COVID-19 update March 23, 2020

Dear PhD students,

In the wake of the current situation here is an update how we can proceed by following the governmental implications ([https://www.bag.admin.ch](https://www.bag.admin.ch)) this decision is supported by the PhD committee (steering board GCB):

- The GCB is effective **immediately** working from **home office** only.
- **Mid-term exams** will be held - as closed exams only. All examiners join by video conference **until further notice**. There are several online tools, (Zoom, Teams, Skype) please get organized in time to arrange for this. Let us know if we can be of any help.
- Since we are still allowed to have a gathering of maximum **5 people**, we decided to continue with the **thesis defense** as follows:
  - **Closed thesis defenses can still be held** until further notice, under the condition that at least **one examiner** is present with the student, respecting the social distance and room guidelines put in place at the corresponding Institutes. All other examiners can join by video conference. Please get organized in **time** to arrange for video conferences (Skype, Zoom or Teams) among your thesis committee members (supervisor, co-advisor, mentor and external co-referee). Please send your PowerPoint presentation to your thesis committee beforehand. Please contact by email if we can be of help.
- For defences in until further notice: Send us your documents for your PhD Defense per mail. There is no need to print out a copy of your thesis until further notice.
- The **application deadline of April 15** is still valid. Please send your application documents as PDF files to the GCB (for students with a master’s degree from Switzerland) or first to the Immatriculation office (ZIB) if you own a foreign master degree. The GCB team has set up everything so that we can handle your applications from the home office.

Please take good care of yourselves, stay healthy and please be patient during these extraordinary circumstances: In these times, most processes may take longer but know we are doing our best to support you. We are fighting hard for you to keep the GCB going and keep things moving forward.

Your GCB team