

Dear doctoral candidates, dear thesis advisors, dear Expert Committee members

The GHS Team would like to inform you about recent updates to our procedures, with a particular focus on their simplification, and revisions to our templates and website.

I. New Doctoral Agreement (DA) template and procedures

- The GHS Doctoral Agreement template has been adjusted in accordance with new requirements from the University. Please always **use the newest template*** when submitting your Doctoral Agreement, which can be found [here](#). You will also find it attached.

*Doctoral candidates who applied to the GHS deadline of January 10, 2026, may use the old template for their first Doctoral Agreement.

- A completed and fully signed Doctoral Agreement is now only required in the following **three situations**:
 1. Upon admittance to the GHS.
 2. With the yearly Progress Report **only** in case of changes in the
 - i. supervision team
 - ii. degree specialization
 - iii. funding source
 - iv. supporting measures (see the new DA for examples)
 3. Before the PhD thesis defence. This final and updated Doctoral Agreement must reflect all modifications (including curriculum changes) and be signed by all members of the supervision team.
- Any changes to the planned curriculum during the PhD must be discussed with the thesis advisor. However, candidates are no longer required to submit an updated Doctoral Agreement with their Progress Report when only curriculum changes have occurred.

II. New Progress Report (PR) template and procedure for mentor evaluations

- The Progress Report template has been adjusted with minor changes. Please make sure to **use the newest template** for your next Progress Report. It can be found on the [GHS website](#) and is also attached in this email.
- The Progress Report does not need to be submitted if the candidate plans to defend within six months.

- For candidates with a mentor:
 - The mentor's signature on the mentor evaluation is no longer required if the evaluation is sent directly to the GHS Office from the mentor's work email address.
 - The candidate sends the Progress Report to the mentor and asks them to send the evaluation directly to the GHS Office. Please note that sending your Progress Report to the mentor with the GHS in CC counts as submitting your Report; you do not need to send it again separately.
- A new Doctoral Agreement is only required with the Progress Report in case of changes to the supervision team, degree specialization, funding source or supporting measures (see new DA procedures above).

III. PhD thesis plagiarism check

Plagiarism checks of theses must be carried out **exclusively by the GHS**; candidates and supervisors should not perform them independently.

VI. Pictures from the GHS Symposium 2025

The pictures of the Symposium 2025 have been uploaded to the [website](#). We look forward to seeing you at the next GHS Symposium on December 03 & 04, 2026. The registration for the GHS Symposium 2026 will open in August.

Thank you for your attention and kind regards,

The GHS Team

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