

# Plan of studies of the International Graduate School North-South (IGS North-South) of the Universities of Bern, Basel, Lausanne, und Zurich, for the Faculty of Science of the University of Bern

updated 12 December 2019

*The Faculty of Science,*

based on Article 44 of the Statute of the University of Bern of 7 June 2011 (University Statute, UniSt), the “Regulations governing the studies and assessments at the Faculty of Science” of 24 May 2018 (RSL Phil.-nat. 18), the “Regulations governing doctoral studies at the Faculty of Science of the University of Bern” of 12 December 2019 (PromR Phil.-nat. 19), and the co-operation agreement, “Establishment of an International Graduate School (IGS) North-South” of 1 July 2017,

*adopts the following plan of studies:*

## **I. General**

APPLICABILITY

**Art. 1** This plan of studies applies to all doctoral candidates of the IGS North-South who are enrolled at the Faculty of Science at the University of Bern.

TITLE

**Art. 2** The following title may be obtained in one of the subjects offered by the faculty:

a PhD in ... [Subject in English] and Sustainable Development, University of Bern.

(Example: PhD in Geography and Sustainable Development.)

ADMISSIONS

**Art. 3** <sup>1</sup> Admission is governed by Articles 7 and 8 PromR Phil.-nat. 19.

<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the admission of students with a Master’s degree from a university of applied sciences is governed by the relevant regulations of the University Executive Board.

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<sup>3</sup> Doctoral candidates are admitted if they can present a Supervisory Team (in accordance with Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the International Graduate School (IGS) North-South of the Universities of Bern, Basel, Lausanne, and Zurich). The IGS North-South Directorate decides on the admission of applicants who have already been admitted to a department at the faculty.

## **II. PhD programme**

### OBJECTIVES

**Art. 4** <sup>1</sup> The doctoral programme of the IGS North-South aims to provide a comprehensive interdisciplinary education in theory and practice in a relevant area of research for sustainable development in countries of the global North or South.

<sup>2</sup> The objectives of the doctoral programme are as follows: Graduates

- a can expand the theoretical and methodological knowledge they have acquired in their Bachelor's and Master's programmes and apply it to inter- and transdisciplinary tasks.
- b are familiar with the basic principles, as well as the challenges, of research for sustainable development, and can summarize and apply this knowledge correctly.
- c can critically reflect on their sustainability research and assess their research contribution to solving societal problems.
- d can communicate their research appropriately, comprehensibly, and accurately, to an audience of academics as well as practitioners.

### SCOPE

**Art. 5** <sup>1</sup> The doctoral programme lasts at least three years and involves writing a doctoral thesis as well as attending courses worth at least 12 ECTS credits in accordance with the Annex. The topic of the doctoral thesis is one that is relevant to research for sustainable development in countries of the North or South.

<sup>2</sup> The tasks required of the students are determined individually at the start of their studies, in a doctoral agreement between the Supervisory Team (comprised of at least three persons) and the doctoral candidate.

<sup>3</sup> A list of possible courses can be found in Annex 1 of the plan of studies.

<sup>4</sup> Should the doctoral student be unable to fulfil the required commitments, he/she must present to the IGS North-South Directorate a proposed alternative programme of at least 12 ECTS credits, justifying the reasons for the proposed change.

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ASSESSMENT	<p><b>Art. 6</b> <sup>1</sup> All courses of the IGS North-South at the University of Bern end with an assessment. Assessments are conducted in accordance with Articles 20 through 26 and 32 through 39 RSL Phil.-nat. 18.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Assessments are graded as “fulfilled” or “not fulfilled”.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Assessments for courses of the IGS North-South at the Universities of Basel, Lausanne, and Zurich are carried out in accordance with the respective university’s rules.</p>
DOCTORAL THESIS	<p><b>Art. 7</b> <sup>1</sup> The Chairperson of the Supervisory Team registers the doctoral student at the start of their studies with the Management Centre of the IGS North-South Directorate.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The doctoral thesis is assessed in accordance with Articles 19 through 21 PromR Phil.-nat. 19.</p>
DOCTORAL EXAMINATION	<p><b>Art. 8</b> <sup>1</sup> The doctoral examination is governed by Articles 22 through 25 PromR Phil.-nat. 19.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The doctoral examination consists of a public presentation and an examination according to the requirements of the respective plan of studies.</p>
FINAL GRADE	<p><b>Art. 9</b> The overall grade is calculated from the unrounded grades of the doctoral thesis and the doctoral examination, based on the weighting defined in the respective plan of studies.</p>
<b>III. Judicature</b>	
APPEAL PROCEEDINGS	<p><b>Art. 10</b> The provisions of PromR Phil.-nat. 19 apply.</p>
<b>IV. Transitional and final provisions</b>	
AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN OF STUDIES	<p><b>Art. 11</b> Amendments to the plan of studies are subject to approval by the University Executive Board. Exceptions to this are amendments to the Annex, which are the responsibility of the Faculty Council.</p>
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS	<p><b>Art. 12</b> <sup>1</sup> Doctoral candidates who begin their studies in the spring semester of 2020 are governed by the present plan of studies.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Doctoral candidates who started their studies under the previous plan of studies, the “Curriculum of the International Graduate School North-South (IGS North-South) of the Universities of Bern, Basel, and Zurich, for the Faculty of Science of the University of Bern” of 1 November 2011, shall transfer to the present plan of studies.</p>

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ENTRY INTO FORCE

**Art. 13** This plan of studies replaces the “Curriculum of the International Graduate School North-South (IGS North-South) of the Universities of Bern, Basel, and Zurich, for the Faculty of Science of the University of Bern” of 1 November 2011, and takes effect on 1 February 2020.

Bern, 12 December 2019      On behalf of the Faculty of Science  
The Dean:

Prof. Dr. Zoltan Balogh

*Approved by the Executive Board of the University of Bern:*

Bern, XX. YYYYYY 20ZZ      The Rector

Prof. Dr. Christian Leumann

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