COVID-19 update January 15th, 2021

Dear PhD students,

In the wake of the significant increase COVID-19 recently, here are some GHS guidelines consistent with the government directives (https://www.bag.admin.ch) and the directives of the University of Bern.

- The GHS coordinator and GHS Administration team are working from home office.
- Events with participation by external people are cancelled. Thesis Defenses and Examinations are held virtually effective January 15th, 2021 until further notice.
  - Continue to send all relevant documents to the GHS electronically.
  - Hold via videoconferencing, e.g., Zoom and with at least one thesis committee member in the room together with the student.
  - Verify the maximum capacity of the room you reserve – the physical presence within the room may not exceed maximum capacity and physical distancing guidelines must be adhered. Masks are mandatory.
- As the GHS is effective immediately, until further notice working from Home Offices, no in-person schedule appointments for dropping off three hard copies of your thesis or for consultation may be scheduled. Alternative options include:
  - Dropbox outside the door to office #234 in Mittelstrasse 43, where you can deposit your three copies of the thesis.
  - Mail per Swiss Post (address to the GHS, Rm#234, Mittlestrasse 43, 3012 Bern.
  - Place copies in enveloped address (see above bullet) and deliver them to the Mittelstrasse43 Postroom (located on the Level -1, East, behind the cafeteria).
- Course Certificates and other study documentation
  - Continue to send all relevant documents to the GHS electronically.
- GHS Administration is organizing the diplomas from for thesis defenses that took place between September and December, 2020. However, due to current situation there are delays. We will inform you directly as soon as we have your diplomas.
- Communicate with the GHS via Email only.
- All in-person courses will continue to be replaced by distance learning. This also applies to further-education courses.
- Unfortunately, the study stations in the libraries can no longer be offered and will be closed. However, the circulation desks will remain open. The reading rooms of our libraries are closed from Monday, 18.1.21
- Masks are compulsory on the entire campus of the University of Bern. This applies to the entire perimeter of the institutions, i.e. not only inside the buildings but also their exterior spaces.

Stay healthy and we wish you a good winter/ spring semester in spite of the current unpleasant situation!

Warm regards,

Dr. Tullia Padovani, GHS Coordinator, and
the GHS Administration Team