Study Plan for the Structured Doctoral Programs of the Graduate School of the Humanities at the Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Network of the Walter Benjamin Kolleg at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Bern

from November 23rd, 2015

Disclaimer:
The English Translation of the study regulations is offered merely for informational purposes for non-native German speakers. Full legal validity is assigned exclusively to the study regulations issued in German (authenticated on November 23rd, 2015).

The Faculty of Humanities

on the basis of article 44 of the charter of the University of Bern from June 7th, 2011, the promotion regulations of the Faculty of Humanities (PromR) from May 9th, 2011, and the regulatory framework of the Walter Benjamin Kolleg of the Faculty of Humanities from November 23rd, 2015, as well as the organizational regulations of the Graduate School of the Humanities at the Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Network of the Walter Benjamin Kolleg from November 23rd, 2015

releases the following study plan:

I. General

SCOPE OF APPLICATION

Art. 1 ¹ This study plan regulates the structured doctoral programs of the Graduate School of the Humanities (GSH) at the Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Network (IPN [German: IFN]) of the Walter Benjamin Kolleg (WBKolleg) of the Faculty of the Humanities at the University of Bern (Faculty).

² The PromR applies to all doctoral programs of the GSH.

TRUSTEESHIP

Art. 2 The doctoral programs at the GSH are being directed under the responsibility of the Faculty.

II. Programs

STUDY PROGRAMS

Art. 3 ¹ The GSH offers the following three doctoral programs:

  a Doctoral Program Global Studies,
b Doctoral Program Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies,
c Doctoral Program Studies in Language and Society.

CONTENTS AND OBJECTIVES

Art. 4 ¹ The doctoral students of the GSH receive an outstanding inter- and transdisciplinary education centering on the writing of a qualitatively excellent doctoral thesis which qualifies graduates to conduct research-related work both in academic and non-academic environments. Certificates of the three doctoral programs will be given to doctoral students who

a have the capacity to critically reflect on their own and other academic cultures,
b have acquired skills for analyzing and communicating across the confines of established disciplines,
c have the capacity to promote science in a context that is relevant to society,
d have acquired the capacity to conduct networking both with researchers within academia and outside of it.

SCOPE

Art. 5 ¹ While members of the GSH, doctoral students complete a training that they can flexibly and individually plan regarding both the contents and the time frame.

² When applying for membership with the GSH, doctoral students select which one of the offered doctoral programs they would like to be part of.

³ Each doctoral program comprises 20 credit points (ECTS) and is composed of a compulsory, compulsory-elective, and elective part. Details of how the three doctoral programs are actually set up can be found in articles 15, 18, and 21, as well as in the appendix to this study plan.

⁴ The compulsory part consists of mandatory study achievements in the framework of one of the doctoral programs. It amounts to 12 ECTS.

⁵ The compulsory-elective part is composed of mandatory study achievements that can be completed by attending courses and events which can be freely selected from what the GSH, the IPN, research centers and other units of the WBKolleg offer. It amounts to 8 ECTS. Applications for the inclusion of ECTS that one has acquired by having attended courses offered outside of the WBKolleg need to be addressed to the program director of the doctoral program one is enrolled in.

⁶ The elective part is composed of freely selectable academic achievements. It is uncredited. Achievements are listed in a diploma supplement (see Art. 13).

GENERAL EVENTS AND COURSES

Art. 6 Responsibility for the planning and the organization of events and courses that are open to members of all doctoral programs (Soft Skills, Forum GSH) lies with the director of the GSH and the IPN-Committee.

DURATION

Art. 7 ¹ Enrollment in the GSH lasts six to eight terms. As a rule, the compulsory and compulsory-elective parts should be
completed within six terms.

2 The IPN-Committee can grant a prolongation of membership in the GSH.

3 If the dissertation is completed before the time span mentioned in section 1, i.e. by passing the oral examination according to Article 21 of the PromR, membership in the GSH ends with the end of the ongoing term.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP

Art. 8 ¹ The basic requirement for being able to apply for membership in the GSH is the enrollment as a doctoral student at the University of Bern in compliance with the regulations listed in the PromR.

2 Applicants are doctoral students enrolled at the University of Bern (Art. 6 of the decree about the University from September 12th, 2012 [UniV]) whose first supervisor is member of the University’s Faculty of Humanities (Art. 8, section 1 PromR).

3 Applicants do not already hold membership in other graduate schools.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

Art. 9 ¹ Applications for membership are to be submitted, in keeping with what the call for application demands, to the coordinator of the selected doctoral program and will eventually be presented to the IPN-Committee.

2 As a rule, the regular call for applications for membership in the GSH allows for admissions before the beginning of the autumn term.

3 Written applications include:
   a Proof of matriculation at the University of Bern as a doctoral student,
   b Letter of motivation,
   c Curriculum vitae,
   d Letter of reference by the first supervisor,
   e Description of planned research.

4 The IPN-Committee of the GSH decides on the admission; applicants are not entitled to admission.

COMPULSORY STUDY REQUIREMENTS

Art. 10 ¹ Courses and events in the framework of the compulsory part are mandatory.

2 In cases of requirements unfulfilled due to urgent reasons (parenthood, research stays abroad, sickness or accident, employment, etc.), the coordinator of the selected doctoral program proposes compensatory achievements. These need to be approved by the advisory board of the doctoral program in question.

3 At the end of each study year, each doctoral student admitted to one of the doctoral programs needs to hand in a written report to the coordinator of the doctoral program at the hands of the
advisory board. This annual report accounts for attended courses and events in the framework of the doctoral program as well as other scientific activities.

Assessment of Achievements

Art. 11 ¹ Assessment of achievements takes place in the framework of courses or events in oral or written form.

² All assessments are rated by the attribution of either “fail” or “pass”.

³ Failed assessments can be retaken once.

Credit of Achievements

Art. 12 ¹ Requests for the crediting of achievements in the framework of the compulsory-elective part of a doctoral program and other offers by the WBKolleg can be submitted to the coordinator of the selected doctoral program at the hands of the advisory board at the beginning of each academic year.

² Proof of achievements completed in the framework of the elective part can be submitted to the coordinator of the selected doctoral program at the beginning of the academic year or when leaving the GSH in order to be listed in the diploma supplement.

Graduation

Art. 13 When the dissertation is successfully completed, the Faculty awards doctoral students of the GSH with a doctoral degree certificate which grants the title “Dr. phil” as well as a diploma supplement listing all achievements done within the framework of the completed doctoral program.

1. Doctoral Program Global Studies

Contents and Objectives

Art. 14 ¹ The doctoral program Global Studies is an interdisciplinary program targeting doctoral students conducting doctoral research projects examining current and historical processes shaped by interrelations and divergences within areas of human contact across vast geographical distances and different cultural contexts. Therefore, the program focuses primarily on problems arising from such settings. Doctoral students of the doctoral program Global Studies will be awarded a certificate of having completed the program once they have learned to critically apply methodologies and theories of global studies – adopted from the humanities, social sciences and cultural studies – across disciplinary boundaries,

b have developed a systemic understanding of the key analytical categories of transfer, interrelations and comparison within the past and present.

Structure

Art. 15 ¹ The compulsory part of the doctoral program Global Studies consists of the following mandatory courses and events that demand active participation and compulsory attendance (in total 12 ECTS):

a Workshop Global Studies,

b Retreats Global Studies,
c Lecture course: Introduction into the theories and concepts of Global Studies,

d Forum GSH.

The Forum GSH should be attended between the second and the fourth term. Compulsory requirements can be completed at a point of one’s own choosing during the course of the membership in the GSH.

2 Compulsory-elective requirements involve the following courses and scientific activities which doctoral students, as a rule (see Art. 5, section 5), select from the courses and events offered by the WBKolleg (in total 8 ECTS):

a International Summer School of the GSH or an equivalent Graduate Course offered within the IPN or the WBKolleg,

b Soft Skills of the GSH,

c Events and courses offered by all doctoral programs at the GSH,

d Events for doctoral students offered within the WBKolleg,

3 Elective requirements include:

a Individually carried out scientific activities or activities which serve vocational preparation,

b Further courses or events for graduate students organized both within the WBKolleg or outside of it.

LANGUAGE

Art. 16 Events and courses will be held in German, English, French, Italian, or Spanish.

2. Doctoral Program Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies

CONTENTS AND OBJECTIVES

Art. 17 1 The doctoral program Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies puts a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary key concepts, theories and methodologies of the humanities and social sciences as well as a critical reflection on inter- and transdisciplinarity. Therefore, the doctoral program is primarily interested in theories and methodologies. Doctoral students of the doctoral program Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies will be awarded a certificate of having completed the program once they

a have learned to systematically embed inter- and transdisciplinarity into their research,

b have learned to epistemologically reflect on their own and others’ cultures of knowledge and science.

STRUCTURE

Art. 18 1 The compulsory part of the doctoral program Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies consists of the following mandatory events and courses with active participation and compulsory attendance (a total of 12 ECTS):
a Workshop “Inter- and Transdisciplinarity” including the introduction “Working with Concepts”,

b key concepts of the humanities and social sciences – talks with colloquia,

c key concepts of the humanities and social sciences – lecture course

d Forum GSH.

The introduction “Working with Concepts” embedded into the workshop “Inter- and Transdisciplinarity” needs to be attended in the first or second term; the Forum GSH needs to be attended between the second and the fourth term. All other compulsory requirements can be completed at any point in time during the membership with the GSH.

2 The compulsory-elective part includes the following courses and academic activities which doctoral students, as a rule, can complete by attending courses and events offered in the framework of the WBKolleg (in total 8 ECTS):

a International Summer School of the GSH or equivalent graduate course in the framework of the IPN or the WBKolleg,

b Soft Skills offered by the GSH,

c Events organized by all doctoral programs of the GSH,

d Events and courses organized for doctoral students in the framework of the WBKolleg.

3 The elective part encompasses:

a Individually carried out scientific activities or activities which serve vocational preparation,

b Further events for doctoral students offered within the WBKolleg.

4 Events and courses are usually offered either in German or English.

3. Doctoral Program Studies in Language and Society

The doctoral program Studies in Language and Society offers a wide range of methodological and theoretical approaches adopted from sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, and other academic fields examining the intersection of language and society. The doctoral program thus primarily has a thematic focus.

Doctoral students of the doctoral program Studies in Language and Society will be awarded a certificate of having completed the program once they

a Have learned to approach sociolinguistic, discourse analytical, or other issues in a transdisciplinary and methodologically sophisticated way,
b Are able to situate their own research in an academic context dedicated to the examination of the interplay between language and society.

**STRUCTURE**

**Art. 21** ¹ The compulsory part of the doctoral program Studies in Language and Society consists of the following mandatory courses with active participation and compulsory attendance (in total 12 ECTS):

- a Workshop Language and Society,
- b Research Colloquium Language and Society,
- c Forum Language and Society,
- d Forum GSH.

The Forum GSH should be attended once between the second and the fourth term. Compulsory requirements can be completed at any point in time during the membership with the GSH

² The compulsory-elective part includes the following courses and academic activities which doctoral students, as a rule (see Art. 5, section 5), can select from all courses and events offered in the framework of the WBKolleg (in total 8 ECTS):

- a International Summer School of the GSH or equivalent graduate course in the framework of the IPN or the WBKolleg,
- b Soft Skills offered by the GSH,
- c Events organized by all doctoral programs of the GSH,
- d Events and courses organized for doctoral students in the framework of the WBKolleg.

³ The elective part encompasses:

- a Individually carried out scientific activities or activities which serve vocational preparation,
- b Further events for doctoral students offered within the WBKolleg.

**LANGUAGE**

**Art. 22** Courses and events are offered in German, English, French, Italian, or Spanish.

**III. Switching Programs, Resignation, and Expulsion**

**Art. 23** ¹ Within the first year of joining the GSH, doctoral students can request, at the hands of the IPN-Committee, permission to switch from one doctoral program within the GSH to another. The switching needs to be approved by the IPN-Committee and the coordinator of the newly chosen doctoral program.

² Already completed compulsory requirements cannot be credited to the compulsory part of the newly selected doctoral program, but only to the compulsory-elective part.
3 Already completed compulsory-elective requirements remain credited.

Resignation

Art. 24 1 At their own wish, doctoral students of the GSH may – in consultation with the coordinator of the respective doctoral program – cancel their membership with the GSH.

2 At the end of the term, they submit their request for cancellation of the membership to the coordinator of the respective doctoral program at the hands of the IPN-Committee.

3 The IPN-Committee confirms the resignation in writing.

4 Resignation concludes any requests for support (e.g. making use of the infrastructure). No diploma supplement will be handed out. Credited ECTS will be confirmed.

Expulsion from the GSH

Art. 25 1 In the following cases, the director of the IPN-Committee, via the president of the managing committee, will submit a request for expelling a doctoral student from the GSH to the Collegium Decanale (Art. 7, section 2 and 3 PromR):

a Recurring and unexcused absence at compulsory courses and events of the respective structured doctoral program,

b If a doctoral student fails a doctoral program’s compulsory requirements twice,

c Non-compliance with the duty to hand in annual reports (Art. 10, section 3).

2 During the expulsion procedure, the doctoral student in question is to be given fair hearing.

3 Final expulsion needs to be initiated by order of the dean.

4 Within 30 days, doctoral students can submit appeals against the expulsion to the Appeals Commission of the University of Bern.

5 The completion of the doctoral thesis at the faculty remains possible also after the expulsion from the GSH as long as supervision remains granted.

IV. Transitional and Final Provisions

Changes to the Study Plan

Art. 26 Changes to the study plan need to be seconded by the University management. Exempt are changes to the appendix, which lies in the competence of the faculty council.

Transitional Provisions

Art. 27 1 Doctoral students taking up membership with the GSH in the autumn term of 2016 or later study according to this study plan.

2 Till the end of the autumn term 2017, members accepted before autumn term 2016 are allowed to complete their respective doctoral program according to the old study plan (Doctoral Program Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies: study plan of the GS@IASH from 1 November 2011; Doctoral program Studies in Language and Society: study plan of the doctoral
program “Studies in Language and Society” of the CSLS from 7 November 2011; Doctoral Program Global Studies: study plan of the doctoral program “Global Studies” of the CGS from 19 December 2011) or they can submit a request at the hands of the person responsible for the doctoral program in question for completed achievements to be credited in the framework of the present study plan.

**COMING INTO EFFECT**

Art. 28 ¹ This study plan replaces the following study plans:

a Study plan for the structured doctoral program of the Graduate School at the Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities and the Social Sciences (GS@IASH) of the University of Bern from 1 November 2011,

b Study plan for the structured doctoral program “Global Studies” of the Center for Global Studies from 19 December 2011,

c Study plan for the doctoral program “Studies in Language and Society” from 7 November 2011.

² This study plan comes into effect on 1 February 2016.

Berne, 23 November 2015 In the name of the Faculty of Humanities

The Dean:

Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter

*Authorized by the University Management:*

Berne, 25 January 2016 The Rector:

Prof. Dr. Martin Täuber