COVID-19 update April 16, 2021

Dear PhD students,

In the wake of the press conference on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, here are some GCB guidelines consistent with the government directives (https://www.bag.admin.ch) and the directives of the University of Bern.

- The GCB coordinator and GCB Administration team are still working from home offices.
- Thesis defenses and mid-term exams:
  - Continue to send all relevant documents to the GCB electronically.
  - Still possible to hold via videoconferencing, e.g., Zoom and with at least one thesis committee member (or tutor in the case of exams) in the room together with the student. We encourage to continue with this form for now.
  - BUT starting from April 26, 2021 it will also be possible in presence of up to a maximum of 50 people
    - The occupancy of the room is not allowed to exceed 1/3 of its usual capacity with a maximum of 50 people even if the room would allow for 150 people or more
    - Wearing mask and having distance is key
    - Of course for the GCB the 60 Min. discussion with the student is still private.
    - You students are responsible to organize the rooms and stick to the rules
- As the GCB is still and until further notice working from Home Offices, no in-person schedule appointments for dropping off three hard copies of your thesis or for consultation may be scheduled. Alternative options include:
  - Dropbox outside the door to office #234 in Mittelstrasse 43, where you can deposit your three copies of the thesis.
  - Mail per Swiss Post (address to the GCB, Rm#234, Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern.
  - Place copies in enveloped address (see above bullet) and deliver them to the Mittelstrasse Postroom (located on the Level 1, East, behind the cafeteria.
- Course Certificates and other study documentation
  - Continue to send all relevant documents to the GCB electronically
- Communicate with the GCB via Email only. We are replying 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 semester in spite of the current unpleasant situation!

Best regards,

PD Dr. Monica Schaller, GCB Coordinator, and the GCB Administration Team