

GRIPS activities during the COVID-19 scenario

– as of 22 December, 2020

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, GRIPS has been fully active as an educational and research institution. The following efforts have made that possible.

(1) Online instruction

- Domestic program classes:
 - When the number of students enrolled in a course does not exceed half of the designated seating capacity of the assigned Lecture Room, generally that course will be conducted face-to-face.
 - Depending on the situation, hybrid classes (simultaneously face to face and online) are possible.
- International program classes:
 - To date, international program classes have been conducted online. As soon as all students have arrived in Japan, the delivery mode will switch to face-to-face.
- Doctoral dissertation defenses and review meetings are held online or in hybrid form (as appropriate) to ensure that no student is disadvantaged.
- We record online classes using the Zoom cloud recording function, so that students whose internet network environment is not stable are assured of access to all course input.

In May and August 2020, we surveyed all students twice to gather their opinions about online classes. In both of the two surveys, 97% of students reported above-average level of satisfaction.

<Student comments>

- "The classes work just like face-to-face classes."
- "I like the interactive aspect."
- "It's good, because the materials are created by the faculty."
- "It saves commuting time and prevents infection."

(2) Pre-enrollment support for international students

- Provision of Q&A resources related to coming to Japan and the course delivery system.
- Provision of cautions and advice regarding online classes.
- Provision of individual consultations by program coordinators of each program.
- Provision of information on topics such as immigration procedures and PCR tests at airports; rules governing voluntary isolation periods; and access to services and support.
- Provision of transportation on arrival, from the airport to the self-isolation area, and from the self-isolation area to the student housing.
- In some cases, the costs of voluntary isolation after entry into Japan are covered by GRIPS or by the funding institution (e.g., international organization).

- Testing of the online environment before remote classes start.

(3) Online events and ceremonies

- The September 2020 graduation ceremony was held online, to enable participation by all students (those staying in Japan and those who had returned to their home countries).



Online graduation ceremony

- Recordings of enrollment guidance are available online at all times.
- Meetings of the International Alumni Association, Domestic Alumni Association and Program Alumni are held online.
- University and program familiarization meetings are held online.

(4) Online seminars and GRIPS official YouTube channels

- *GRIPS Webinar* is a series of web-based events held by GRIPS to disseminate worldwide the latest research results of GRIPS researchers; to deepen public understanding of policy-related issues; and to provide a venue for policy discussions with leaders and experts from various fields, drawing from GRIPS' extensive policy research network.
- *GRIPS Forum* invites leaders and experts from various fields to speak in online events that are open to the public.



GRIPS Forum online

- GRIPS Webinar and GRIPS Forum content is actively disseminated through GRIPS' official YouTube channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/user/GRIPSJAPAN>

(5) Campus safety measures

- An automatic temperature detector is in place at the first and third floor entrances to measure the temperature of each person entering the building.



- The campus is regularly disinfected with alcohol.