

MORE THAN JUST A SEMESTER TICKET

What is the current model?

In Jena, we always talk about our "Semesterticket", and our Thoska is also simply printed with the word "Semesterticket". However, this is not entirely correct, as we have not one, but **three semester tickets**:

- **one from Deutsche Bahn (DB)**
- **one from Verkehrsverbund Mittelthüringen (VMT)**
- **and one from Jenaer Nahverkehr (JNV).**

We call these the three components of our semester ticket. Each is governed by its own contract and has its own **independent fare**. The prices of the tickets are then added to the semester fee together with the contribution to the Studierendenwerk and the StuRa. The exact breakdown can be found on the website of the Studierendenwerk (QR1 or (<https://www.stw-thueringen.de/finanzen/semesterbeitrag/beitragshoehe.html>)) for the respective semester - but below you will also find an overview of the composition of the contributions in previous semesters (QR2 or (https://www.stw-thueringen.de/assets/public/Dokumente/Semesterbeitrag/Semesterbeitrag_2014_bis_2024.pdf)).

Our semester ticket is a **solidarity ticket**. The motto here is that everyone has to pay, but everyone pays significantly less. This means that those who travel less contribute to the semester fee for those who travel more, thus showing solidarity with them - hence the name. However, this is only possible if the price difference to the "normal ticket" is large enough - the disadvantage to the general public due to the semester contribution to be paid must remain justifiable. For example, a monthly ticket for Jena's public transport system would cost 70.10 euros (i.e. 420.60 euros per semester), whereas our module will only cost 12.95 euros per month (77.70 euros per semester) in the coming semester.

Each module is a separate solidarity ticket. This means that not everyone can decide individually (as with the upgrade ticket, for example) whether they would like to have the JNV module or not, but only we as a whole student body can decide in favour or against it. In order for the entire student body to make this decision, we are holding a ballot.

WHAT DO THE CURRENT THREE-COMPONENTS SEMESTERTICKET OFFER US?

The local transport ticket (JNV)

The JNV ticket is probably the easiest to explain. It allows us to travel in Jena by bus and tram. The price is based on the price development of the student, monthly ticket and the usage figures of the students determined in a passenger survey. This means that the price can rise or fall within a fixed corridor. Nothing will change as a result of the vote. The current year's contract will be continued. Last year (winter semester 23/24 and summer semester 24), we had a lower contribution of 70.65 euros per semester compared to 78.50 euros in summer semester 23 due to the fact that the number of students using the ticket fell in percentage terms in the last passenger survey. As the price of the monthly student ticket has risen again, the price will increase to 77.70 euros in the coming winter semester.

The "Semesterticket Thuringia" (DB)

The **DB Regio Ticket, Bahnticket or "Semesterticket Thüringen"** gives us the most mobility, namely the possibility to travel on local trains (RE, RB) on all DB Regio routes up to the last stop of the respective train in Thuringia. This excludes excursion and special trips, for example, but also certain special railway lines such as the Harz narrow-gauge railway. More about the railway ticket here (QR3 or (<https://www.stw-thueringen.de/finanzen/semesterticket/bahnticket.html>)).

The contract with Deutsche Bahn is usually only concluded for a limited period in order to regularly evaluate and renegotiate the conditions. It is due to expire at the end of the summer semester, which is why we have to agree to the new conditions in the amended contract.

These are in particular:

- The option to put the contract on hold, which allows us to easily join and leave the nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model,
- A price table that determines the prices of the module in the coming semesters. For us in Jena, a distinction is made between two cases. The case in which Erfurt, as a major location, withdraws from the rail ticket (or joins the nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model and thus suspends its contract) and the case in which both universities speak out against the nationwide semester ticket and in favour of retaining the current semester ticket. In the latter case, more students pay into the "solidarity ticket pot", which is why the price is cheaper.

	Summersemester 2024	Wintersemester 2024/2025	Summersemester 2025	Wintersemester 2025/2026**	Summersemester 2026**
Price for Jena	73,50 €	79,82 €	79,82 €	84,61 €	84,61 €
Price for Jena if Erfurt leaf the contract	73,50 €	80,88 €	80,88 €		

* The "Semesterticket Thüringen" (DB Regio Ticket) is funded by the Thuringian student bodies as part of the solidarity model. Apart from Jena, Erfurt is the largest location, which is taken into account when negotiating and calculating the price for the module. Should the student bodies from Erfurt withdraw from this ticket module, while it remains active for the student bodies in Jena, the price will change for the winter semester 2024/2025 according to the table values shown.

** The price from winter semester 2025/2026 includes a maximum price increase of 6% compared to summer semester 2025. If the DTV price increase for discounted student season tickets is less than 6%, the price increase for the Semesterticket Thuringia will also be limited to this price increase.

- The plans for the upcoming contract negotiations

The VMT Ticket

The **VMT ticket** is valid for urban transport in Weimar, Erfurt and Gera and for some local transport connections that are not covered by the DTV. It also offers discounts with teilAuto. Find out more here (QR4 or <https://www.stw-thueringen.de/finanzen/semesterticket/vmt-ticket.html>).

The price in the last few years was €12.40 (around €2.07 per month) for semester 24. In the coming semesters, this is now to be increased to €13.30 (around €2.22 per month).

How much will the Thuringian 3-Baustein Semester Ticket (our current model) cost next semester?

This results in the following prices for the next semester (WiSe 24/25) if Erfurt remains in the DB-Ticket tariff:

77.70 Euro JNV ticket
 + 13.30 Euro VMT ticket
 + 79.82 Euro DB ticket

= 170.82 euros (28.47 euros per month)

Or if Erfurt cancels the DB-Ticket or suspends the contract to **switch to the Deutschland-Ticket**:

77.70 Euro JNV-Ticket
+ 13.30 Euro VMT ticket
+ 80.88 Euro DB ticket

= **171.88 euros (28.65 euros per month)**

What do we vote on now?

As the contract with Deutsche Bahn and VMT only runs until the end of the summer semester, we have to vote on a new contract with the new conditions as mentioned above and in the voting text. Nothing will change for local transport in Jena.

AND WHAT ABOUT THIS DEUTSCHLAND TICKET NOW?

Where does the "nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model" actually come from?

The nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model was already discussed when the regular Deutschlandticket was introduced. However, there were **no further developments for a long time**. Last December, the federal transport minister and the transport ministers of the federal states reached an agreement. However, this was only a few days before the start of our re-registration for the coming semester, and many things were not yet clear at the time. The only thing that was clear was that it would happen. It was therefore not yet possible to use it this summer semester, mainly because the transport companies had ruled out offering us a contract for a Germany semester ticket at that time.

What kind of ticket is the nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model?

The Deutschland Ticket im Solidarmodell is a solidarity ticket for students throughout Germany. It allows you to travel on regional transport throughout Germany for 60% of the current monthly price (**i.e. currently €29.40 per month or €176.40 per semester**) rather than the full price of €49 per month.

As just mentioned, the nationwide semester ticket is a solidarity model, a solidarity ticket. This means that not everyone can opt for or against the ticket individually (as with the Upgrade Ticket, for example), but only as an entire student body. If we decide in favour as a student body, each student only has to pay a reduced price (€29.40 instead of €49).

However, as the nationwide semester ticket in the **solidarity model** is linked to the price of the regular Deutschlandticket, it is not certain whether it will remain affordable for us in the long term. The federal and state governments have only agreed to fund the Germany Ticket for 49 euros **until the beginning of 2025**, i.e. the coming winter semester.

And what does that mean compared to the current ticket? And what will happen to it?

The semester contribution **for the three ticket components** in the coming semester is **170.82 euros or 171.88 euros** (if Erfurt does not confirm the contract with Deutsche Bahn or suspends it). This means **5.58 euros (0.97 euros per month) or around 4.52 euros** (around 0.75 euros per month) per semester less than if we were to join the nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model.

The contracts with Deutsche Bahn, Jena public transport and VMT will be suspended during the period in which we use the nationwide semester ticket. This means that there will be **no additional costs**, the contract will continue and the price adjustments to the fare will be implemented but will not take effect.

This means that, assuming we want to return to our Thuringian 3-module semester ticket in the winter semester 25/26, e.g. because the nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model has become considerably more expensive, the price as shown in the table above will be 84.61 euros for the DB ticket + 13.30 euros for the VMT ticket and the price based on passenger numbers. Putting the contracts "on hold" is therefore a fall-back option should the nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model become significantly more expensive. If we didn't have this option and wanted to withdraw from the Deutschlandticket, we would be left without a semester ticket at all and wouldn't even be able to use the buses and trams in Jena or the regional trains in Thuringia. This way, we can decide each semester whether we want to return to our current 3-module semester ticket without having to negotiate new contracts, which would probably be significantly more expensive.

What are we voting on now for the nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model?

We are voting on whether or not we want the nationwide semester ticket in the solidarity model for 29.40 euros per month (176.40 euros per semester). If the ticket should become more expensive because the price of the Deutschlandticket rises, we will vote again, as we want to prevent the price from rising further and further without a further vote and thus becoming unreasonable for many.

If we vote against, every student will have the opportunity to purchase the upgrade ticket monthly until the end of the winter semester 24/25, as is currently possible, in addition to our Thuringian 3-module semester ticket. The price then corresponds to the difference between 49 euros - 28.47 euros (or 28.65 euros) = 20.53 euros (or 20.35 euros) per month. Find out more here (QR5 or <https://www.stw-thueringen.de/news/update-6-deutschlandticket-upgrades-ueber-deutsche-bahn-erst-ab-august-nutzbar.html>) It is not yet clear whether there will be an upgrade ticket in the coming summer semester. The transport companies have not yet made a statement on this.

QR-CODES ZU WEITEREN INFORMATIONEN



QR1: Semester fee
Breakdown



QR2: Semester fee
of previous years



QR3: Information
DB ticket



QR4: Information
VMT ticket



QR5: Information
Upgrade ticket

