

GCB Mentor Program*Inspiring a legacy of excellence in science.***Mentor Criteria and Guidelines**

Good supervision is central to the rapid progress of the doctorate and integration into the scientific community. Advice and support must not only be provided by the persons who are responsible as doctoral supervisors. Good supervision also includes a network, which is offered e.g., within the framework of a graduate school, by experienced colleagues and by mentoring. Mentors are experienced GCB PhD supervisors from one of the jointly administering the GCB, Faculties of Medicine, Science and Vetsuisse.

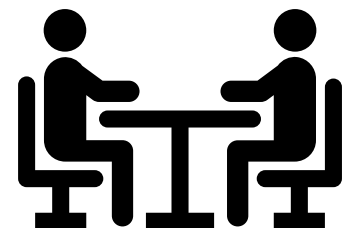
The mentor is a member of the relevant Expert Committee and represents the GCB in the Thesis Committee. The mentor defines the doctoral agreement together with the doctoral candidate and the thesis supervisor. The mentor is also the person to contact if conflicts arise between the thesis supervisor and the doctoral candidate.

General duties and responsibilities of the mentor

- The mentor is the link between the GCB and each student's thesis advisory committee and must therefore always be a member of one of the GCB expert committees. The mentor ensures that the GCB rules are observed. Thus, s/he must be acquainted with the most important rules of the GCB regulations, in particular the points which relate to course requirements (minimal ECTS) and examination regulations.
- Each expert committee member should be prepared to serve as mentor for several PhD students.
- Interview meetings of the GCB expert committees are conducted three times a year to evaluate prospective PhD candidates. The mentor attends the meetings whenever possible.
- A mentor is assigned to each PhD student immediately after the interview.
- The mentor does not require specific expertise in the research project but monitors the progress of the work in relation to the submitted research plan and intervenes if problems arise.
- The mentor is the primary contact for the PhD student and the supervisor if any conflicts arise between them.

Five main tasks are assigned to the mentor throughout a PhD project:

1. leads the mentor meeting
2. evaluates the annual progress reports
3. chairs the mid-term evaluation
4. chairs the thesis defense
5. mediates if required in case of conflict.



PD Dr. Monica Schaller, GCB Coordinator
email: monicaschaller2@unibe.ch