



Information about the new regulations
of the
Graduate School for Health Sciences

New GHS regulations

- **Approval date:** November 2022

- **Enactment date:** February; 2023

- **Which regulations count for you?**

Students who have applied to the GHS by May 1st, 2023 are enrolled in the GHS according to the new regulations.

All students enrolled before this date, including those who applied by the January 10th deadline, will conduct their PhD under the old regulations (Link to the regulations: https://www.ghs.unibe.ch/phd_program/regulations/index_eng.html).

- **Structure and hierarchy of the regulations**

We have three levels of regulations Promotionsreglement (PR), Studienplan (SP) and Organisationsreglement (OR). In addition, there is an internal regulation approved by the GHS Steering Board called Ausführungsbestimmungen (AB).

- *Old regulations and who is involved in the approval steps*

	Bildung und Kulturdirektion (BKD)	Faculties	Unileitung	GHS Steering board
Promotionsreglement (PR) Since 15.09.2008 in power	X	X	X	X
Studienplan (SP) Since 01.09.2010 in power		X	X	X
Organisationsreglement (OR) Since 01.08.2008 in power		X	X	X
Ausführungsbestimmungen Last version in 2011				X

Why was it necessary to revise the regulations?

- The former regulations were written before 2008 and were not anymore in accordance with the current situation.
- To better align the GHS rules with other regulations from the University of Bern.
- To increase the number of people involved in the supervision team in order to improve the level of support for the students.
- To ensure that new evaluation procedures (e.g. exams, PhD thesis) are made according to the most advanced standards for quality in PhD supervision internationally defined by best practices: (<https://orpheus-med.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Best-Practices-DOCUMENT-3-May-2022-1.pdf>; <https://orpheus-med.org/>).

Summary of the Main Changes

PROMOTIONSREGLEMENT:

1. Vetsuisse joins the GHS
2. Admission of candidate with a master degree from Universities of Applied Sciences (FH)
3. The role of mentor is introduced in all expert committees
4. Changes in the assessments of the PhD thesis
5. Changes in the examiners for the defense exam
6. Changes in the German translation of the PhD title

STUDIENPLAN:

1. New list of specializations

ORGANISATIONSREGLEMENT:

1. The president changes every two years (instead of one)

Explanation of the Main Changes

PROMOTIONSREGLEMENT (PR):

1. Vetsuisse joins the GHS.
In the Art. 1 of the new regulations the Vetsuisse Faculty is added as a new participating faculty as a third faculty, next to the former faculties: Faculties of Medicine and Human Sciences
2. Admission of candidates with a master degree from Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen and Pädagogische Hochschulen).

The Art. 8 of the new regulations allows for admission of candidates with a master degree from the FH and PH to the GHS. This is combined with a demand for compensation of 30-60 ECTS. These can be cumulated during the PhD-Time, in addition to the regular 18 demanded ECTS.

IMPLICATIONS:

- The GHS has established a 'bridge commission' (BC) that will evaluate the competencies of FH/PH candidates case by case, based on the CV of the candidates.
- The BC will propose a number of compensatory ECTS.
- The compensatory ECTS must be achieved during the PhD-Time in addition to the required 18 ECTS.
- After the decision of the BC, the candidate will proceed with the standard admission process.
- Experts from FHs and PHs can be part of the supervision team as co-thesis advisor.

3. The role of mentor is introduced in all expert committees (FKs).

In the Art. 9 it is now defined that the mentor is a part of the supervision team.

IMPLICATIONS:

The new supervision team consists of four roles:

- Thesis advisor (same as in former regulation)
- Co-thesis advisor (if any, same as in former regulation)
- Co-referee (same as in former regulation)
- Mentor (until now only in FKIII, now new for all committees)

The mentor has the following tasks:

- co-signs the Doctoral Agreement (DA)
- approves the annual progress reports
- if required, mediates in case of conflicts
- can be present at the second-year exam
- chairs the thesis defense.

4. Changes in the assessments of the PhD thesis.

The Art. 19 introduces a new procedure for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis.

OLD regulations

1° Assessment → Thesis advisor

2° Assessment → Co-referee

NEW regulations

1° Assessment → Thesis advisor + Co-thesis advisor (if any) + Co-referee. Agree on one grade.

2° Assessment → External expert

External experts are independent and internationally recognized researchers from another university, in the research area of the corresponding dissertation and have not published together with the doctoral candidate or the thesis advisor in the last three years.

5. Changes in the examiners for the defense exam.

In the Art. 23 it is now specified who are the examiners at the final exam.

OLD regulations

1° Examiner → Thesis advisor

2° Examiner → Co-referee 3°

Chair: GHS representative

NEW regulations

1° Examiner → Thesis advisor + Co-thesis advisor (if any)

2° Examiner → Co-referee

3° Examiner → External expert

Chair: mentor, does not give a grade

The mentor will chair the defense and will write the protocol but will not take part in the grading.

6. Changes in the German translation of the PhD title.

The Art. 32 allows to have a German translation of the title which was not possible before. The proposed translations will render it possible.

OLD regulations

Currently there is no recognized translation

NEW regulations

German translation of the original title in English: **Dr. sc. med.** → Medical Faculty
Dr. sc. med. vet. → Vetsuisse Faculty
Dr. phil. → Human Sciences Faculty

STUDIENPLAN:

1. New list of specializations.

Title awarded from the GHS: PhD in Health Sciences (specialization)

The Art. 2 defines the following specializations:

- Medicine,
- Dentistry,
- Pharmacy,
- Applied Health Sciences,
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics,
- Public Health Sciences,
- Medical Education,
- Psychology,
- Sport and Exercise Science,
- Neurosciences,
- Clinical Sciences,
- Patient oriented research,
- Veterinary Medicine,
- Biomedical Engineering.