

Modifications of the promotion regulations – what it means:

From February 1, 2020, a modification of the doctoral regulations will come into force that will affect all PhD students enrolled at the GCB in February 2020.

Summary of most important changes

1. PhD Title

- a. The title “PhD of Science in...” is modified to **PhD in...** (specialist area according to study rules)
- f. PhD in Computational Biology - **new title**

2. German translation of PhD title

Now the diploma with the doctoral title will include a **German** translation: *doctor scientiae naturalis (Dr. sc. nat)* without discipline. This also holds for MD-PhDs.

3 .Format of the thesis defense:

These modifications were made to improve the quality of the PhD program. Therefore, an external co-referee is now included also during the thesis defense.

- a. The thesis defense still consists of a public presentation of 40-45 minutes after which the public can ask questions, but the 60 minutes discussion part is now transformed into a closed discussion with the examiners only.
- b. The oral presentation may be held on a separate day than the closed discussion if this is desirable or both parts can be held one after each other. In any case, all four examiners need to be present on both days.
- c. The examiners are: the supervisor(s), the co-advisor and the mentor and **now also an external co-referee**. This external co-referee can be the same as the one for the written thesis or can be another external co-referee. Important, the external co-referee can be present either in person or by video conference. **All four** examiners will give one grade for the oral defense (regardless of whether the public and closed defense take place on different days).