

## Admission to the IGS North-South, Qualification, and Issuing of the Certificate

The International Graduate School (IGS) North-South is a doctoral programme led by four Swiss Universities: the Universities of Basel, Bern, Lausanne and Zurich. It consists of five partner institutions: Swisspeace and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (TPH) in Basel, the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) and its partnering research groups (CDE members) in Bern, the Institute of Geography and Sustainability in Lausanne and the Development Study Group Zurich (DSGZ) in Zurich. The IGS North-South is dedicated to supporting a leading international research network that analyses the impacts of global change with a view to advancing sustainable development worldwide. It emphasizes an integrative, partnership-based research approach encompassing higher education at the PhD level, innovation, and application.

### 1. Admission

To gain admission, the PhD applicant must be accepted by an eligible professor and enrolled at one of the participating universities in Switzerland or at an accredited external research institution partnering with the IGS North-South. PhD candidates can join the IGS North-South as

- a. **full members**, collecting a minimum of 12 credit points (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation, ECTS) in courses offered by IGS North-South partner institutions; a limited number of ECTS from external courses can also be credited (see information regarding course types and coursework requirements on the IGS North-South website).
- b. **associate members**, who are not doing their doctoral studies at a partner institution of the IGS North-South and only participate in individual courses offered by the IGS North-South.

To apply, candidates must complete the registration form and send it to the IGS North-South secretariat ([igs-north-south@cde.unibe.ch](mailto:igs-north-south@cde.unibe.ch)). Candidates may have to submit an additional admission form such as a Learning Agreement, depending on the rules of the applicant's home university (see the chart of registration process on the website).

### 2. Types of qualification

The IGS North-South offers two types of qualification:

- a. For **full members**, an IGS North-South Certificate is granted in complement to the candidate's PhD degree upon successful completion and confirmation of at least 12 ECTS credits for coursework from the IGS North-South course programme. In specific cases, the IGS North-South School Directorate may also approve a limited number of credits completed with external partner institutions. Please note that it is generally only possible to validate course credits for one doctoral programme.
- b. For **associate members**, an IGS North-South confirmation certifying participation in individual courses is granted upon successful completion of these courses, including the annual IGS North-South Summer School.

### 3. Issuing of Certificate and Confirmations

- a. To obtain an IGS North-South Certificate as a full member, a PhD candidate must be in possession of his or her PhD diploma and a transcript listing all courses attended, including confirmation of completed courses. The following documents must be submitted to the secretariat of the IGS North-South for approval:

- Transcript of all courses attended
- Originals of all course confirmations
- A copy of the PhD diploma
- An electronic copy of the PhD thesis

Upon recommendation by the IGS North-South School Directorate, the IGS North-South Board will issue the IGS North-South Certificate on behalf of the participating universities. IGS North-South Certificate holders become members of the joint alumni network of the IGS North-South and the NCCR North-South.

- b. Associate members receive a confirmation of participation for each course they attend; no additional certificate is provided at the end of their studies.