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Study rules for the PhD program of the *Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences* of the University of Bern

Dated 1 July 2011 (as of 1 March 2022)

The Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Medicine and the Vetsuisse Faculty of the University of Bern,

based on Article 44 of the Statute of the University of Bern of 7 June 2011 (University statutes, UniSt) and on the *Rules for conferring a doctorate* at the Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Bern of 1 July 2011, have decided on the following study rules:

I. General

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| SCOPE | <p>Art. 1 ¹ These study rules govern training at the Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences (GCB), which leads to a final qualification with one of the titles according to Article 1 of the doctoral rules of the Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Bern dated July 1, 2010 (<i>Rules for Conferring a Doctorate</i>). [Version 07.10.2021/26.01.2022/ 4.06.2019]</p> <p>² Specialist areas for the PhD are: [Version 07.10.2021/ 26.01.2022/4.06.2019]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,b Cell Biology |
| PROGRAM GOAL | <p>Art. 2 The PhD program aims to provide comprehensive, internationally competitive training in theory and practice of experimental research as well as in-depth specialist knowledge of the individually selected research area. It directs the students towards independent scientific work and enables them to assume scientific responsibility.</p> |
| COMPENSATION OF THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATES | <p>Art. 3 ¹ The compensation of doctoral candidates for the research work must at the least correspond to the standard approaches of the SNSF.</p> <p>² The thesis supervisor is responsible for financing the doctoral study for the term specified in the doctoral agreement.</p> |

II. Curriculum

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| REQUIREMENTS [INSERTED ON... | <p>Art 3a [Amended on 07.10.2021/26.01.2022/4.06.2019]¹ Knowledge and skills which have not been acquired in the Master's program may be requested as additional requirements. These requirements up to a maximum of 60 ECTS credit points are defined individually and, at the request of the expert committee, are decreed by the competent dean (Art. 3 Para. 3 and Art. 4 Para. 5 <i>Rules for Conferring a Doctorate</i>).</p> <p>² These requirements can be either individual courses or existing modules from master's programs</p> |
| TRAINING AND CLASSES | <p>Art. 4 ¹ The training in the first year includes courses with performance assessments worth at least 6 ECTS points. Courses are defined in the electronic course catalogue and individually specified in the doctoral</p> |

agreement. The course catalogue can be changed by the Expert Committees upon request.

² The Thesis Committee defines the courses to be taken. [Amended on 07.10.2021/26.01.2022/4.06.2019].

³ If a justified application is submitted to the Expert Committee, a doctoral student can attend courses outside the catalogue and have them credited.

⁴ The Thesis Committee assures that the doctoral candidate actively participates in lab meetings and journal clubs and is provided with the opportunity to present the research work at conferences or congresses.

⁵ The PhD program for medical graduates is based on the guidelines of the national MD,PhD program (issued by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences), which is made up of a *basic part* and a *dissertation*. In the basic part, students complete an additional training of 25 ECTS credit points. The basic part can be partly acquired in the basic studies of medicine, as part of the Master's thesis or in the first year of the PhD program. [Amended on 07.10.2021/26.01.2022/4.06.2019].

PERFORMANCE
MONITORING

Art. 5 ¹ The performance assessments of the respective courses must be passed.

² For courses without a performance assessment, the performance assessment takes the form of a 30-minute oral presentation in which the acquired competences are reflected (with reference to the student's own research work). Examiners are the thesis supervisor and the mentor.

³ At least one performance assessment must be passed within the first year. All performance assessments required to obtain ECTS credits must be carried out within the first 18 months.

⁴ The "mid-term evaluation" takes place within the second year of study. It comprises a 45-minute public presentation of the research work carried out up to that point. The subsequent discussion is led by the mentor and consists of a public and non-public component, which together last no more than 60 minutes. The grades are awarded by the Thesis Committee according to Article 9 paragraph 3 of the *Rules for Conferring a Doctorate*.

DISSERTATION

Art. 6 ¹ In addition to the published or submitted manuscripts, the dissertation must include a detailed introduction to the topic and an overall discussion of the results of the work.

² The dissertation must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a list of publications as well as the following, dated and signed declaration: *"I hereby declare that I have written this work independently and have not used any sources other than those indicated. I have marked as such all passages that have been taken literally or logically from sources. I am aware that otherwise the Senate is entitled to withdraw the doctorate pursuant to Article 36 paragraph 1 letter r of the Law on the University of 5 September 1996 and Article 69 of the University Statute of 7 June 2011.*

For the purposes of reviewing and verifying compliance with the Declaration of Independence and the regulations on plagiarism, I hereby grant the University of Bern the right to process the personal data required for this purpose and to carry out acts of use, in particular to duplicate the dissertation and store it permanently in a database and to use it or make it available for the purpose of verifying the work of third parties". [Amended on 07.10.2021/26.01.2022/4.06.2019]

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| REPORTS | <p>Art. 7 ¹ Thesis supervisors and external co-referees write an independent report for the attention of the responsible Expert Committee, taking the following aspects into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Presentation of the work in its thematic context and correct mention of the literature, b Scientific quality, c Scientific independence/autonomy d Formal elements (language and design). <p>² The reports contain grades with supporting reasons in accordance with Article 9 paragraph 3 of the <i>Rules for Conferring a Doctorate</i>.</p> |
| DOCTORAL FEE | <p>Art. 8 The documents cited under Article 12 of the GCB <i>Rules for Conferring a Doctorate</i> and evidence that the doctoral fee has been paid must be submitted to the office of the Graduate School.</p> |
| DEPOSIT COPIES | <p>Art. 9 The doctoral diploma is only issued after submission of three bound deposit copies of the dissertation and one electronic copy. An additional electronic copy may be sent to the University Library for publication.</p> |
| CHANGES TO THE STUDY PLAN | <p>Art. 10 Changes to the study plan are subject to approval by the University Board of Directors.</p> <p>Changes to the appendix are an exception to this and lie within the authority of the PhD Committee.</p> |

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| Bern, On behalf of the Faculty of Science Dean | Bern, On behalf of the Faculty of Medicine Dean | Bern, On behalf of the Bern Vetsuisse Faculty Dean |
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| Prof. | Prof. | Prof. |
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Approved by the University Board of Directors:

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| Bern, | Rector | |
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Prof. Dr.

Alterations

Coming into effect

Amendments of 2 October 2014, in force on 1 February 2015

Amendments of 07.10.2021 / 26.01.2022 / 24.06.2019, effective March 1, 2022