COVID-19 update from the GCB

The University leadership released an **update on January 6, 2022** to the Covid-19 measures. Beginning on January 10, 2022, on site (presence) exams are no longer allowed.

Activities within the framework of the GCB (e.g., mentor meetings), are subject to a Covid certificate requirement (3G principle = convalescence, vaccinated, negative tested). The certificate requirement applies regardless of the number of participants. Random checks will be made for compliance. Masks are required. Medical hygiene masks allowed only.

Beginning January 10, 2022 - **All thesis defenses and all mid-term examinations** must be conducted virtually.

Required on all occasions in all University of Bern indoor spaces (e.g., during meetings and on any other occasion). Facemasks must be properly worn. Medical hygiene masks allowed only, e.g., FFP2 masks.

Beginning January 10, 2022 until further notice:

**Mid-term evaluations:** On site is NOT possible **according to the university guidelines.** PhD students are responsible for making themselves aware of the guidelines leading up to and on the day of the evaluation. According to the university guidelines, it is no longer required to have at least one examiner present.

You may choose to have one examiner present, provided you comply with all university guidelines for on-site presence. a Covid certificate requirement (3G principle = convalescence, vaccinated, negative tested). The certificate requirement applies regardless of the number of participants. Random checks will be made for compliance. Masks are required. Medical hygiene masks allowed only.

**PhD Thesis defenses:** On site is NOT possible **according to the university guidelines.** PhD students are responsible for making themselves aware of the guidelines leading up to and on the day of the evaluation. According to the university guidelines, it is no longer required to have at least one examiner present.

You may choose to have one examiner present, provided you comply with all university guidelines for on-site presence. a Covid certificate requirement (3G principle = convalescence, vaccinated, negative tested). The certificate requirement applies regardless of the number of participants. Random checks will be made for compliance. Masks are required. Medical hygiene masks allowed only. If you need to organize an on site thesis defense with all examiners present or more than one examiner present, you should ask for permission by email addressed to fritz.sager@unibe.ch.

Proceedings will remain as specified in the GCB promotion regulations.

1. Apéros are **NOT** allowed.
2. If you have symptoms of influenza (fever, cough, breathing difficulties) you must stay at home. Furthermore, you must contact your doctor by telephone. Please follow the **instructions of the Canton of Bern** (in German) or [https://www.bag.admin.ch](https://www.bag.admin.ch).

The GCB wishes you all good health and would like to express our disappointment that its soon-to-be graduates must graduate under these circumstances, during uncertain times. Thank you for understanding.

Please note: The GCB team is following University of Bern’s and Canton Bern’s advice, working from home office to the extent possible. We can all be reached via MS Teams (chat & video), Zoom and email.

With best regards,
The GCB Administration team