

## **4-4. Master Thesis/Policy Paper Review Structure and Evaluation Criteria**

Most of the students at GRIPS are mid-career bureaucrats sent from governmental organizations, so master's theses are aimed at improving the students' policymaking ability. Specific policy issues that are of interest to each individual student are selected, with analyses of policy effectiveness based on inter-disciplinary academic fields (e.g., economics, politics, public administration, engineering) and on policy evaluation. In evaluation of master's theses or research papers on specific topic, the criteria for assessment shall be determined by objective and rational analyses based on various scholarly methodologies appropriate to the topic's distinguishing features, as determined independently by each respective program.

### **Review Structure**

For the examination of master students, the program director shall appoint two or more faculty members (main examiner, sub examiner, and other faculty members whom the program director appoints as necessary) and nominate them to the Master's Programs Committee. The Master's Programs Committee shall make the final decision on the review structure.

### **Examination Method**

The Master's Examination shall be done through the evaluation of the Master's thesis or policy paper and an oral or written final examination. An oral exam shall consist of the student's presentation and a Q&A session. A written exam questions shall be set by the reviewing faculty members upon consultation with the program director. Regarding the degree paper, the main and sub examiners, with other professors, examine whether the submission meets the standard at a program committee and submit it for the master's review.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Pass/fail shall be determined from the following viewpoints of evaluation:

#### **Master's Thesis**

1. Has set research objectives that have policy relevance and importance
2. Shows original findings
3. Applies and extends theoretical and/or empirical methods used in a relevant discipline(s)
4. The logic is consistent

#### **Policy Paper**

1. Has set research objectives that have policy relevance and importance
2. Shows practical policy recommendations or implications
3. Applies theoretical and/or empirical methods used in a relevant discipline(s)
4. The logic is consistent

### **Final Examination (Written or Oral)**

1. The student can explain the content of the research
2. The student can explain original findings and/or contributions in the context of the relevant literature
3. The student can explain the significance of the result

#### 4. Degree Programs for Master's Students

Other information including procedures for submission of papers, presentation of papers, and other examinations are described in "Overview of Research, Guidance and Final Examination for Master Students at GRIPS", which is distributed at the Guidance".