The production of knowledge depends on objective and subjective elements it occurs in structured environments and in interpersonal relations, is interfered with the power of institutions and people’s ability to collect contributions from different areas of knowledge. This complexity is part of the charms and challenges in research, teaching and extension in Tourism. In this study, we sought to first conduct a survey of theses and dissertations in graduate programs in the State of Rio de Janeiro. The second step consisted of identifying and prioritizing the most important aspects that interact and operate the system for creating, learning and application of knowledge produced in post-graduate programs that have tourism as an object of study. For this step Brazilian experts were consulted in research in tourism: group leaders, program coordinators, experienced tutors. As a result, it was the identification and prioritization of Critical Factors that if well managed and well maintained, enhance the chances of success in tourism research. They can contribute to improve the institutional reviews, whether internal and / or external, and reduce the degree of artificiality and imitation in relation to other areas of knowledge.

KEY WORDS: tourism research, post graduation, indicators, critical success factors.