Guidelines for Membership in the Graduate School Biological Sciences (GBS)

1) Upon acceptance as a doctoral student of the Graduate School Biological Sciences the Executive Board (Vorstand) assigns a Thesis Committee (TC). The TC consists of the PhD Supervisor (Betreuer/in) and a minimum of one Co-Supervisor (Co-Betreuer/in). The Co-Supervisor(s) must be from a research group(s) other than the one led by the PhD Supervisor. Co-Supervisors must be approved by the PhD Supervisor.

2) The doctoral student meets with the TC yearly to report on his/her activities (6 months report, 18 months summary). Prior to each TC meeting, the doctoral student must submit a written summary of his/her achievements/research plan to the TC, followed by an oral presentation. Following the oral presentation a short evaluation of the discussion with the TC is generated by the TC, voluntarily by the doctoral student, too. Scheduling of the yearly meetings as well as returning the TC evaluation to the office lies in the responsibility of the doctoral student.

3) The TC discusses and validates the progress of the PhD work and helps to confirm or modify the proposed research plan for the next year. In cases of no or little progress the TC can decide about a change of the PhD subject or can recommend discontinuation of the PhD. A meeting and a consultation after thirty months can be demanded by the doctoral student as well as by a member of the TC. The TC also advises the doctoral student on scientific and career issues.

4) A doctoral student is required to attend twelve talks during his/her PhD thesis, whereof at least six must be out of the regular seminars of the Department of Biology ("FBs-Seminar"). Further talks can be chosen from seminars within courses of the Department (e.g. guest speakers at advanced courses / "Vertiefungskurs") as well as from graduate programmes that are associated with the Department of Biology (e.g. KoRS-CB, IMPRS, R3). Additionally, a doctoral student is required to participate in three continuing education (CE) courses during his/her PhD thesis. Of these CE courses, at least one has to cover "transferable skills" and "technical skills", respectively. Tutoring undergraduate students, attending summer courses, offering courses him-/herself within the PhD course programme or giving poster/oral presentations at meetings are considered equivalent to CE courses. Additionally, the participation in the online course "Good Scientific Practice" is mandatory within the first six months.

5) Upon completion of the PhD thesis a written thesis is to be submitted to the Natural Science Faculty (Naturwissenschaftliche Sektion), as stipulated in the rules of the "Promotionsordnung" of the University of Konstanz and the "Fachspezifische Regeln des Fachbereichs Biologie".

6) It is expected that at the time of the PhD exam at least one first author manuscript of the PhD work is accepted for publication.

7) Ethical behaviour is prerequisite for entry and continuation of the PhD thesis. This includes rules of good scientific conduct, practice, originality, proper documentation, and reproducibility of the results generated as well as confidential treatment of privileged communications originating from own and other laboratories.

Valid as of 1 June 2017