

# PhD Convent Meeting

## Thursday 20th May, 2021

### Representative's Report

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg



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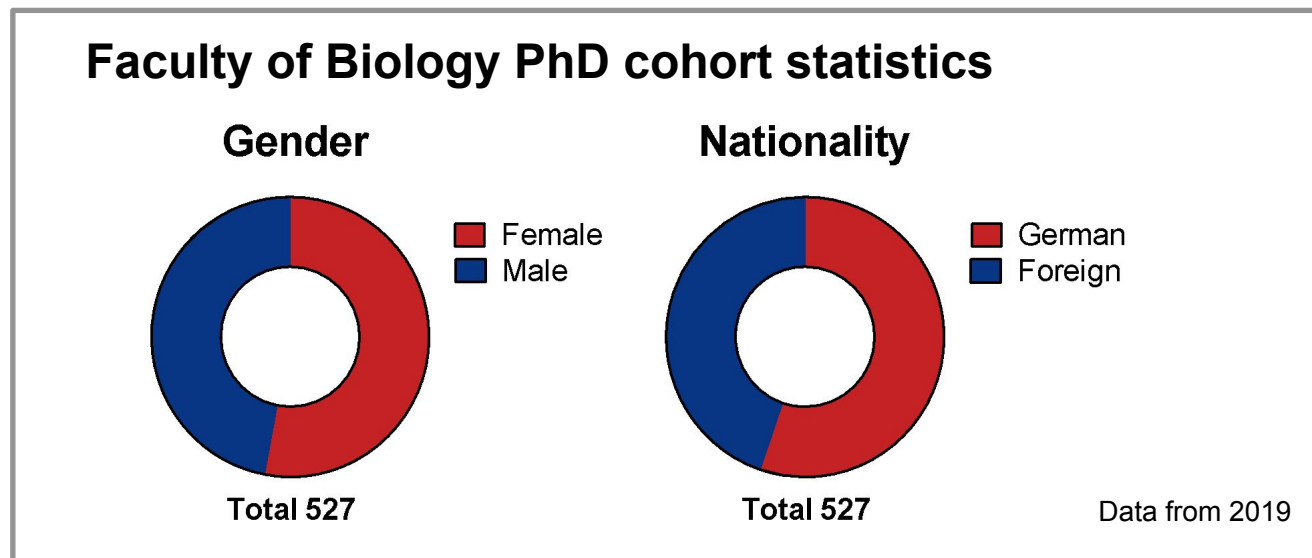


# Our topics for you



- Newsletter for PhDs by PhDs (Lin)
- Conflict management (Lu)
- Quiz Nights: connecting and networking! (Anne)
- PhD Reps Homepage/website updates (Ebrahim)
- Being a representative (Ute)
- Faculty council (Ute)
- GAA news (Klara)
- **Election of new representatives**

- The Bio PhD Convent set up 2016
- Represent the interests of doctoral candidates
- All registered doctoral candidates in the Faculty of Biology are automatically part of this Convent (>500)



# Introducing the current PhD Reps



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Lin

AG  
Häcker

IMMH

Uniklinik



Ute

AG  
Wilde

Bio III

MeInBio



Klara

AG  
Hiltbrunner

Bioss/  
Bio II  
SGBM



Luisa

AG  
Hess

Bio II

MeInBio



Anne

AG  
Frew

Med1

Uniklinik



Ebrahim

AG  
Hettmer

Kinderklinik



Ellen

AG  
Jellusova

Bioss

Representatives

Deputy Representatives



More info: [phd-bio.uni-freiburg.de](http://phd-bio.uni-freiburg.de)

Contact us: [phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)

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# Newsletter (Lin)



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Issue #2 April 2021



## Welcome to the PhD-Bio Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter!

In this space, we aim to keep you up to date with **what's happening** across the institutes in Freiburg (Biology Faculty, MPI-IE and Uniklinik), **alumni news**, **job opportunities** and so much more!  
We invite contributions from everyone in our community and hope to create a strong network of Biology PhDs in Freiburg.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Quiz night - online

Join us for the second PhD Reps Pub Quiz  
Meet new people! Attractive prizes for the winning teams!

Friday 30th April, from 7pm onwards

Online. Register [here](#)

### Upcoming Seminars

The next **KTUR** Lunch Sessions (online, English)

-Thur 15th April 13.30: Do I have the right skills to become entrepreneur?

-Thurs 20th May 13.30: Deep dive into fundraising

From SGBM: the first summer school on Transcription, Epigenetics and early Development (TED course) July 12-23, 2021. Limited places. [More info](#)

### Pint of Science

Instead of your favourite bar, this year's Pint of Science will be held online. From May 17-19th join local Freiburg scientists as they explain their research to a general audience.

More info and links to talks [here](#)





# Newsletter (Lin)



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## Alumni News: where are they now?



This issue we feature  
**Dr. Marco Frensch**, Medical Advisor  
and Writer at **Coliquio** and alumnus  
of CIBSS/BIOSS where he studied  
the activation mechanisms and  
responses of B cells.

**Tell us a bit about what you were  
studying during your PhD.**

My doctoral work covered host-pathogen  
interactions, microbiology and molecular  
immunology in the lab of Prof. Römer  
(CIBSS/BIOSS). In particular, I studied  
activation mechanisms and responses of  
B cells to a bacterial protein.

**What was your experience with the job  
market during/after your PhD?**

Lots of frustration in the beginning: What  
are my chances to succeed in a research  
career (in or outside academia)? What  
sacrifices would this involve? Are there  
other things I enjoy and which I would like  
to emphasize in the future? What other  
jobs exist? I started applying for research

**Where are you now and what do you  
do?**

I am now a Medical Advisor and Writer for  
Coliquio, a German medical  
communication platform based in  
Konstanz. The position used to be called  
Medizinredakteur before the company  
adopted the English job title. Coliquio is a  
physicians-only platform and has three  
major divisions: A. common medical news;  
B. sponsored medical news; and C. a  
forum for physicians. I work in the second  
division, in which pharma companies pay  
to host a so-called info center with articles  
circling around a particular disease or  
indication. Some of these articles are  
product-oriented (that's why the  
companies are interested to pay), but  
most articles discuss the disease in a  
broader context (that's what the

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## PhD bio

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

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### News

#### Newsletter

If you'd like to receive our newsletter - drop us a line at [phd-bio\(at\)biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:phd-bio(at)biologie.uni-freiburg.de) or ask Renate Kendlinger ([renate.kendlinger\(at\)biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:renate.kendlinger(at)biologie.uni-freiburg.de)) to include you on the [doktoranden\(at\)biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:doktoranden(at)biologie.uni-freiburg.de) mailing list.

To be even more updated - join our regular meetings :)

#### Yearly PhD Representatives Reports

- **Report 2020**, including
    - Facts about the Faculty of Biology PhD convent, introduction of current PhD Reps
    - Format of the PhD thesis
    - Dissertation agreement
    - Revision of the doctoral regulations
    - Teaching and supervision
    - Being a representative
    - Topics of 2020
    - PhD in times of Corona (survey)
  - **Report 2019**, including news on
    - PhD regulation: lost and found, changes to be made
    - Format of PhD Thesis: monography or cumulative.... or both?
    - Dissertation Agreement: now formally approved :)
    - Teaching record & certificate: Keep track of your teaching to obtain a certificate
    - We are part of the Faculty Council :)
- [GAA](#)



# Conflict management (Lu)



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## PhD bio

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You are here: [Home](#) > What to do in case of conflicts ...

### What to do in case of conflicts with your supervisor?

Conflicts among doctoral candidates and supervisors can often arise during a PhD. There are several different points of contact you can turn to in case you realize a conflict is arising. Often, it is helpful to search for advice on how to resolve a conflict **BEFORE** it escalates.

These are some of the points of contact you can turn to (details below):

- **us - your PhD reps ;)**
- **Ombuds office:** they can give you great advice to resolve your conflict situation, even when not starting an ombuds process
- **Staff council** of University or Uniclinics (see details below): Legal advice on employment rights and many more topics
- **Legal counseling** at SWFR and StuRa (if you're enrolled)
- For legal advice, you can turn to **unions** (e.g. DGB / GEW)
- As a last resort, if the other options did not help, you might want to turn to a **lawyer**

Details and more points of contact are listed below (see 'Additional Help')

Before you take any steps which feel unnatural to you, there is always the possibility to contact us via mail (phd-bio(at)biologie.uni-freiburg.de)! We will do our best to help you within our means!

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**What to do in case of conflicts with your supervisor?**  
Mental Health  
Glossary  
Doctoral degree in the field of Biology



# Quiz Nights: connecting and networking! (Anne)

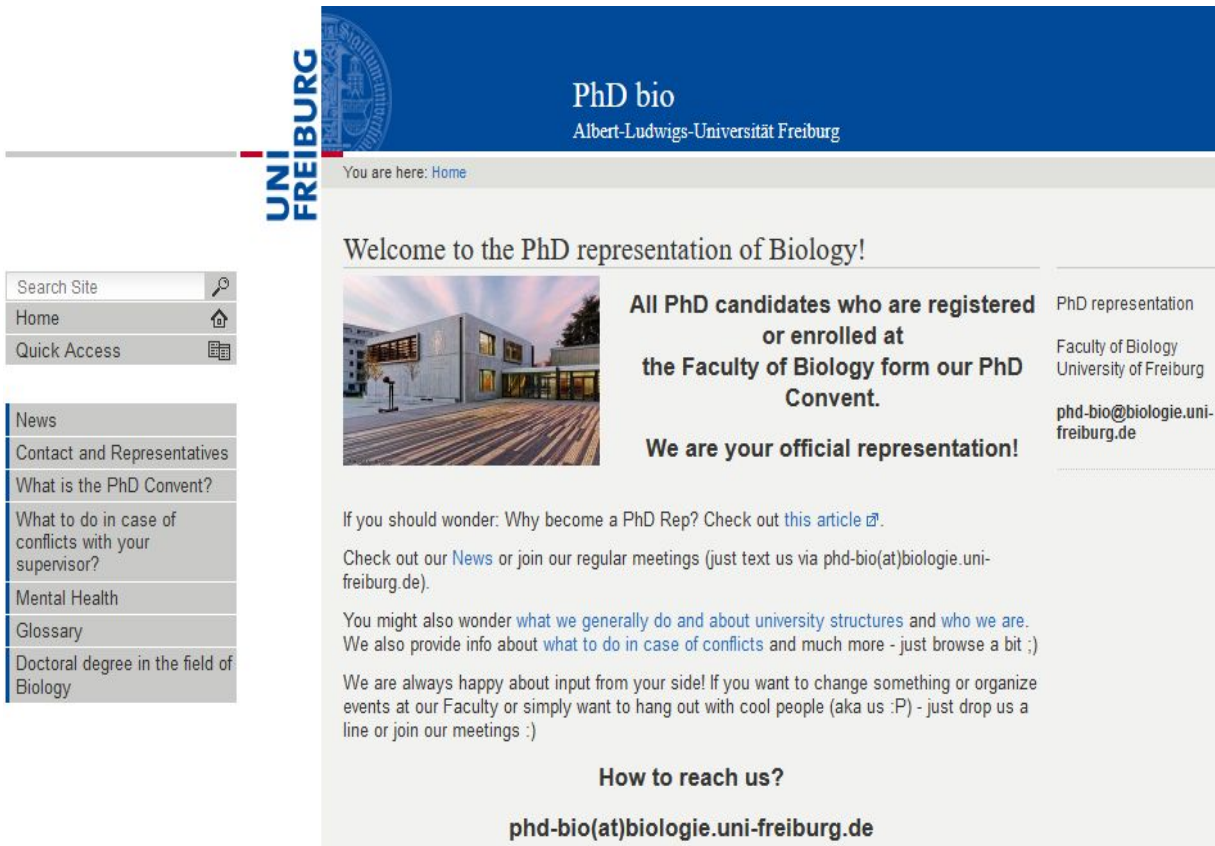


Get to know new PhDs from the whole biology faculty!

- every month on Zoom
- varying topics
- prizes for the three best groups



# PhD Reps Homepage/website updates (Ebrahim)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the PhD representation of Biology at the University of Freiburg. The header includes the UNI FREIBURG logo and the text 'PhD bio Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg'. A navigation menu on the left lists: Search Site, Home, Quick Access, News, Contact and Representatives, What is the PhD Convent?, What to do in case of conflicts with your supervisor?, Mental Health, Glossary, and Doctoral degree in the field of Biology. The main content area features a welcome message, a photo of a modern building, and text stating: 'All PhD candidates who are registered or enrolled at the Faculty of Biology form our PhD Convent. We are your official representation!'. It also includes contact information: 'phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de' and a link to 'phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de'. A sidebar on the right lists: 'PhD representation', 'Faculty of Biology', 'University of Freiburg', and 'phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de'.

## \*Infos\*

- News.
- How to register for your doctoral degree at the Faculty of Biology.
- PhD bio contact?.

## What is the PhD Convent?

**All PhD candidates who are registered at the Faculty of Biology form our PhD Convent.**

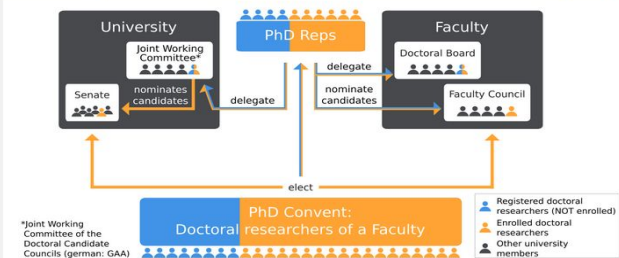
**We are your official representation!**

The PhD Convent for Biology was established in 2016. For an overview what we achieved since then, have a look at our yearly reports, e.g. the one from 2018 or 2019.

Currently, the main focus of our work is the political representation of the Biology PhD candidates' interests in different committees. There are further goals we pursue, generally related to the well-being and networking of PhD students of our faculty. In the future, we would like to establish events to bring the PhD candidates of our faculty more closely together.

We meet twice a month to discuss the important topics which came up in different committees or how to improve the life and work of the PhD candidates. We are always happy for any input or help from your side. If you would like to be part of the PhD Convent representation, please don't hesitate to contact us!

See below for a detailed look into the different committees where we represent the Biology PhD candidates. Links to the regulations underlying these structures are collected [here](#). A short explanation to all committees is given in the [glossary](#).



# PhD Reps Homepage



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PhD bio  
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

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News

Newsletter

If you'd like to receive our newsletter - drop us a line at [phd-bio\(at\)biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:phd-bio(at)biologie.uni-freiburg.de) or ask Renate Kendlinger ([renate.kendlinger\(at\)biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:renate.kendlinger(at)biologie.uni-freiburg.de)) to include you on the [doktoranden\(at\)biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:doktoranden(at)biologie.uni-freiburg.de) mailing list.

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  - Dissertation Agreement: now formally approved :)
  - Teaching record & certificate: Keep track of your teaching to obtain a certificate
  - We are part of the Faculty Council :)
  - [GAA](#)
- [Report 2018](#), including news on
  - Dissertation Agreement
  - obligation to visit Oberseminare
  - teaching obligations
  - PhD Reps' stance on voluntary teaching and visiting seminars (spoiler: We think it's definitely worth the time!)
  - teaching survey evaluation

News 2021

April 2021

It's time for [our second newsletter issue](#) - it includes

- Announcement of our annual election on 20th May - if you consider becoming a PhD Rep - contact us :)
- News on upcoming events: [Our second online Quiz night!](#)
- Alumni News: Where are they now? With Dr. Annik Jakob, master of optical apparatuses, known for rescuing poor PhD students when microscopes and cyanobacteria freak out
- Job opportunities

\*Ex\*

- Weekly and yearly updates.
- What to do in case of conflicts with your supervisor?



## Professors of the Doctoral Board of the Faculty of Biology

Apart from the ombuds office, you may contact one of the following Professors. They are members of the doctoral board of the faculty of biology. Therefore, they are familiar with the regulations and requirements of a PhD thesis and have experience with supervising PhD candidates themselves. They kindly have volunteered to be a contact person for you in the case of conflicts. They can assist you to first assess your situation. Please consider, for severe cases, you should contact the ombuds office as the official mediation service for PhD candidates in case of conflicts with supervisors.



Prof. Dr. Winfried Römer  
Institut für Biologie II  
[winfried.roemer@bioss.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:winfried.roemer@bioss.uni-freiburg.de)



Prof. Dr. Barbara Di Ventura  
Institute of Biology II  
[barbara.diventura@biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:barbara.diventura@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)



Prof. Dr. Johann Bollmann  
Institut für Biologie I  
[johann.bollmann@biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:johann.bollmann@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

More info: [phd-bio.uni-freiburg.de](http://phd-bio.uni-freiburg.de)

Contact us: [phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)

# Being a PhD rep

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# Being a PhD rep – activities



We currently meet every 2 weeks for ~ 1 - 1.5 h

We attend committee meetings of:

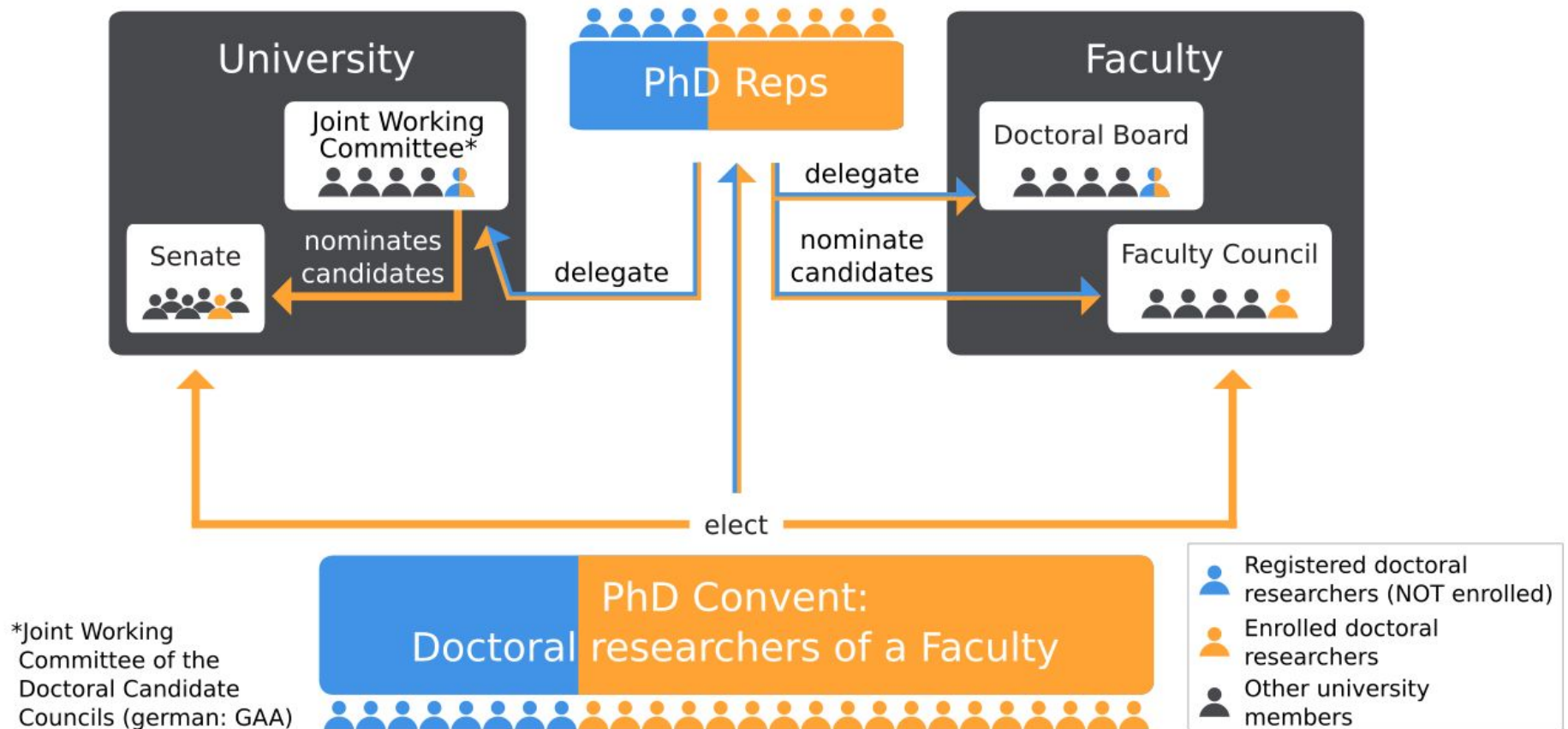
- Doctoral Board („Promotionsausschuss“):  
monthly, Thursdays at 2 pm
- Faculty Council („Fakultätsrat“):  
monthly, Thursdays at 3:15 pm
- Joint Working Committee of the Doctoral Candidate Councils („GAA“):  
monthly, Wednesdays at 6 pm

Other activities:

- Networking
- Topics important to Doctoral Candidates (Job information, Mental Health, Work regulations, ...)



# Being a PhD rep - organization



\*Joint Working Committee of the Doctoral Candidate Councils (german: GAA)

## Important news 2020/21:

- A lot about Covid-19
- New professors: “Berufungskommissionen” (committee which decides who will be new professor) - we will now take part :)
- News on what happened in excellence clusters, in the rectorate, senate, regarding finances, ...

# The GAA – Gemeinsamer Arbeitsausschuss der Doktorand\*innenkonvente (Klara)



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Represents the interest of the doctoral candidates on the university level & nominates candidates for the Senate



Current work consist on...

- Welcoming document for newcomers
- Survey on how the pandemic affected the doctoral candidates
- Reorganization of the work effort within the GAA
- Organization of workshops

[gaa-vorstand@mail.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:gaa-vorstand@mail.uni-freiburg.de)

prodoc



@GaaPhds



@phds\_unifreiburg



@phd.uni.freiburg



More info: [phd-bio.uni-freiburg.de](http://phd-bio.uni-freiburg.de)

Contact us: [phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)

# Topics in 2021/22

Effects of COVID-19 on PhDs

(Re)connect PhDs after social distancing

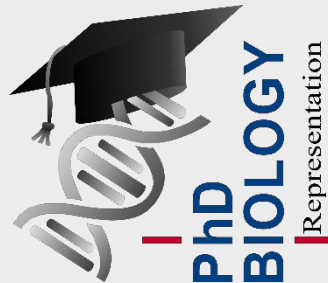
Let changes to doctoral regulations come into action

Your ideas...

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More info: [phd-bio.uni-freiburg.de](https://phd-bio.uni-freiburg.de)

Contact us: [phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:phd-bio@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)

# Elections



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# Election



- Zoom polls will be used for voting
- There will be **3 rounds** of voting
- Please vote for a different candidate each round

Any questions?

# Election



- Candidate 1:
- Candidate 2:
- Candidate 3:
- Candidate 4:
- Candidate 5:
- Candidate 6:
- Candidate 7:
- Candidate 8: