

Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities

Call for Membership

Fall 2026

All doctoral students of the the University of Bern as well as external applicants whose PhD theses are to be written and supervised in Bern are invited to apply for membership in the Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities (GSAH), and to participate in one of our four doctoral programs.

Application Deadline: 31 July 2026

About the Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities GSAH | University of Bern

The GSAH promotes the exchange and networking with other peers both from inside and outside the University as well as within the international scientific community. It offers educational modules of outstanding quality, a wide range of counseling, administrative and financial support for the organization of or the participation in confer-

ences, practical additional qualifications (soft skills classes) and professional workspaces at Unitobler.

Requirements for Applicants

In addition to having a degree required for a doctoral thesis supervised and written at the University of Bern, you should meet the following requirements:

The four doctoral programs of the Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities



Studies in Language and Society | SLS

The doctoral program SLS offers a broad interdisciplinary spectrum of methodological and theoretical approaches adopted from sociolinguistics, discourse analysis and other fields relevant for the combined examination of language and society.



Koordination
info.csls@unibe.ch



Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies | ICS

The doctoral program ICS focuses on key concepts, theories and methods which are used across different disciplines of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Moreover, it invites a critical reflection on the notions of inter- and transdisciplinarity.



Mike Toggweiler
michael.toggweiler@unibe.ch



Global Studies | GS

The doctoral program Global Studies targets doctoral students conducting interdisciplinary research on current and historical processes shaped by interrelations and divergences which characterize fields of human existence across geographical distances and different cultural contexts.



Andrea Birrer
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Studies in the Arts | SINTA

The artistic/design-scientific doctoral program of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Bern (Universität Bern) and the Bern University of the Arts (HKB) is a unique cooperation in Switzerland. SINTA fosters innovative dissertation projects at the interface between art and science.



Hannah Ambühl
hannah.ambuehl@unibe.ch

- Your doctoral research project meets the standards of excellent research within your field.
- It involves inter- or transdisciplinary elements which allow you to profit from the offered inter- and transdisciplinary programs.
- Your command of German (at least passive knowledge) and English is sufficient to participate in the program.
- External applicants have a letter of invitation of a professor at the University of Bern.
- Your first supervisor is a professor at University of Bern.
- *Only for applications for the doctoral program Studies in the Arts:* Your second supervisor is a lecturer with a PhD degree at the Bern Academy of the Arts (HKB).

Documents

Letter of application (not more than 2 pages)

- Letter of motivation for applying to the Graduate School and the doctoral program envisaged
- A list of disciplines/arts relevant to your research
- Specifications of the benefits of an inter- or transdisciplinary exchange for your project and which of our four doctoral programs are interesting to you

Project description

- Summary in English (15 to 20 lines)
- Description of planned research: theses, theories, method, literature, preparatory steps (not more than 4 pages)
- 5 to 10 theoretical-methodological concepts, categories for analysis, keywords for your doctoral research project

Other documents

- Confirmation of matriculation and doctorate at the University of Bern
- Confirmation and recommendation by the main supervisor of your doctoral thesis at the University of Bern (for applications to the doctoral program Studies in the Arts: recommendation incl. list of individual requirements)
- Only for applications for the doctoral program Studies in the Arts: Confirmation of supervision with recommendation of the second supervisor
- CV (not more than 2 pages)
- List of publications (if available)

Online application

Please compile all documents needed for the application into a single PDF file (LastName_gsah_hs26.pdf) and send it to Dr. Michael Toggweiler: michael.toggweiler@unibe.ch

We will communicate our decision to you once we have reviewed all written applications (beginning of October). Admissions take place at the beginning of the semester. Already attended events of the GSAH before the admission can be credited.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding the application procedure or about the study plan of the GSAH, please contact the coordinator of the GSAH:



Dr. Mike Toggweiler

michael.toggweiler@unibe.ch



More information

www.gsah.unibe.ch

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