COVID-19 update October 29, 2020

Dear PhD students,

In the wake of the significant increase COVID-19 recently, 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 again working from home offices.
- Events with participation by external people are cancelled. Thesis Defenses and Mid-Term Examinations are **CLOSED**, effective **November 2, 2020** until further notice.
  - Continue to send all relevant documents to the GCB electronically.
  - 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.
  - Verify the maximum capacity of the room you reserve—the physical presence within the room may not exceed maximum capacity and physical distancing guidelines must be adhered. Masks are mandatory.
- As the GCB is effective immediately, 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, Mittlestrasse 43, 3012 Bern.
  - Place copies in enveloped address (see above bullet) and deliver them to the Mittelstrasse43 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.
- GCB Administration is organizing the diplomas from for thesis defenses that took place between June and September, 2020. However, due to current situation there are delays. We will inform you directly as soon as we have your diplomas.
- Course Certificates and other study documentation
- Communicate with the GCB via Email only.
- All classroom teaching will be replaced by distance learning. This also applies to further-education courses. Only practical training and laboratory courses will continue to be held in-person. The maximum number of participants remains fixed at 60 students.
- The study places in the libraries will remain open, but the number will be reduced. This is intended to avoid hardship for students with regard to access to a sensible place for study.
- 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 autumn / winter semester in spite of the current unpleasant situation!

Warm regards,

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