatically generated code via e-mail, which could be used to take a vote on <https://abstimmung.semesterticket.org>. “With the online voting system, it was very easy for the students to take part in the ballot. Anyway, we received a lot of e-mails from students who did not know where to find the code, or who had problems with entering it,” Henriette Hofmeier sums up the voting system.

In order to guarantee the process to be technically smooth, the Referat IT of the students council Erlangen-Nuremberg (Studierendenvertretung Erlangen-Nürnberg) collaborated with the datacentre Erlangen (Rechenzentrum Erlangen, RRZE), the Campusmanagement of the FAU and the datacentre of Ohm Hochschule (Rechenzentrum der Ohm Hochschule, RZ Ohm). We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their excellent work. The students' union (Studierendenvertretung, Stuve) would also like to say thank you to all those who worked voluntarily at the information booths in Erlangen and Nuremberg, and to all staff members of the universities and cities involved.

The student ticket is planned to be introduced in the winter term of 2015/2016. However, prior to that the contract between the student services and the VGN has to be concluded.

Although the students' union is happy about the result of the ballot, some negative undertones remain. Still, Bavaria is the only German state without a constituted student body (Verfasste Studierendenschaft). For this reason, the students' union cannot act as a legal person and therefore it could not conduct negotiations about the student ticket on its own. “Of course we are glad that we could table the offer with the help of several different parties, and that the students appreciated this as we can see from the result of the ballot. However, the good result cannot hide the existence of a major shortcoming in our higher education policy that must be resolved as quick as possible,” Carolin Kister, member of the SprecherInnenrat, criticizes.