



Birgid Langer
Equal Opportunities
Officer
Research Associate

In which committees and in what position are you active at KIT?

Not only as a research associate, but especially in my role as Scientific Equal Opportunities Officer of KIT, I am active in numerous committees. With regard to student matters, I am involved, for example, in the Senate Commission for Studies and Teaching as well as in the KITPLUS Commission, but enriching and important discussions with students also take place in the Ethics Commission. In addition, as Equal Opportunities Officer, the exchange with the university group RISK Women in Business is very important to me. I am happy to support initiatives such as RISK or events held as part of the “Frauenwirtschaftstage” (Women in Business Days),

which are committed to sustainably strengthening female students and preparing them at an early stage to assume responsibility, since fostering early-career researchers is a thematic focus of my equal-opportunity-related activities.

To what extent do you have contact with student representatives in this context?

Students are well represented on the aforementioned committees. Their consistently valuable input is of great importance, since the student body can only obtain a strong voice within the university community through active participation. By taking part as committee members, the student representatives are also being prepared for life, as they must engage with different opinions and seek dialogue to find joint solutions. This, in turn, fosters a long-term sense of self-efficacy and thus also contributes in general to strengthening our democracy.

In your opinion, why is student engagement relevant for KIT?

With currently more than 23,000 people, the student body constitutes the largest group within the university community – accordingly, their voice should be heard. I value the students as equal partners within the university community who, through their perspectives, greatly enrich learning and working at KIT. Only through their active influence can the quality of studies and teaching be continuously improved.



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In your view, what means do you see to strengthen student engagement?

I consider both KIT and political decision-makers to have a duty to step up their efforts on behalf of students' concerns. Academic staff do this, for example, by engaging with students on a daily basis in the course of their teaching and thus fostering and supporting them in their commitment. Student participation in committees is also important in order to give them the opportunity for active involvement. This is already working very well at KIT. With regard to equal opportunities for women and men, I am counting on the younger generation and their willingness to bring about change. In this context, the ideas of students make an important contribution to the further development of society as a whole. The voice of the student body must be heard in order for KIT to continue to develop in this area.