

# Votes on the Semester Ticket 2021



# The DB semester ticket

The “Semesterticket Thüringen” has existed at all Thuringian universities since 2009 and is based on a contract between the Studierendenwerk Thüringen, as the contractual partner for the student bodies, and DB Regio AG, as the representative of the railway companies (DB Regio, Erfurter Bahn, Abellio, Süd-Thüringen-Bahn and Vogtlandbahn). The rail ticket is valid on local trains (RE, RB) on all DB Regio routes to the last stop of the respective train in Thuringia. The rail ticket is only valid up to the state border if an adjacent state ticket (Bavaria, Lower Saxony, Hesse, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt) is purchased for the onward journey. Students’ own children (up to and including 14 years of age) may travel free of charge. The exact conditions can be found at [Studierendenwerk Thüringen](#).

## **The current semester ticket**

The amendment agreement to the semesterticket contract passed in the last vote was valid from the summer semester 2019 up to and including the winter semester 2020/21, i.e. until 31.03.2021, with a price of €66.57 for the A locations and €50.88 for the B locations.

Negotiations for a new amendment agreement should start in April 2020. However, due to the Corona pandemic, negotiations could only start in September 2020.

## **A- und B-Locations**

The rail semester ticket differentiates between A and B locations in terms of price. This division is based on the better connection of the A locations to the rail network. The A locations include the universities in Erfurt, Weimar and Jena. The B locations include the other universities in Gera, Eisenach, Ilmenau, Nordhausen and Schmalkalden.

### What is the base amount?

The base amount is based on the original price of the semester ticket in 2009 and adds the annual percentage price increases for the monthly student ticket (notionally around 2% on average). This results in a base amount of €60.38 and €42.02 in 2017. After deducting the “compensation payments” that were added from 2018/19 to 2020/21 and the annual percentage adjustment, the notional base amount in the summer semester of 2021 is €66.26 and €46.11 respectively.

However, in the course of the ongoing negotiations and the already advanced time, it was not possible to agree on a new long-term change agreement in time. In order not to lose the ticket, it was possible to reach an agreement with the railway companies on a one-semester amendment agreement, the price of which reverted to the so-called **base amount of 2017 of €60.38 for the A locations and €42.02 for the B locations**. This amendment agreement expires at the end of the summer semester 2021. **The ticket will therefore only continue until 30.09.2021 if no new amendment agreement is concluded.**

### The negotiations with the railway companies

After the 2017/18 negotiations, the price of the semester ticket increased massively (from €50.90 to €66.57 in the A locations; from €30.90 to €50.88 in the B locations (incl. alignment of the Gera campus with the B locations)). This increase was demanded by the railway companies because they wanted to compensate for the difference in losses due to missed increases in recent years. These “compensation payments” were valid up to and including the winter semester 2020/21, after which the price fell back to the so-called base amount of 2017 of €60.38 and €42.02 for the duration of the summer semester 2021.

Here we entered into negotiations for a new amendment agreement from the winter semester 2021/22. In addition to the two contracting parties, the Conference of Thuringian Student Bodies (KTS) and various student councils from all over Thuringia were also present. Initial offers were exchanged.

The railway companies submitted an initial offer in which they added the average annual price increases of the monthly student ticket to the base amount of 2017/18 and thus arrived at a demand price of **€66.26 and €46.11** in the summer semester 2021. In the winter semester 2021, with the start of the new amendment agreement, **annual price increases of 5%** were then to take place on this price basis, i.e. **starting in the winter semester 2021/22 with €69.57 and €48.42 respectively.**

KTS submitted several counter-offers. These offers were rejected by the railway companies. An offer proposed in the meantime by DB Regio with a **3.5% annual increase** was unfortunately not approved by the other railway companies involved. After lengthy negotiations, the railway companies made a “final” offer, in which absolute price increases (**2.50 € p.a.**) were used instead of percentage increases. The price increases, especially in the B locations, turned out to be significantly higher than the “target figures” of about **3.5%** that had been envisaged in the meantime.

The KTS made it clear to the railway companies that such a ticket would not find a majority, especially in the B locations. In a final round of negotiations, an agreement was finally reached to maintain the **€2.50 increase in the A locations**, but to **adjust the percentage increase in the B locations**. In addition, the ticket will be extended for another year after the summer semester 2024 with an annual price increase corresponding to the percentage development of the monthly student ticket + 0.5%.

*Although the rail semester ticket represents a locational advantage for Thuringia's universities and the state should therefore have an interest in obtaining a low-cost ticket, financial support from the TMWWDG was also rejected from the outset in this round of negotiations. In contrast, the Azubi-Ticket is financially supported by the state.*

**Table 1: DB's final offer**

	A-Locations		B-Locations	
	Price	%-Development	Price	%-Development
<b>WiSe 21/22</b>	66,00 €		46,00 €	
<b>SoSe 22</b>	68,50 €	3,79 %	47,74 €	3,79 %
<b>WiSe 22/23</b>	68,50 €	-	47,74 €	-
<b>SoSe 23</b>	71,00 €	3,65 %	49,48 €	3,65 %
<b>WiSe 23/24</b>	71,00 €	-	49,48 €	-
<b>SoSe 24</b>	73,50 €	3,52 %	51,23 €	3,52 %

## Each student body decides for itself whether to accept the offer.

Already in the last round of negotiations in 2017/18, it was achieved that each university may decide on the semester ticket for itself and is thus not dependent on the vote of other universities. If a student body decides to keep the rail semester ticket, the semester ticket will remain for the students of this university in any case. The price will not change for the remaining student bodies if individual student bodies withdraw.

### The votes

As with the last negotiations in 2018, the StuRä have decided to hold (original) votes at the respective universities and let the students decide for themselves whether they want to accept this offer. The Studierendenswerk, as the contractual partner, will then implement these votes accordingly.

# The VMT-Semester Ticket

The VMT semester ticket is a module that allows you to use selected public transport routes within the Central Thuringia Transport Association (including city centre transport in Jena, Weimar and Gera). You can find a detailed overview of the area of validity on the [Homepage of the Studierendenwerk](#).

Since the VMT area has expanded and price adjustments were also necessary here, this offer will also be put to the vote of the student bodies concerned (UE, FHE, BUW, HfM, FSU, EAH, DHGE - Campus Gera). The price adjustment provides for a one-time increase of the price base by € 1.00 due to the extension of the scope of application and also an annual price increase according to the table below. In addition, the contract will be renewed for a further year at a time with an annual price increase equal to the price increase of the monthly student ticket.

The rail semester ticket can continue to exist on its own - the VMT semester ticket cannot. If a student body votes against the rail semester ticket, the VMT semester ticket is automatically cancelled as well. If a student body votes against the VMT semester ticket but in favour of the rail semester ticket, the latter can continue to exist on its own. In the city transport of the above-mentioned cities, students who do not have the corresponding local transport ticket will then have to pay extra for public transport.

**Table 2: VMT semester ticket offer**

current price SoSe 2021	10,60 €/Semester
WiSe 21/22 and SoSe 2022	<b>11,90 €/Semester</b>
WiSe 22/23 and SoSe 2023	<b>12,10 €/Semester</b>
WiSe 23/24 and SoSe 2024	<b>12,40 €/Semester</b>

# The E-Ticket

In addition, the so-called e-ticket is to be introduced at all locations. This means that the Thoska will be technically adapted as a ticket to other tickets in the subscription model and can be checked electronically with the new control devices in the VMT area, instead of only by sighting as before.

Only the validity of the ticket is checked (valid/invalid), further data (e.g. student status, semester, matriculation number etc.) cannot be read out!

The changeover to the e-ticket is carried out by converting the Thoska validation stations at the universities. There are no additional costs for the students.

In future, it will no longer be possible to use the semester ticket without the e-ticket function. The railway companies justify this with the need to increase security against forgery, so there is no alternative to the introduction.

# FAQ

## **W**hat will be voted on now?

The first vote is on the “Semesterticket Thüringen”, the rail semester ticket (also: DB regio-Ticket). Secondly, the VMT semester ticket will be voted on, but only at the UE, the FHE, the BUW, the HfM, the FSU, the EAH and the DHGE - Campus Gera.

## **W**hat are the offers that are up for a vote?

The offer for the extension of the “Semesterticket Thüringen” provides for a price development according to Table 1 up to and including the summer semester 2024. In addition, the contract is extended by one year at a time with an annual price increase corresponding to the percentage development of the monthly student ticket + 0.5%. The offer for the extension of the VMT Semester Ticket provides for a price development according to Table 2 up to and including the summer semester 2024. In addition, the contract is extended for one year at a time with an annual price increase equal to the price increase of the monthly student ticket. Both contracts also stipulate the changeover to the e-ticket as a travel document.

## **W**hy do prices rise evenly in the A locations and not in the B locations?

The original “final” offer of the railway companies provided for an equal price increase of 2.50 €. Since this would have meant a higher percentage increase for the B locations, the price development in the B locations was adjusted to the corresponding percentage development in the A locations, which results from the annual increase of € 2.50. This results in “crooked” figures for the B locations. This results in “crooked” figures at the B locations.



**W**hat happens if the majority of my student body votes against the rail semester ticket?

If the majority of your student body votes “no” to the rail semester ticket, your student body will withdraw from the contract between DB Regio (contractual partner of the railway companies) and Studierendenwerk Thüringen (contractual partner of the student bodies). This automatically means that the VMT semester ticket is no longer available!

**W**hat happens if the majority of my student body votes against the VMT semester ticket?

If the majority of your student body votes “no” to the VMT semester ticket, your student body will withdraw from the contract between the VMT and the Studierendenwerk Thüringen (contractual partner of the student bodies). The rail semester ticket remains unaffected by this.

**W**hat happens if another university votes against the semester ticket?

If the student body of another university decides against the rail or VMT semester ticket, this university will withdraw from the respective contract. This decision has no effect on the rail or VMT semester ticket of other universities. The prices remain the same for the remaining universities and will not be increased if several universities withdraw.

This brochure is intended to provide information about the negotiations and the offers for voting on the “Semesterticket Thüringen” (rail semester ticket) and the VMT semester ticket.

The dates of the (original) votes, the exact voting texts and voting modalities are determined independently by each StuRa/ StuKo. Contact your student representative for more information!

If you have any questions about voting, please contact your student representative. If you have questions about the content of the offer, you can also contact your student representative or send us an email.

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