

COVID-19 update April 19th, 2021

Dear PhD students,

In the wake of the press conference on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 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 still not possible.
- Thesis **Defenses and Examinations**:
 1. Continue to send all relevant documents to the GHS electronically.
 2. Are still possible to hold via videoconferencing e.g., Zoom. At least one thesis committee member for the Defenses or examiner must be present in the room with the student.
 3. Are also possible with onsite presence of up to 50 people, if the room is big enough for 150 people normally. The occupancy of the room is not allowed to be over 50 people or more than 1/3 of its usual capacity. Wearing mask and having distance is key. Starting date is **April 26, 2021**.
- *Safety measures such as masks, disinfection, and physical distancing still need to be maintained.*
- In-person **courses** are possible again with restrictions. A maximum of 50 people may be present, with a capacity limit of one third of the available seats. This also applies to continuing education courses
- Please contact us in advance to schedule appointments for dropping off three hard copies of your thesis or for consultation in advance. Alternative options include:
 1. Dropbox outside the door to office #234 in Mittelstrasse 43, where you can deposit your three copies of the thesis.
 2. Mail per Swiss Post (address to the GHS, Rm#234, Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern.
 3. 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
 1. Please continue to send all relevant documents to the GHS electronically.
- GHS Administration is organizing the diplomas from for thesis Defenses that took place between January and March 2021. However, due to current situation there are delays. We will inform you directly as soon as we have your diplomas.
- Communication with the GHS with via Email only. We will reply to you as soon as possible.
- 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 spring/summer semester in spite of the current unpleasant situation!

Best regards,

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