COVID-19 update from the GCB

The University leadership released new information regarding the Covid-19 measures planned **beginning Fall Semester 2021 (September 20, 2021)**. On Wednesday, August 11, the Federal Council announced the next approach regarding the pandemic and underlined its intention to strive for a return to normality. For university teaching, this means that the easing of restrictions which were decided upon by the Federal Council before the summer holiday will continue to apply. Specifically, the restrictions on the number of people, as well as the capacity restrictions for in-person courses in tertiary education have been lifted, while the mask requirement remains in place. Detailed information: [https://www.unibe.ch/coronavirus/index_ger.html](https://www.unibe.ch/coronavirus/index_ger.html)

- Teaching in HS21 will in principle, take place in-person
- Facemasks will always be worn in all indoor spaces

What does that mean for the GCB?
Generally, the GCB recommends scheduling the following events online. However, the university does allow for the following:

1. **Mid-term evaluations**: On site is possible **according to the institute-specific guidelines.** PhD students are responsible for making themselves aware of the guidelines leading up to and on the day of the evaluation. Prepare plan B and adjust to online when necessary. According to the guidelines, at least one examiner must be present.

2. **PhD Thesis defenses**: On site is possible **according to the institute-specific guidelines.** PhD students are responsible for making themselves aware of the guidelines leading up to and on the day of the evaluation. Prepare plan B and adjust to online when necessary. According to the guidelines, at least one examiner must be present.

Proceedings will remain as specified in the GCB promotion regulations with the exception that no public persons may be in attendance.

- Apéros are **NOT** allowed.
- 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](https://www.bag.admin.ch) (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.

With best regards,
The GCB Administration team