

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

updated 1 November 2011

The Faculty of Science approves,

based on Artikel 44 of the statutes of the University of Bern of 7 June 2011 (University Statutes, UniSt) and the programme regulations governing studies and performance at the Faculty of Science (“Studienreglement Phil.-nat. Fakultät”, referred to below as “RSL Phil.-nat.”) of 14 April 2005 und the cooperation agreement on the establishment of the International Graduate School North-South (IGS North-South) of 28 Juni 2010,

the following curriculum:

I. General

SCOPE	Art. 1 This curriculum applies to all doctoral students of the IGS North-South enrolled at the Faculty of Science at the University of Bern.
ADMISSION	Art. 2 ¹ Admission is open to applicants with a Master’s Degree or an equivalent qualification from a Swiss university according to Article 54 RSL Phil.-nat. ² Admission is open to PhD-Students who, under Article 54 Paragraph 1 RSL Phil.-nat., have a Supervisory Team (according to Article 7, Rules of Procedure of the International Graduate School (IGS) North-South of the Universities of Bern, Basel, and Zurich). The Board decides on admission based on the recommendation of the Supervisory Team.
PROGRAMME	Art. 3 ¹ The programme for doctoral students of the IGS North-South aims towards a comprehensive, interdisciplinary education in theory and practice in a relevant field of research for sustainable development in countries of the global North and South. ² The programme has the following goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a To develop participants’ disciplinary and methodological

skills in their research and interdisciplinary studies,

- b To broaden participants' inter- and transdisciplinary foundations and approaches, and deepen their scientific foundations in the field of development and sustainable development oriented research.
- c To promote the participants' general skills, especially in the fields of scientific publication, interdisciplinary and intercultural communication, project and career planning, as well as to promote knowledge management at the interface between science and society.

TITLE

Art. 4 The completed PhD will bear the title "PhD of Science in (Subject) and Sustainable Development, University of Bern" (e.g: PhD of Science in Geography and Sustainable Development).

II. PhD programme

DURATION

Art. 5 ¹ The PhD programme takes three years to complete. It includes the writing of a doctoral thesis as well as attendance of courses comprising at least 12 ECTS points in accordance with the Annex.

² At the start of the programme, the student's tasks are jointly defined in a Doctoral Agreement by the Supervisory Team (a panel of at least three) and the doctoral student.

³ A list of events can be found in Annex 1 of the curriculum.

⁴ Should the doctoral student be unable to fulfil the required commitments, he/she must present to the IGS North-South Directorate an alternative programme of at least 12 ECTS points and a justification for the requested change.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Art. 6 ¹ A performance assessment takes place at the end of each course of the IGS North-South at the University of Bern. The assessments take place according to Articles 20-21 and 23-27 RSL Phil.-nat.

² The assessments are rated either as "fulfilled" or "not fulfilled". A module is passed if each assessment was rated as fulfilled.

³ Performance assessments of courses of the IGS North-South held at the Universities of Basel und Zurich will be carried out in accordance with the respective universities' rules.

DOCTORAL THESIS

Art. 7 ¹ 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. The Management Centre reports the start of the doctorate to the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Science.

² At least a year prior to completion of the thesis, the thesis supervisor together with the doctoral student decide on the co-referee and register them with the Dean's Office.

³ The assessment of the thesis is carried out in accordance with Article 58 RSL Phil.-nat.

DOCTORAL EXAMINATION AND FINAL GRADE

Art. 8 ¹ The doctoral examination, the examiners, and the conditions for passing are outlined in Articles 59 to 61 RSL Phil.-nat.

² The doctoral examination lasts 75 minutes and usually consists of a public lecture and a question and discussion session. Alternatively, the student may choose to undergo an oral examination lasting 75 minutes. (Art. 59 Abs. 2 RSL Phil.-nat.).

³ Immediately after the doctoral examination, each examiner determines the grade for the examination, with the same weighting given to each grade. The grades are averaged to obtain the grade of the doctoral examination. (Art. 19 Abs. 7 RSL Phil.-nat.).

⁴ The PhD programme is passed if both doctoral thesis and examinations have been given at least the grade 4 (Art. 61 Abs. 1 RSL Phil.-nat.) The final mark is calculated based on 75% of the doctoral thesis and 25% of the doctoral examination grade. The rounding mechanism is based on Article 19 Paragraph 7 RSL Phil.nat.

III. Administration of justice

APPEALS

Art. 9 RSL Phil.-nat. regulations apply.

IV. Transitional and final provisions

CHANGE IN CURRICULUM

Art. 10 Changes to the curriculum are subject to approval by the University Board of Directors. This rule excludes amendments to the Annex, which lie within the competence of the Faculty Council.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Art. 11 ¹ Doctoral students who commenced their studies in the Autumn Semester 2010 must follow this curriculum.

² Doctoral students who commenced their studies at the IGS North-South before the Autumn Semester 2010 may continue their studies according to this curriculum.

VALIDITY

Art. 12 This curriculum takes effect after approval by the University Board of Directors, backdated to 1 November 2011.

***** The whole text of the present document was originally written in German and has been translated into English. For legal purposes, the original German version of this text shall prevail.*****

Signed in Bern, on
26 May 2011

On behalf of the Faculty of Science
The Dean:
Prof. Dr. Silvio Decurtins

Approved by the University Board of Directors:

Bern, 8 November 2011

The Rector
Prof. Dr. Martin Täufer