

Executive Regulations for the Regulations for the Degree Program (Promotionsreglement) and Study Plan of the *Graduate School for Health Sciences* of the University of Bern

Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 4 Duration of the doctoral degree	<p>The start date of the doctoral degree corresponds to the application date (GHS application deadline). This date serves as the reference point for all steps of the doctoral program (doctoral agreement, progress reports, examinations, etc.).</p> <p>However, the GHS accepts a financial pledge from the supervising person (letter of acceptance and financial pledge) from the beginning of the employment. In this document, a financial security for the PhD work period of at least 3 years for Expert Committee I / Expert Committee II and at least 4 years for Expert Committee III must be confirmed.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-230712</p>
Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 6.2 Admission	<p>Equivalent degrees from a Swiss and foreign university can be recognized by the GHS Coordinator.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-250625</p>
Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 7.1 Admission Procedure	<p>Modus operandi for doctoral students who are self-financed and employed part-time: Self-funded doctoral students are allowed to apply, provided that the self-funding is declared and transparent. It must be clear that no one is forced to self-finance. The GHS will evaluate such applications ad personam.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-211027 and P-220406</p>
Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 7.4 GHS Admission Interviews	<p>During interviews in all three GHS expert committees, the presence of the committee chair, the GHS coordinator, and at least two additional experts is required to make a decision on the applicant's admittance.</p> <p>Decision: P-241127</p>
Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 8 Additional Demands	<p>Applicants with a Master's degree from a university with less than 90 ECTS will be required to earn additional ECTS to reach this number.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-211027</p>
Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 8 Bridge Commission (BK)	<p>The Bridge Commission (BK) was established to evaluate applications from applicants with a Master's degree from a University of Applied Sciences (FH) or a University of Teacher Education (PH).</p> <p>The BK develops ad personam a proposal on the scope of ECTS compensation. Furthermore, the BK proposes how these additional requirements should be fulfilled. These proposals are approved by the dean of the faculty involved.</p> <p>Applications from FH or PH applicants must meet the following 6 requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the project topic must be health-related 2. supervision by the University of Bern or joint supervision by the University of Bern and the FH or PH

	<p>3. FH or PH Master's degree with a minimal grade of 5</p> <p>4. FH or PH Master's degree with a minimum of 90 ECTS</p> <p>5. additional required ECTS must be fulfilled during the regular PhD period</p> <p>6. approval of the dean of the faculty involved.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-230426</p>
<p>Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 9 Supervision</p>	<p>The change of the thesis advisor, co-thesis advisor or co-referee must be communicated to the GHS in advance and will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>After the second-year examination, it is no longer possible to change the Thesis Advisor and the Co-thesis Advisor or the Co-referee without a request. Requested and substantiated exceptions must be decided on by the responsible Expert Committee.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-220406</p>
<p>Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 9.4 Co-thesis advisor appointment</p>	<p>As stated in the Regulations for the Degree Program, Art. 9.4, the Steering Board can appoint staff not listed in Art. 9.3 as co-thesis advisor. The co-thesis advisor must in this case have a clear academic track, including a PhD title or habilitation .</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-241127 and P-250625</p>
<p>Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 9.8 Supervision and OLD REGULATIONS: Regulations for Degree Program Art. 13 Thesis Defense</p>	<p>The mentor assigned at the beginning of the PhD can remain in this role and chair the thesis defense, even if she or he leaves the GHS Expert Committee in the meantime.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-250625</p>
<p>Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 22 Thesis Defense format</p>	<p>The doctoral student must attend the defense in person, with at least one Thesis Committee member (examiner) present in person. Exceptions will be evaluated case by case.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-241127</p>
<p>Regulations for the Degree Program Art. 23 Thesis Defense</p>	<p>At the thesis defense, only the questions of the examiners and the answers of the doctoral students are to be considered for the evaluation. The questions from the public follow only after the examiners have asked their questions.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-220406</p>
<p>OLD REGULATIONS: Regulations for Degree Program Art. 9.2 First-Year Examination examiners</p>	<p>Students under old regulations (PhD students enrolled before May 2023): The First-Year Examination is assessed by two examiners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis advisor and/or the Co-thesis advisor (if both the Thesis advisor and the Co-thesis advisor participate, they express one common grade). • Second examiner chosen from the following options: the Co-referee, a member of the Expert Committee (FK) or an independent lecturer of the involved faculties. • Overview of possibilities can be found under:

	<p>https://www.ghs.unibe.ch/phd_program/supervision_old_regulations/index_eng.html</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-241127</p>
<p>OLD REGULATIONS: Regulations for Degree Program Art. 9.4</p> <p>Second-Year Examination examiners</p>	<p>Students under old regulations (PhD students enrolled before May 2023): The Second-Year-Examination is assessed by three examiners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis advisor and/or Co-thesis advisor (if both the Thesis advisor and the Co-thesis advisor participate, they express one common grade). • Co-referee • Third examiner chosen from the following options: An independent lecturer of the involved faculties or a member of the Expert Committee (FK). • Overview of possibilities can be found under: https://www.ghs.unibe.ch/phd_program/supervision_old_regulations/index_eng.html <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-241127</p>
<p>Study Plan Art. 2</p> <p>Subject Area</p>	<p>Use of the possible specializations: The list of specializations from the new regulations is included in the doctoral agreement.</p> <p>The doctoral students of the old regulations may continue to choose the old specializations that existed at the time they started their studies, as well as the specializations from the new list.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-220406</p>
<p>Study Plan Art. 2.2</p> <p>Subject Area restrictions</p>	<p>Doctoral students may choose their PhD specialization from the list of available specializations within the following restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specializations in Psychology, Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy can only be chosen by students who have a master in the respective specialization area from a university. • The GHS grants final approval of the chosen PhD specialization, as outlined in the Doctoral Agreement. Conflicting cases will be handled case by case by the GHS Coordinator and the related Expert Committee. <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-241127</p>
<p>Study Plan Art. 7</p> <p>Requirements</p>	<p>Participation in the GHS Symposium is mandatory during the PhD program. Each doctoral student must present their own work at least twice at this event.</p> <p>Study Plan Art. 7.1 and 7.3.</p>
<p>Study Plan Art. 7</p> <p>Requirements</p>	<p>For active conference participation, ECTS can be accredited as follows:</p> <p>a) 1 ECTS for at least 1 day + presentation (poster or talk).</p> <p>b) 0.5 ECTS for ½ day conference + presentation (poster or talk)</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-211027</p>
<p>Study Plan Art. 10</p> <p>First-Year Examination format</p>	<p>The First-Year-Examination is in person. Exceptions will be evaluated case by case.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-241127</p>
<p>Study Plan Art. 11</p> <p>Second-Year Examination format</p>	<p>Second-year examination: The presentation is held at a regularly scheduled colloquium at an institute or clinic which is part of the GHS program.</p> <p>Online examinations are permitted if at least one examiner is present with the student. Exceptions will be evaluated case by case.</p>

	Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-241127
Study Plan Art. 12 Dissertation (or PhD thesis) Publications	<p>a Selection of journals: The Thesis Advisor must, together with the doctoral student, take responsibility for the selection of journals. Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-220713 und P-220713</p> <p>b Publications with first shared authorship count as half a publication with first authorship. Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-220713</p> <p>c The GHS accepts reviews (systematic and narrative) with a systematic approach and an explicit description of methods. Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-230426</p> <p>d GHS does not accept non-systematic reviews, letters, study protocols, or their equivalent. Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-230426</p> <p>e These rules (a-d) for publications apply to doctoral students of both the new and the old regulations. Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-230426</p>
Bylaws Art. 6 Expert Committees	<p>The elected experts in the commissions must be habilitated.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-230712</p>
Financial aid	<p>Financial support for courses and conferences is granted to PhD candidates only if they are part of the curriculum (18 ECTS) required by the PhD program. The course or conference must meet the recognition requirements of the GHS and be listed in the Doctoral Agreement.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-250625</p>
Specifications for the Expert Committee III Practice Component	<p>Clinical practice component for doctoral students of Expert Committee III: For the 50% work time in a clinical institution, it must be ensured that the 50% research time is guaranteed by the employer. This must be documented when submitting the application for admission to the GHS. The 50% work time in a clinical institution can be in either public or private facilities. It is important that there is a connection between clinical practice and clinical research in the PhD thesis.</p> <p>The project will be assessed on the basis of quality and feasibility.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-230426 and P-200916</p>
Specifications for the Expert Committee III Financing Document	<p>Rationale for the salary calculation for doctoral students in Expert Committee III:</p> <p>The salary calculation for doctoral students of the Expert Committee III is based on a mixed calculation. A proposal for this was prepared by the Steering Board and serves as a recommendation. Thesis Advisors and Co-thesis Advisors can obtain the details from the GHS Coordinator upon request.</p> <p>File: Rationale for Salary calculation for PhD Candidates in FK III_Sept 2021 Rev.pdf</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-211027</p>
PhD students residing abroad	<p>In exceptional cases, the GHS may accept applicants who spend the main part of their research time abroad.</p> <p>Applicants agree to fulfil all requirements of the GHS, including those that require physical presence in Bern.</p> <p>The minimum requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site attendance at the Symposium twice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site participation in the Basics of ethics in Health Sciences Research course - On-site participation in the thesis defense - On-site participation in the first- and second-year examinations <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-220406 and P-230712</p>
Student Representation in the Steering Board	<p>The Steering Board welcomes the presence of voting representatives of the doctoral students at the Steering Board Meetings.</p> <p>The doctoral students may elect three student representatives (one from each Expert Committee). The representatives have one vote and decide among themselves which of them will attend the Steering Board Meetings.</p> <p>Decision: Steering Board Meeting P-230426</p>

Bern, Date: 25.06.2025

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