

Doctoral Dissertation Requirements of the Graduate School of Political Science, Waseda University

(1) Formal requirements

(i) Unity of the dissertation

- The dissertation must be a single entity, not an assorted collection of papers.

(ii) Compositional elements of the dissertation

- The dissertation must consist of an introduction, main body, and conclusion.
- The introduction must refer to the following:

- a. The question that the doctoral dissertation attempts to answer
- b. A critical examination of prior research on the research topic and the position assumed by the doctoral dissertation
- c. The original aspects of the doctoral dissertation
- d. The research methods used in the research for the doctoral dissertation
- e. The conclusion must show an attempt to answer the question posed in the introduction.
- f. The footnotes or endnotes are indicated appropriately.
- g. A full bibliography of references is included.

(iii) Length of the dissertation

- The length of the dissertation must be suitable. (It must be no more than 200,000 characters in Japanese or 100,000 words in English, or, if it is more than that, it must have a length that is appropriate in light of the research topic.)

(iv) Compliance with research ethics

- The dissertation must not have any inappropriate quotations or issues with plagiarism.
- The dissertation must not have any contents that otherwise breach research ethics.
- If the dissertation has contents that mention a paper previously presented by the author (including as a co-author), it must cite the previous material appropriately and the author must obtain letters of consent from all co-authors.

(2) Review criteria for the doctoral dissertation

- The significance of the dissertation (that it makes a marked academic contribution)
- The originality of the dissertation (new findings, significant differences from prior research, etc.)
- The unity of the dissertation (that it is a single entity that investigates a single research topic overall and is not an assorted collection of papers on mutually unrelated themes)
- It gives a critical examination of prior research
- It clearly demonstrates suitable research methods
- The consistency and coherence of the argument (that the logical structure of the paper is consistent and coherent)
- The volume of the paper and its suitability
- Potential for publication (according to the characteristics particular to the research field)