

Study rules for the PhD program of the Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Bern

Dated 1 July 2011, with modifications of 2 October 2014

The Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Medicine and the Vetsuisse Faculty of the University of Bern,

have decided on the following study rules on the basis of the Rules for Conferring a Doctorate defined by the *Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences* of the University of Bern dated 1 July 2010:

I. General

SCOPE

Art. 1 These study rules govern training at the Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences (hereinafter called GCB), which leads to a final qualification with one of the following titles: PhD in Biomedical Sciences, PhD in Biomedical Engineering, PhD in Immunology, PhD in Neuroscience, MD, PhD, DVM, PhD, DDS, PhD or PhD of Science in (specialist area); University of Bern.

² Specialist areas for the PhD of Science are:

- a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
- b Cell Biology

PROGRAMME GOAL

Art. 2 The PhD program aims to provide comprehensive, internationally competitive training in the theory and practice of experimental research as well as in-depth specialist knowledge of the individually selected research area. It directs the students towards independent, scientific work and enables them to assume scientific responsibility.

COMPENSATION OF THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Art. 3 ¹ The compensation of the doctoral candidates for the research work must, at the least, correspond to the basic approaches of the SNF.

² The thesis supervisor is responsible for financing the dissertation for the term specified in the doctoral agreement.

II. Curriculum

TRAINING AND CLASSES

Art. 4 ¹ Training in the first year is made up of taught classes with assessments worth at least 6 ECTS credits. Taught classes are defined in the appendix and specified individually in the doctoral agreement. The catalogue of taught classes can be changed by the Expert Committees on request.

² The Thesis Committee specifies the taught modules that must be taken. The Expert Committee responsible can demand additional modules worth up to 12 ECTS credits if the candidate's educational background in the subject area is not sufficient (Article 4 paragraph 5 of the Rules for Conferring a Doctorate). [Version of 2 October 2014]

³ A doctoral candidate can visit classes outside of the catalogue and have these credited if an application is made to the Expert Committees with

supporting arguments.

⁴ The Thesis Committee assures that the doctoral candidate actively participates in lab meetings and journal clubs and has the opportunity to present the research work at specialist congresses.

⁵ The PhD programme for graduates of medicine is aligned with the guidelines of the national MD,PhD programme (issued by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences), which is made up of a *fundamental component* and a *dissertation*. In the fundamental component, students complete additional training worth 25 ECTS credits. The fundamental component can be worked on in part during the basic studies, as part of the Master's thesis or in the first year of the PhD programme. [Version of 2 October 2014]

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Art. 5 ¹ The performance assessments of the particular taught courses must be passed.

² For taught courses where no performance assessments are offered, performance is monitored in the form of a 30-minute presentation, in which the skills gained are reflected upon (with reference to the student's own research work). The examiners are the thesis supervisor and the mentor.

³ At least one performance assessment must be passed within the first year. All performance assessments required to obtain ECTS credits must be carried out within the first 18 months.

⁴ The "mid-term evaluation" takes place within the second year of study. It comprises a 45-minute public presentation of the research work carried out up to that point. The subsequent discussion is led by the mentor and consists of a public and non-public component, which together last no more than 60 minutes. The grades are awarded by the Thesis Committee according to Article 9 paragraph 3 of the Rules for Conferring a Doctorate.

DISSERTATION

Art. 6 ¹ In addition to the published or submitted manuscripts, the dissertation must include a detailed introduction to the topic and an overall discussion of the results of the work.

² The dissertation contains curriculum vitae with a list of publications and a statement of authorship.

REPORTS

Art. 7 ¹ The thesis supervisor and external co-referee each compile an independent report for the Expert Committee responsible, taking into account the following aspects:

- a Presentation of the work in its thematic field and correct literature references,
- b Scientific quality,
- c Scientific independence/autonomy
- d Formal elements (language and format).

² The reports contain grades with supporting reasons in accordance with Article 9 paragraph 3 of the Rules for Conferring a Doctorate.

PHD PROGRAMME FEES

Art. 8 The documents cited under Article 12 of the GCB Rules for Conferring a Doctorate and evidence that the PhD programme fees have been paid must be submitted to the Graduate School secretariat.

DEPOSIT COPIES

Art. 9 The doctoral degree will be issued only when five bound deposit copies of the dissertation and a copy on CD-ROM are submitted. An additional CD-ROM copy can be given to the University library to release.

Art. 10 Changes to the study plan are subject to approval by the University Board of Directors.

Changes to the appendix are an exception to this, and lie within the authority of the PhD Committee.

Bern, 3 June 2011

On behalf of the Faculty of
Science

Dean:

Prof. Dr. Silvio Decurtins

Bern, 5 May 2011

On behalf of the Faculty of
Medicine

Dean:

Prof. Dr. Peter Eggli

Bern, 10 May 2011

On behalf of the Vetsuisse
Faculty Bern

Dean:

Prof. Dr. Andreas Zurbriggen

Approved by the University Board of Directors:

Bern, 31 May 2011

Rector:

Prof. Dr. Urs Würgler

Modifications

Entry into force

Modifications dated 2 October 2014 enter into force on 1 February 2015

Bern, 2 October 2014

On behalf of the Faculty of Science

Dean:

Prof. Dr. Gilberto Colangelo

Bern, 8 July 2014

On behalf of the Faculty of Medicine

Dean:

Prof. Dr. Peter Eggli

Bern, 15 September 2014

On behalf of the Vetsuisse Faculty Bern

Dean:

Prof. Dr. Andreas Zurbriggen

Approved by the University Board of Directors:

Bern, 25 November 2014

Rector:

Prof. Dr. Martin Täufer