Public Finance Program (PF)

Purpose of the Program

The Public Finance Program (based on requests from the World Customs Organization and the World Bank) is a degree program whose objective is to provide students with the combined academic and practical education aimed at developing broad understanding of the theoretical, empirical, legal, and institutional aspects of customs and tax policy implementation and administration. Upon graduation, students are expected to play an active role in tax and customs policies in developing countries.

Diploma Policy

This program confers a degree in Public Finance (Master of Public Finance) on students who have been enrolled for at least the designated number of years; have acquired the designated number of credits based on the curriculum of the program; have written and given a presentation on research papers on specific subjects, and have passed that process.

In this program, <u>students should acquire the following qualities and abilities</u>:

1. The ability to understand economic theory and implications behind public policies in general, tax and customs policies, in particular.
2. The ability to identify problems and evaluate public policies, customs and tax policies in particular, using various qualitative and statistical techniques, so as to make policy implications.
3. The ability to understand the administrative, institutional, and legal aspects in the historical context surrounding public policies in general, tax and customs policies in particular, so as to provide practical solutions in reforming tax or customs administration in respective countries.
4. The ability to write a thesis to investigate a theoretical issue, policy problem, administrative issue, or historical situation in the area of public finance and present their findings.
5. The ability to have a deep understanding of different values and systems in a global society and to play an active role as a balanced leader.

Curriculum Policy

【Basic Policy】

The Public Finance Program, in cooperation with the Customs Research Institute (Customs Course) or the National Tax Administration Agency (Tax Course), fosters human resources who have advanced expertise in both theory and practice of tax/customs policy and administration, and who can analyze data and translate it into effective policy formulation and implementation through economics-oriented academic training combined with the practical training in the relevant field.

【Structure of the Curriculum】

This program is a 12 month (Tax Course) to 13 month (Customs Course) program whose curriculum consists of required courses, highly recommended elective courses, and other elective courses.

The program starts with the focused teaching of core economics courses which are either required or highly recommended elective courses, followed by a range of applied courses in economics, as well as in other disciplines all related to policy studies. Students are given guidance at the time of enrollment as to the relationships among the courses offered so that students will understand the rationale behind the learning sequence and gain perspectives on the ultimate goal, the masters' thesis. Also, along the way, students are provided with multiple sessions of small-group guidance to discuss potential topics and methodology of the thesis. On the other hand, courses specialized in tax/customs, which are also required, are offered throughout the year to integrate practical experience with their formal academic learning.

(Required Courses)

The required courses include microeconomics and public finance which provide students with the basic theoretical foundation in economics to understand any advanced courses related to public finance and other applied courses in economics. They also include writing of masters' thesis which enables students to learn how to conduct economic research by fully utilizing the technical and theoretical knowledge learnt during the course of the program.

The required courses also include specialized courses in tax/customs which provide expertise knowledge with regard to legal, institutional, historical, and administrative aspects of tax/customs. Part of these specialized courses are practicums which involve workshops given by various administrators and practitioners, visits to regional tax/customs bureaus, thus enabling students to integrate these practical knowledge with their formal academic learning.

Students are also required to take courses that teach them basic knowledge one needs to know about public policy as an administrative officer in the international arena, in addition to courses on academic ethics and academic English writing skills. These courses are required courses for all master students who study at GRIPS. As can be seen, the curriculum focuses on not only acquiring knowledge but also developing well balanced individual who can play an active role as a leader in a society.

(Elective Courses)

The highly recommended elective courses, also build around the field of economics, provide students with the advanced theoretical and statistical knowledge that, together with the required courses, constitute the core of the program necessary for the students to become leaders in tax/customs.

In addition, students can choose any elective courses freely throughout the year out of vast number of courses offered at GRIPS in various academic areas ranging from public administration, political science, international relations, and any of the interdisciplinary fields to deepen and expand their knowledge.

【Policies on Education and Study Methods】

Of the 36 credits required to complete this program, 10 credits (for Tax Course) or 12 credits (for Customs Course) need to come from the specialized courses either in tax/customs.   These specialized courses are conducted not only in the form of lectures, but also in terms of seminars, group-based workshop, or visits to local tax/customs related workplaces to gain practical knowledge in the relevant field.

Even for the courses that are offered in the form of lectures, most are conducted in small groups. Each year, <u>more than 30% of the lectures has 10 or fewer students, and another 30% or more has 11 to 20 students.</u>

Therefore, students are required not only to gain knowledge through passive learning, but also encouraged to actively participate in discussions in lectures and seminars and to theoretically integrate their practical experience and knowledge with new knowledge, thereby deepening their understanding and enhancing the quality of learning.

【**Assessment Policy**】

Course assessments include different forms depending on the nature of the course. They typically include attendance, contribution to the class, assignments, examinations, reports, and presentations. Student is given a grade independent of his or her classmates, but in principle, needs to satisfy the Grade Distribution Guidelines stated in our Assessment Policy.

Admissions Policy

Target Students
The program is designed for mid-career government officials in either tax or customs administration, who show promise of returning to their home countries to apply enhanced knowledge and skills to help and accelerate the pace of economic and social development as experts in the area of tax and customs.
Prior to admission, students should have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a recognized, accredited university of the highest standard, in certifiable good health, and be proficient in English. In addition, they must have at least two years (Customs Course) or three years (Tax Course) of work experiences in the fields of tax/customs.

Evaluation methods and Standards
We screen applicants on the basis of documents submitted, as well as interviews.

[Screening by documents]
The screening process will consider various aspects of applicants such as; academic record and intellectual distinction (study content, grades, accreditation of the university), evaluations by their 2 references, a comprehensive evaluation of past work experiences, promise for management and career growth, originality and sense of purpose for policy issues in the statement of purpose, and their English proficiency.

[Interview]
Applicants are also asked to participate in the automated video interviews where applicants are asked to answer various questions at random. The criteria for screening include the applicant's logic, accuracy, sense of purpose for policy issues, motivation, clarity of their career plans after graduation, evidence of leadership, personal characteristics, and English communication abilities.

Curriculum Map: Public Finance Program (PF)

Category	Course No.	Course Name	Diploma Policy 1 — 1. The ability to understand economic theory and implications behind public policies in general, tax and customs policies, in particular.	Diploma Policy 2 — 2. The ability to identify problems and evaluate public policies, customs and tax policies in particular, using various qualitative and statistical techniques, so as to make policy implications.	Diploma Policy 3 — 3. The ability to understand the administrative, institutional, and legal aspects in the historical context surrounding public policies in general, tax and customs policies in particular, so as to provide practical solutions in reforming tax or customs administration in respective countries.	Diploma Policy 4 — 4. The ability to write a thesis to investigate a theoretical issue, policy problem, administrative issue, or historical situation in the area of public finance and present their findings.	Diploma Policy 5 — 5. The ability to have a deep understanding of different values and systems in a global society and to play an active role as a balanced leader.
I Required Courses	PFP2520E	International Taxation of Japan			○		○
	PFP5010E	Practicum at the National Tax Agency			○		
	PFP2500E	Customs Law			○		○
	PFP5110E	Practicum in Customs Administration I			○		
	PFP5120E	Practicum in Customs Administration II			○		
	PFP5130E	Practicum in Customs Administration III			○		
	PFP5210E	Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement at the Border			○		○
	ECO1000EB	Microeconomics I	○	○			
	ECO3102E	Public Finance I	○	○		○	
	ECO4120E	Thesis Seminar	○	○		○	○
	GEN5010E	Introduction to Public Policy Studies	○			○	○
	GEN5020E	The World and the SDGs				○	○
II Highly Recommended Elective Courses	ECO1060EA	Macroeconomics I	○	○			
	ECO2000EB	Microeconomics II	○	○			
	ECO2020EB	Government and Market	○	○			
	ECO2720EB	Introduction to Applied Econometrics		○		○	
	ECO3103E	Public Finance II	○	○		○	
	ECO3110E	Fiscal Reform in Japan	○	○			
	ECO3120E	Public Finance and Fiscal Policy	○	○			
	ECO3130E	Economics of Tax Policy	○	○		○	
	ECO3160E	Reform of Economic Policy in Japan	○	○			
	ECO3400E	International Trade	○	○			
	ECO3840EB	Development Economics	○	○			
	PAD2560E	Human Resources Management		○			○
III Elective Courses	ECO1600E	Monetary Economics (Money and Banking)	○	○			
	ECO2060EA	Macroeconomics II	○	○		○	
	ECO2610E	Finance and Economic Growth	○	○			
	ECO2760E	Applied Time Series Analysis for Macroeconomics		○		○	
	ECO2770E	Applied Econometrics		○		○	
	ECO2780E	Applied Econometrics Practice		○		○	
	ECO2860E	Poverty Alleviation	○	○			
	ECO2870E	Strategy for Economic Development	○	○			
	ECO2880E	Trade and Industrial Development	○	○			
	ECO3000E	Mathematics for Economic Analysis		○			
	ECO3170E	Labor Economics	○	○			
	ECO3200E	Economics of Law	○	○			
	ECO3450E	International Finance	○	○			
	ECO3510E	Environmental Economics	○	○			
	ECO3530E	Resource and Energy Economics	○	○			
	ECO3610E	Japanese Economy	○	○			
	ECO3710E	Time Series Analysis		○		○	
	ECO3810E	Economic Development of Japan	○	○			
	ECO4110E	Labor and Health Economics	○	○			
	ECO6700E	Advanced Econometrics I		○		○	
	ECO6710E	Advanced Econometrics II		○		○	
	GOV2200EB	International Relations					○
	GOV2210E	International Political Economy					○
	GOV2580E	Structure and Process of Government					○
	GOV3220E	Politics of Global Money and Finance		○			
	PAD2510E	Accounting and Financial Management I			○		
	PAD2580E	Global Governance: Leadership and Negotiation					○
	PAD2670E	Public Expenditure Management			○		
	MOR1030E	Introduction to Data Science		○		○	
	MOR2020E	Data Science in Practice		○		○	
	REG2020E	Local Government Finance			○		
		Courses not listed on this table		○		○	○