

Agreement

between

1. University of Basel (Petersplatz 1, 4003 Basel),
represented by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Andrea Schenker-Wicki, Rector

2. University of Bern (Hochschulstrasse 6, 3012 Bern),
represented by Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter, Rector

3. University of Lausanne (Unicentre, 1015 Lausanne),
represented by Prof. Dr. Frédéric Herman, Rector

hereafter referred to as “the partners”

on the

Establishment of an International Graduate School (IGS) North-South

1. Establishment and continuation of the *IGS North-South*

The “International Graduate School (IGS) North-South” was established in 2009. After the end of the collaboration with the University of Zurich, it is to be continued by the University of Basel, the University of Bern, and the University of Lausanne.

2. Organization of the *IGS North-South*

2.1. The *IGS North-South* consists of at least the following organizational units:

- a) Board,
- b) Supervisory Teams,
- c) Directorate,
- d) Management Centre.

Further organizational units can be designated in the Rules of Procedure (Annex 1).

2.2. The composition, duties, and competencies of the Board, Supervisory Teams, Directorate, Management Centre, and any other units are governed by the Rules of Procedure. The supreme governing body of the *IGS North-South* is the Board, subject to provisions of this Agreement. The structures and competencies of the IGS North-South are defined in this Agreement, the Rules of Procedure, the Organizational Chart, and the respective regulations of the participating universities.

3. Programmes of the *IGS North-South*

3.1. The doctoral programme of the *IGS North-South* aims to provide comprehensive interdisciplinary training in theory and practice in a relevant area of research for sustainable development and on global change (poverty research, migration, governance, conflicts, statehood, health, regional development, natural resources, and others).

3.2. The *IGS North-South* prioritizes research partnerships with developing and transition countries, especially for postdocs and doctoral students. To this end, it supports research projects developed by the participating universities in the field of North-South research for development or sustainable development in accordance with contractual provisions.

3.3. New programmes in education, research, and consulting can, if necessary, be taken up by the *IGS North-South*, pending approval by the School Board. Special consideration will be given to partnerships with institutions in developing and transition countries.

4. Financing

- 4.1. With this Agreement, the partners agree to support the *IGS North-South* within the framework of their financial means. The partners will regularly stipulate the amount and modalities of the financial contributions, to ensure the long-term maintenance of the *IGS North-South*.
- 4.2. The *IGS North-South* will seek to develop long-term financing under the Education, Research, and Innovation Dispatch with the support of the law on financial aid to universities, the dispatch on international cooperation, and in collaboration with further donors.

5. Regulations of the course programme and the issuing of diplomas and titles

- 5.1. Issuing diplomas and titles is the responsibility of the individual universities or their faculties which support the respective programme.
- 5.2. The description of the diplomas follows the PhD regulations of the respective universities.
- 5.3. For admission to the doctoral programme and the regulations of the course programme, the respective rules of the participating universities apply. The student must register at the relevant participating university.
- 5.4. The name "*IGS North-South*" also appears as additional specification with the PhD degree diploma, as long as this is not contrary to the applicable PhD regulations.

6. Duration and termination of this Agreement

- 6.1. This Agreement replaces the Agreement from 1 July 2017.
- 6.2. This Agreement is effective for an indefinite term.
- 6.3. Any party can terminate this Agreement by serving notice one year in advance, to the end of the academic year, i.e. 31 July. For the duration of the notice period the terminating party shall continue to fulfil the terms of this Agreement.

6.4. In the event of termination of this Agreement by any party, the remaining parties remain bound to the terms of the Agreement. The terminating party exits and its Board members resign. Obligations towards the doctoral students remain, in spite of termination by one party.


6.5. In the case of termination by one or more parties, the remaining parties shall formulate a new Agreement to cover any points affected by the departure. This pertains especially to organizational and financial issues.

7. Validity

This Agreement enters into force on 1 July 2025.

8. Governing law and jurisdiction

This Agreement is governed by the laws of Switzerland. The courts of Bern have jurisdiction.

Basel, on 18.8.25 
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Andrea Schenker-Wicki
Rector

Bern, on 31/07/25 
Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter
Rector

Lausanne, on 30/9/25 
Prof. Dr. Frédéric Herman
Rector