

OFFENE VERSAMMLUNG

Gegen Sparpolitik an
den Universitäten

OPEN ASSEMBLY

Against Austerity
at Universities



avuba 
Assistierendenvereinigung
der Universität Basel

skuba 
Studentische Körperschaft
der Universität Basel

vpod  region basel



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VSS | Verband der Schweizer Studierendenschaften
UNES | Union des Etudiant-e-s de Suisse
USU | Unione Svizzera degli e delle Universitari-e

Information event about **Relief Package 27**



What's going on?

Relief package (published Sept. 24) – final draft presumably will be published summer 2025

Contains most notably:

- **Duplication of student fees for all Swiss students**
- **Quadruplication of student fees for foreign students**

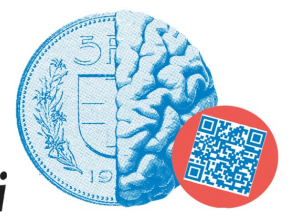
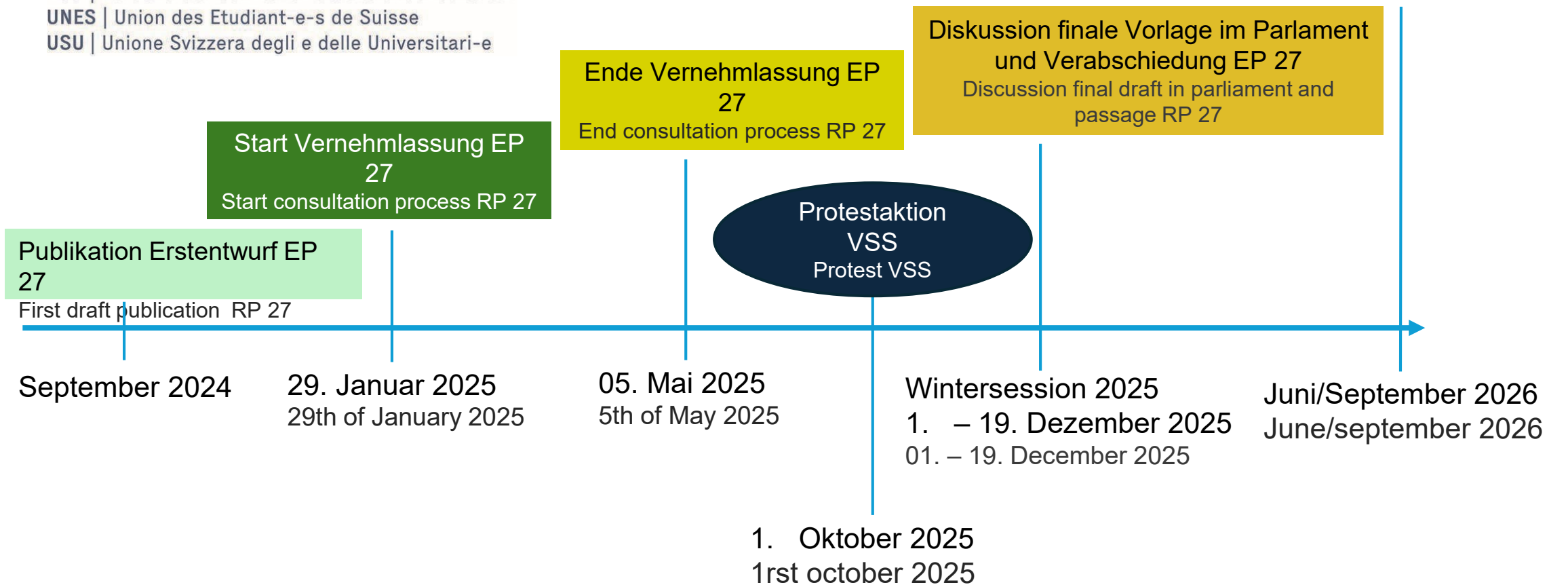
The proposed draft is currently in the consultation process, i.e. all interested parties have until 5 May 2025 to comment on it.

The VSS Section Council has already adopted a consultation response and is vociferously opposed to the planned cost-cutting measures.



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Abstimmung
 Referendum
 Referendum vote



What concerns us students most?

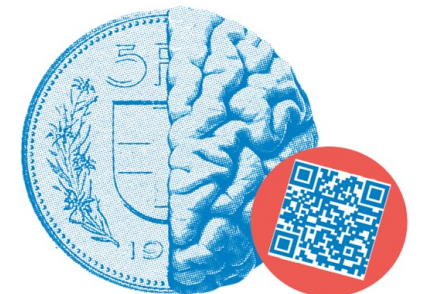
Measures without law changes



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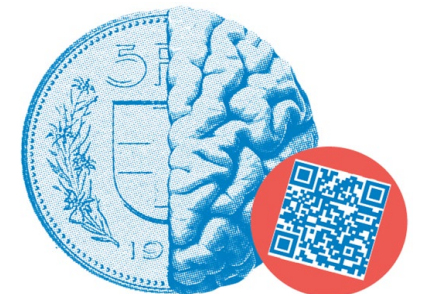
Increase in user financing in the ETH Domain

Tuition fees in the ETH Domain are to be doubled for domestic students and quadrupled for foreign students.



Reduction in support for international mobility

The federal government is planning to reduce the financial support for exchange programmes within the framework of international mobility by 10%. It is being examined whether further cuts can be made for foreign students. In future, students would have to pay more for their stay abroad themselves.



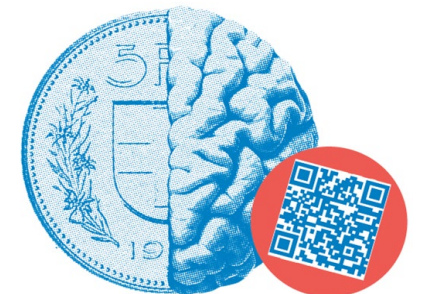
Reduction of the federal contribution to the SNSF by 10%

On the one hand, the federal government wants to reduce the basic contribution to the SNSF and for specific federal project mandates.



Cuts in departmental research - less funding for projects commissioned by the federal government to fulfil its tasks

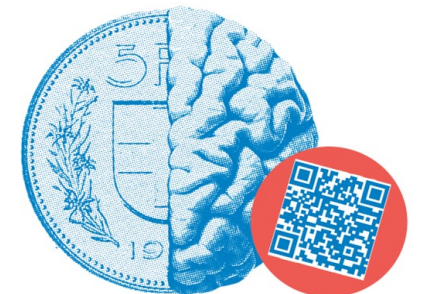
10% cut in subsidies for extracurricular child and youth support - fewer subsidies for organisations such as student associations or the Association of Swiss Youth Parliaments



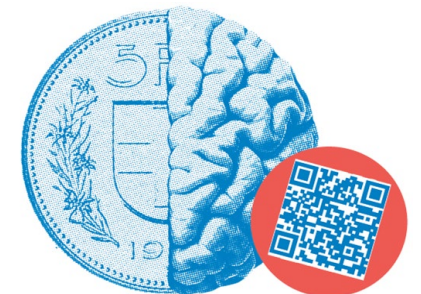
Measures with law changes

Increase in tuition fees at cantonal universities

Doubling of tuition fees for domestic students and quadrupling of fees for foreign students. This should generate additional revenue of CHF 300 million at universities and CHF 200 million at universities of applied sciences, part of which will be used to relieve the federal budget.



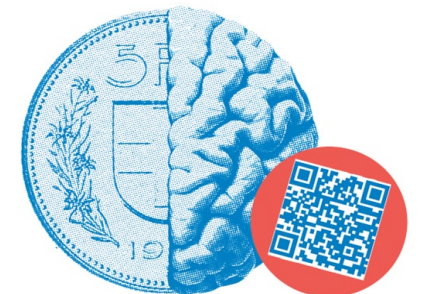
- **Dismissal of project-related contributions to universities** - Support contributions for specific projects dedicated to promoting equal opportunities or promoting young talents, for example, are to be completely waived (exception: nursing initiative).
- **Reduction of the federal contribution to Innosuisse by 10%** - In addition to science-based innovation and start-ups, Innosuisse also promotes the transfer of knowledge from research into economy and society.



Arguments against the austerity measures

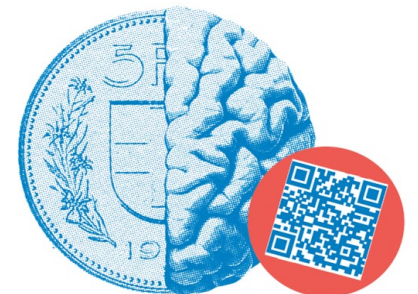
The increase in tuition fees jeopardises equal opportunities in the Swiss education system

The increase means that students are no longer selected based on their abilities and achievements but rather based on their financial background. Those who cannot afford higher costs will be excluded - regardless of talent or academic potential. In the long term, this leads to a loss of skilled labour and innovation.



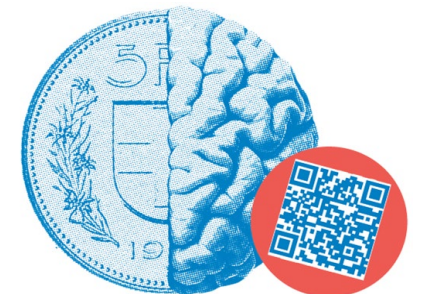
The scholarship system is inadequate

Without further investment and an expansion of the scholarship system, the scholarship system in Switzerland will not be sufficient to ensure equal opportunities in the future.



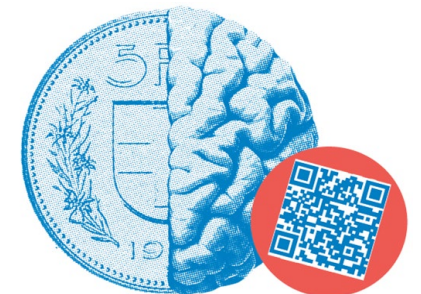
The cuts jeopardise Switzerland as a location for innovation and business

Switzerland is world-renowned for its high-quality, innovative and often pioneering education and research. Universities are the foundation for critical thinking, research and innovation. They strengthen the economy and secure Switzerland's position as a center of innovation. Without sufficient federal investment in education and research, Switzerland risks losing this leading global position.



Impending deterioration in the quality of teaching and research due to enforced service cuts

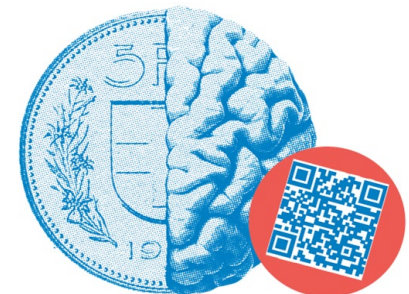
The quality of teaching and research can only be maintained as student numbers continue to rise if investment in teaching staff, teaching development and infrastructure also increases. If the quality of education decreases, future generations of students will be able to achieve less on the labour market. As a result, the innovative strength and competitiveness of the Swiss economy will suffer. This damage is long-term and cannot be repaired with short-term investments in a few years.



Higher tuition fees, higher part-time jobs, longer studies

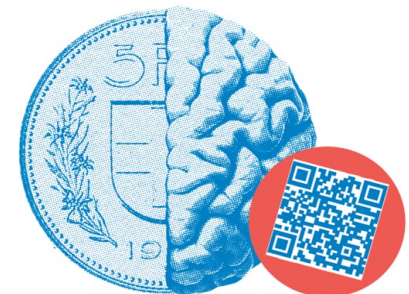
Today, over 73% of students are already dependent on part-time jobs to cover their living expenses and existing study costs. An increase in tuition fees will force students to invest even more time in gainful employment - at the expense of their studies. This means less study time, delays exams and extends the duration of studies. Universities are put under additional pressure because students remain enrolled for longer and entry into the labour market is delayed. Instead of increasing financial barriers, fair and secure access to education must be maintained for all.

Standard periods of study must not be a luxury!



Students are not customers!

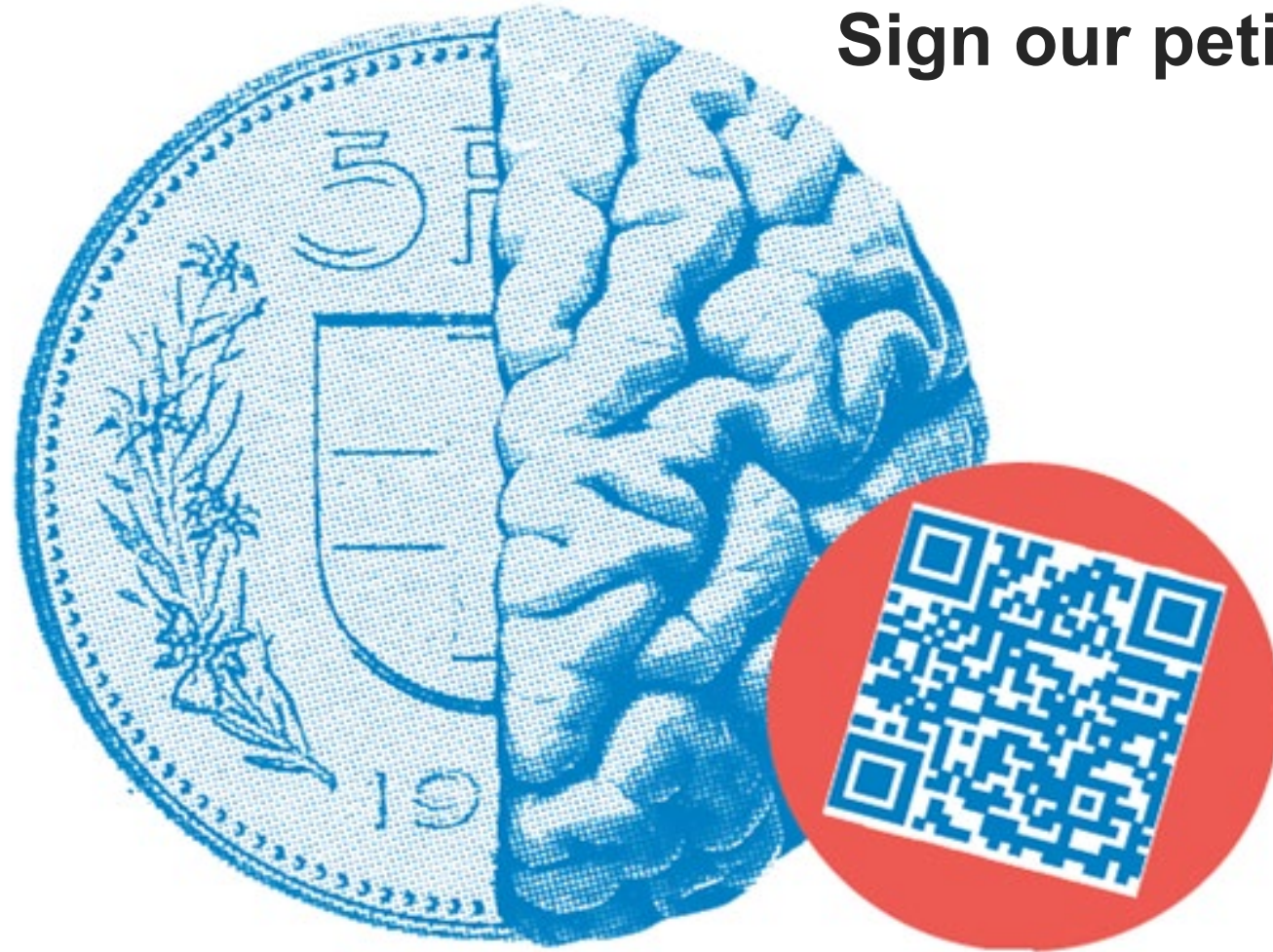
The federal government wants to strengthen ‘user funding’ at universities. Viewing students as customers and education as a consumer good whose price can be adjusted to the economic situation is misguided. The high quality of education and the relative accessibility to it is a firm cornerstone of Switzerland. This feature of Swiss identity must not be degraded to a luxury good.



How can you help?

Petition unterschreiben!

Sign our petition!

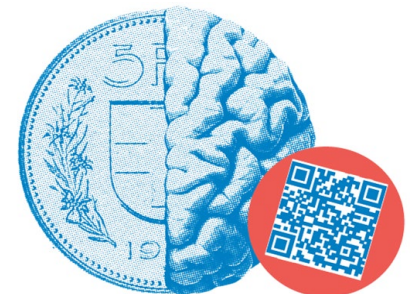




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Be there for our demonstration!

October 1st 2025



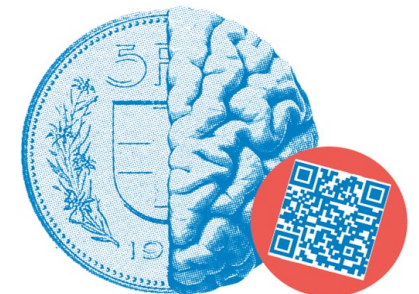


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For more information and documents please contact samira.guyot@vss-unes-ch



skuba ✱

Studentische Körperschaft
der Universität Basel

Don't Balance the Budget on Students' Backs!

- Raising tuition fees threatens equal access to education
- The scholarship system is already insufficient
- Research & inclusion programs are at risk
- Students from rural and low-income backgrounds are disproportionately affected
- The Basel region needs accessible education to stay economically competitive

Our Demands – A Fair and Publicly Funded Higher Education System

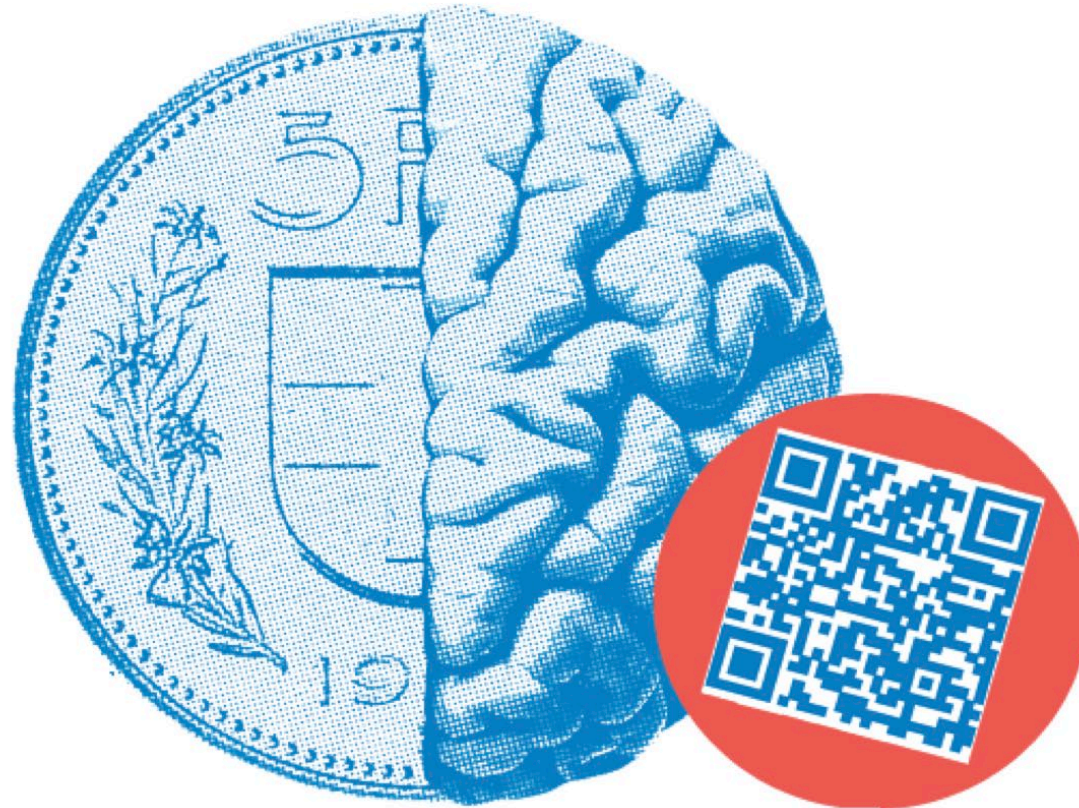
- No tuition fee increases
- A publicly funded and socially inclusive higher education system
- Strengthening the scholarship & financial aid system
- No cuts to research, equality, and sustainability programs
- Protect Basel as a key education and innovation hub

[VSS | UNES | USU]

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Petition unterschreiben!

FRAGEN?
QUESTIONS
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avuba



Assistierendenvereinigung
der Universität Basel

Sections

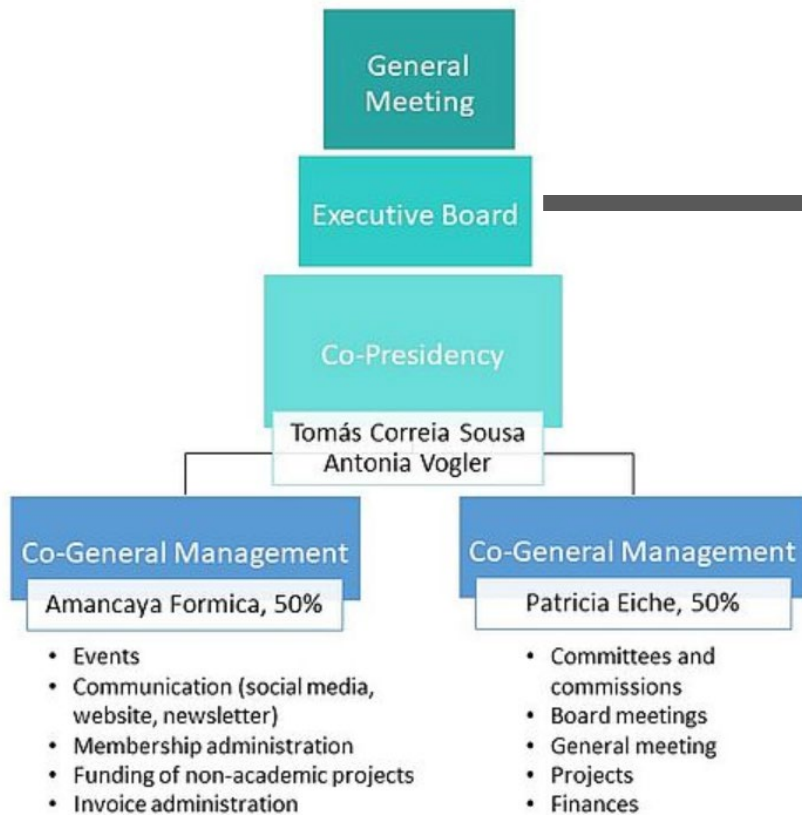


1. What is AVUBA?
2. How is AVUBA structured?
3. Our actions against austerity
4. Demands & Oppositions
5. What can AVUBA members do?

What is AVUBA?

- Assistants organization University of Basel
- For PhD's and Postdocs
- Founded in 2013
- Non-profit
- Politically independent

How is AVUBA structured?



<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Senate representatives</u>	<u>Deputies</u>
Theology	Kathrin Schwarz	Anita Dirnberger
Law	Ana Viola Bleichenbacher	Meret Cajacob
Medicine	Felix André Erb	<u>Vacant</u>
Humanities	Sepideh Alassi	<u>Vacant</u>
Natural Sciences	Boris Ševarika	Sergej Maul
Business and Economics	Raul Hochuli	<u>Vacant</u>
Psychology	Fabio Carbone	Sophie Reckels

Our actions in against austerity

Collaboration with actionuni anti-austerity project team:

Press release

Flyer

Today's event

Mobilization event
October 1st in Basel

Press release – 27.02.2025

Swiss mid-level academic staff associations call for maintaining funding for Switzerland's high-quality research and teaching

Switzerland's education and research system is under an unprecedented threat of funding cuts. These budget reduction programmes endanger the stability and quality of Swiss universities, research institutions, universities of applied sciences and the overall educational ecosystem, from primary to tertiary education.

ACT TODAY TO SAVE TOMORROW'S SWISS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

From 2026, the Swiss Federal Council plans to slash federal contributions by **460 million francs** per year in **universities**, the **ETH domain**, **universities of applied sciences**, and funding bodies such as the **SNFS**

If Parliament accepts these cuts, the consequences will be devastating

- X More job insecurity** – lower institutional budgets, disappearance of 1,500 SNSF positions and 500 projects
- X Higher tuitions fees** – education is a right, not a privilege
- X Lower education quality** – fewer resources, overworked lecturers
- X Weaker research** – erosion of Switzerland's reputation

We urge politicians to reconsider these cuts and protect funding to preserve academic excellence, high-quality research and teaching, and accessible education for all !

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ✓ Sign the petition bezahlbar-studieren.ch
- ✓ Stay informed via [actionuni](https://actionuni.ch) and participate in mobilisations
- ✓ Spread the word #SaveSwissResearch #SaveSwissTeaching

DAY OF ACTION
01.10.2025



Demands

- **Long-Term Funding Strategy:**
 - Stable support for Swiss universities.
 - Recognition of universities' role in innovation and national prosperity.
- **Job Security and Mental Health:**
 - Protect academic staff jobs.
 - Implement measures for job stability.
 - Promote mental health and supportive working conditions.

Oppositions

- **Federal Funding Cuts:**
 - Reduction in government subsidies to universities.
 - Loss of research positions, especially impacting junior researchers.
- **SNSF Funding Reduction:**
 - Job losses.
 - Threatens Swiss basic research.
- **Ending University Project Support:**
 - Endanger projects in equal opportunities, early-career support, sustainability, and open science
 - Negatively impacts teaching conditions, equality, and junior researcher support.
- **Increased Costs for International Mobility:**
 - Disproportionately affects financially disadvantaged students.
 - Limits opportunities for international academic experiences.
- **Higher Costs for Students at Universities:**
 - Potential tuition fee increases.
 - Limits educational access for disadvantaged students.

What can AVUBA members do?

Join avuba

Participate in events

Become assistant representative

Become senate representative

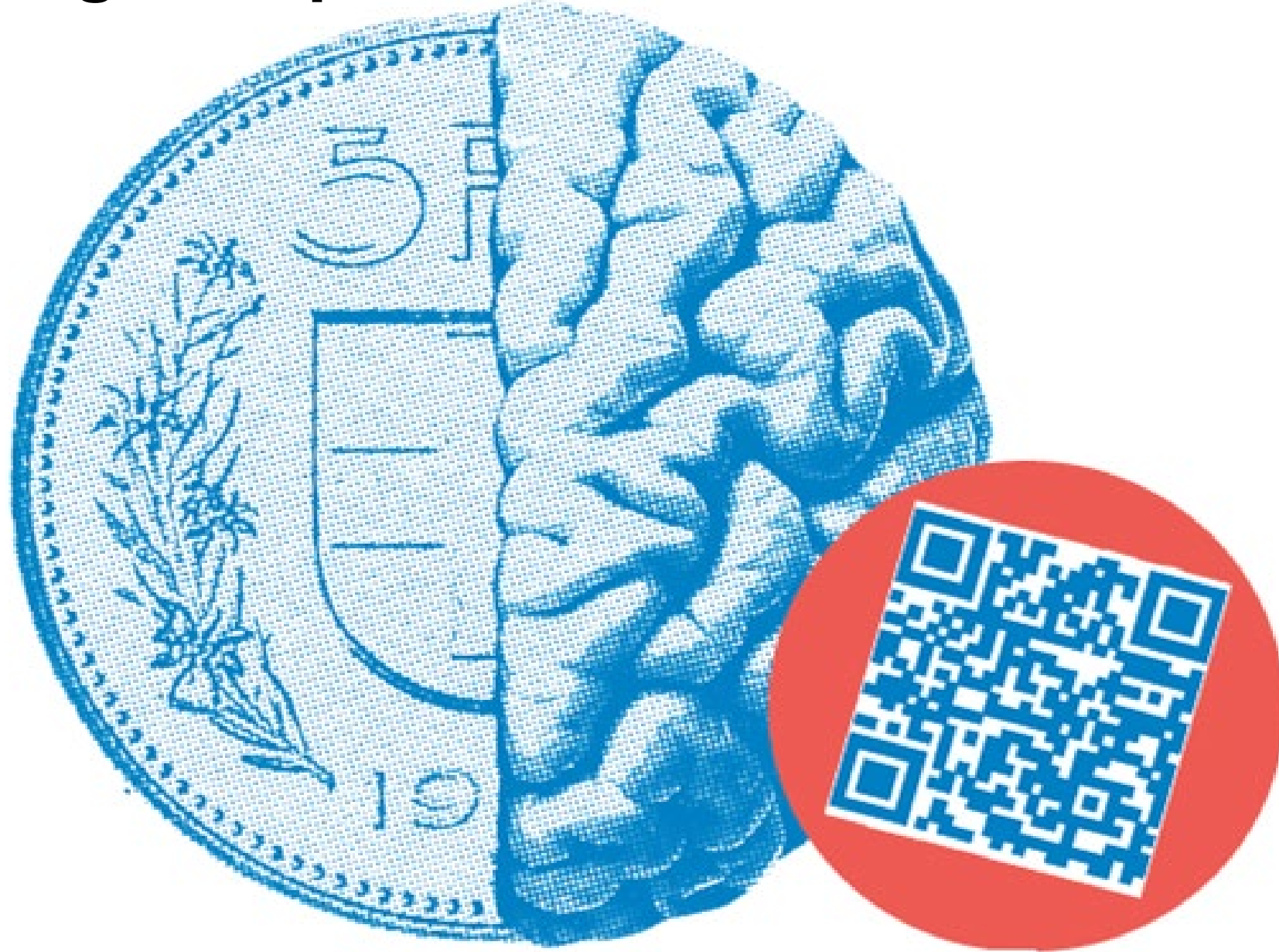
Become co-president

Stay informed

Engage on social media (e-mail, X, LinkedIn)

Contact politicians

Sign the petition bezahlbar-studieren.ch



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Thank you! Questions?

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vpod  region basel

VPOD@unibas

- VPOD: union of the public service employees
- VPOD@unibas: Group of mid-level staff members at unibas
 - Active for reform of employment conditions of mid-level staff
 - Cooperation with SP Basel-Stadt
 - Involved in bi-annual social partner meetings with the rectorat
 - Monthly group-meetings

Positioning

- Members of the vpod have been involved in drafting a resolution against the planned austerity measures together with actionuni and the mid-level staff and students' associations in the Romandie that went public this morning
 - Goal: to adopt the resolution at the Uni Basel with your support and consent

Main demands

1. We categorically reject raising tuition fees
 - Public education should be funded by public budgets and not depend on individual financial situations
2. We demand and fight for free and accessible public education
 - People should have free choice of education. Austerity measures would further undermine this.

Main demands

3. We reject the privatisation of education and the individualisation of educational careers
 - Raising fees would force students to work more jobs, take out loans, or quit their studies altogether if they have no financial support from home
 - This is a risk for physical and mental health

Main demands

4. We categorically reject budget cuts in research and innovation
 - Budget cuts at SNSF would result in the cancellation of around 700 research projects and 2000 jobs in research

Main demands

5. We categorically reject measures discriminating so-called foreigners
 - Switzerland doesn't hesitate to import labor but plans to quadruple qualification costs for students with other citizenship
 - This normalizes far-right and xenophobic discourses and is not in conformity with EU cooperation in higher education

Main demands

6. We demand cost-free and high quality public research and education
- Research is already mostly carried out in precarious conditions and under high pressure. This negatively affects the quality of research results and teaching
 - Tertiary education is a public good. Taking away funds risks privatization and the mingling with vested interests on donors' sides

Main demands

7. We categorically reject the cutting of project-related funds in higher education
 - This would mostly affect junior academics and programs aimed at sustainability, equal opportunities and inclusion as well as science communication
 - Universities must not cease their responsibility for societal issues

Conclusion

We reject the austerity measures by the federal council and would like to ask you for your support to hand in the resolution as part of the Vernehmlassungsantwort in the name of the students and staff of the University of Basel.

... let's formally join a swisswide uprising

 **actionuni**
372 Follower:innen
2 Wochen • 

+ Folgen ...

👉👉👉 Universities are starting to mobilise against the budget cuts that threaten education, Swiss research and our jobs! 👉👉👉

Join us in force, even if you still have to write the conclusion. An extra article won't help if there are no more scholarships to apply for next year!

🗣️ Information session organised by the [Syndicat SSP, SIT- Syndicat interprofessionnel de travailleuses et travailleurs](#) and ACCORDER at [Université de Genève](#) on 10 April at 12.15 (Uni Dufour U159)

🗣️ Forum for reflection and discussion on budget cuts at [Université de Fribourg/ Universität Freiburg](#) organised by the CSWM on 14 April at 15.00 (Auditoire C, Miséricorde)

🔥 Mobilisation assembly organised by the SSP Fribourg at [Université de Fribourg/Universität Freiburg](#) on 15 April at 18.00 (room MIS 10 1.16)

⚡ Assembly against austerity at universities at [Universität Basel](#) organised by [avuba](#) and [VPOD - Gewerkschaft im Service public](#) on 28 April at 16.00 (Kollegiengebäude 120)

Calendrier d'actions

Actions assurées par des acteurs différents, organisées de manière décentralisée

28 avril : Assemblée de mobilisation à l'Université de Bâle. [Plus d'infos](#)

29 avril : Rassemblement à l'Université de Genève, 12h

29 avril : Assemblée de mobilisation à l'Université de Fribourg

30 avril : stands d'information et lecture de la résolution à l'Université de Neuchâtel

1^{er} mai : blocs étudiants dans les manifestations du 1^{er} mai (VD + FR et peut-être NE?)

5 mai : grand rassemblement à l'Unil, 12h devant [Anthropole](#)

5 mai : grève étudiante HETS ?

6 mai : assemblée constitutive d'un syndicat étudiant (SSP) à l'Université de Fribourg, contre l'austérité et de meilleures conditions d'études

Séance d'info GRC ?

4 juin : participation à la manifestation de la fonction publique à Fribourg

Les mobilisations ci-dessus préparent à une grande mobilisation à l'automne :

- 1^{er} [octobre](#): journée nationale d'actions avec [actionuni](#) et UNES
- D'ici-là, pétition qui tourne, de l'UNES

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