

# GCB Doctoral Agreement



Graduate School  
for Cellular and  
Biomedical Sciences

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## DOCTORAL AGREEMENT OVERVIEW

### About the GCB Doctoral Agreement

Doctoral candidates are matriculated at the University and most GCB doctoral candidates are also employed at the University of Bern. Doctoral candidates acquire further academic training in their research area by attending training and course lectures. The scope and content of the lectures are described in the Study rules and defined individually in the doctoral agreement (GCB Promotion Regulations Art.7<sup>2</sup>). The following points are to be observed in relation to this dual nature: The Doctoral Agreement (DA) details your study plan in accordance with the GCB Promotion regulations. This is separate from your employment contract with your supervisor and your supervisors' institution. However, as your studies are intended to support your

### Framework and Purpose

The **GCB Doctoral Agreement (DA)** is a "living document". This means the doctoral agreement is a type of document that is created with a defined mechanism and process. It is used to define, manage, review, revise, update, share and communicate. Major changes (i.e. mandatory requirements) to the Doctoral Agreement must be recorded in a revised Doctoral Agreement, which must again be dated, signed, and submitted to the GCB for approval.

The Doctoral Agreement defines the framework conditions (form and duration of the doctorate, educational, research and supervision goals) as well as the aspired academic accomplishments (written contributions and conference contributions).

### Educational Objectives

In addition to the individual academic supervision, formal educational objectives – such as those offered within the structured doctoral programs - support the professional competence and the research and publishing work of the doctoral candidates. Within the framework of the doctoral study and GCB promotion regulations, the supervisor and the mentor of the PhD candidate choose the courses appropriate for the candidate's individual study program. Final approval is given by the GCB coordinator.

research, you and your supervisor will complete the DA together with your mentor.

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**Important:** The course list in your university student records (KSL Planning) and your GCB student records, e.g., study plan in your Doctoral Agreement must be in agreement. List **all** mandatory courses in the first table, labeled **Mandatory Requirements**.

### Minimum Mandatory Curriculum Requirements

6 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System):

1. **Earn** - 6.0\* ECTS comprised of exclusively obtained with scientifically oriented topics.
1. **Pass Exam** - 3.0 ECTS (of the 6.0 \*) are acquired with lecture courses or book clubs which include a graded exam with marks, and that provide the candidate with new knowledge relevant to the individual research project.
2. **Participate** in the course - "Scientific Integrity" (List this course in Mandatory requirement on your DA.
3. **Attend and participate** in – the GCB Symposium starting the 2nd year of the PhD studies (e.g., students registered in 2020 will 1st participate in the 2022 symposium)

*Transferable skills* courses - (academic writing, presentation skills, etc.) are considered as optional courses and cannot be acknowledged as part of the required minimum of 6.0 ECTS.

ECTS are only awarded for courses, workshops, summer schools etc. which include some type of performance assessment, i.e. an exam, a talk, a poster presentation or a written report. Requests for ECTS reviews must be submitted to [info@gcb.unibe.ch](mailto:info@gcb.unibe.ch) and include:

- List course listed on signed Doctoral Agreement
- Submit signed and dated Certificate of Achievement - pdf format (photos are unfortunately not usable)
- Include course content, level (i.e. PhD), dates, effort in terms of days/hours, exams, presentations, etc. (e.g., pdf, URL) for outside University of Bern.