

Dear GHS candidates,

We'd like to provide you with some news and updates on GHS procedures as well as information about upcoming courses and conferences.

News and updates on GHS procedures:

Annual Report 2025

We are pleased to share with you the 7. version of the GHS Annual Report:

[GHS Annual Report 2025](#) (if preferred, it can be viewed as a [flipbook](#))

Candidates under new regulations: PhD prolongation

According to the GHS Regulations for the degree program (Promotionsreglement Art. 4.1), the maximum duration of the PhD (from the GHS registration date) is 4 years for candidates in Expert Committee I and II (FKI/FKII) and 6 years for candidates in Expert Committee III (FKIII). In accordance with Article 4.2, an extension of a maximum of 2 years may be granted.

To obtain an extension, the candidate must submit a formal request to the respective Expert Committee. This request must be submitted and signed jointly by the candidate and the thesis advisors, with the supervision team members in cc. In the request, the reasons for the delay in the completion of the PhD must be clearly specified. Please note that an automatic prolongation of the PhD is not possible.

The GHS Office (with the GHS Coordinator in cc) must receive the request no later than two months before the expiration of the 4- or 6-year period.

All candidates will be notified directly by email to their student email address when the duration of their doctoral studies has exceeded 3.5 years (FKI/FKII) or 5.5 years (FKIII).

Information meeting for GHS candidates

At the request of the student representatives, the GHS will host an online meeting to address open questions and discuss current issues:

Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 15:00-17:00

Please register and submit any topics you wish to discuss via the [registration form](#) by August 16. We will send the Zoom link to the participants' emails after the registration deadline.

Specialized curriculum: Public Health Sciences Course Program

Candidates who complete the Public Health Sciences (PHS) Course Program may have the PHS courses listed under the headline *Specialized curriculum: Public Health Sciences Course Program* on the Transcript of Records page in the Diploma Supplement. When submitting your defense documents to the GHS Office, please let us know if you would like to have the PHS courses listed like this and, if so, attach your PHS attestation.

Financial Aid reimbursements in eforms

Please note that [financial aid](#) reimbursement in eforms must be initiated by the candidate's institute, not the candidate themselves. It is mandatory to also upload a list of all expenses, with foreign currencies converted to CHF, copies of receipts giving evidence of the effective costs, and a copy of the conference certificate.

Accreditation of courses and conferences in KSL

The GHS Office receives many requests to have courses or conferences accredited in KSL. Depending on the type of course/conference, the accreditation in KSL should be done either by yourself or the GHS Office as described below.

Note that all courses and conferences which you would like to include in your 18 ECTS curriculum must be listed in your Doctoral Agreement. For more information about the Doctoral Agreement and when it is required, please see our [website](#).

- **University of Bern courses assigned to your study program:** If the course is already assigned to your study program (PhD in Health Sciences – visible at the bottom of the course page) in KSL, you can accredit it to the PhD curriculum in your KSL planning view yourself. Move it from the Clipboard (Zwischenablage) to your curriculum by clicking “Credit here” (“Hier anrechnen”). To check whether a course is assigned to your study program, open the course details and scroll down to “Blocks” (“Gefässe”).
- **Other University of Bern courses:** For accreditation of courses that are not assigned to your study program, please send an email to the [GHS Office](#) once the course appears in the Clipboard.
- **Conferences and external courses (not in KSL course catalog):** Please send an email to the [GHS Office](#) with the course certificate, including the information listed on the GHS [course and conference recognition webpage](#).

GHS Team update

In June, Ladina Meuli joined the GHS team as student assistant. Ladina will take over from Fabian Nobrega Freitas and mainly be responsible for course and conference accreditation, 1st and 2nd year exam registration, KSL and website updates. Welcome to Ladina and all the best to Fabian!

Previous GHS information emails

We regularly send information emails with news and updates on our procedures and guidelines. You can find the emails here: [About us: Notifications to Candidates about Revised Guidelines - Graduate School for Health Sciences \(GHS\)](#)

Summer closure

The GHS Office will be closed from July 13 – August 02, 2026. We wish you all a nice summer!

Courses and conferences:

Transferable Skills Program

Registration is now open for the Transferable Skills courses in the fall semester. Transferable Skills courses can be accredited if the courses meet the GHS course recognition requirements.

You can find the course program [here](#) and attached.

Swiss Vision Science Symposium

Please find attached an invitation email from the organizers of the Swiss Vision Science Symposium, taking place on September 01, 2026, in Lausanne.

The symposium can be accredited if the courses meet the GHS course recognition requirements (poster or talk presentation mandatory).