

University Accreditation Results
(Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for university)

Kyoto City University of Arts



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2014	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2015 – March.31.2022)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the Kyoto City University of Art

Overview

The Kyoto City University of Art (hereafter, the University) has its origin in the Kyoto Prefectural Art School, which was established in 1880 as the first public school of drawing. In 1969, the Kyoto City University of Fine Art and the Kyoto City Junior College of Music merged to establish the Kyoto City University of Art, a university with two faculties, the Faculty of Fine Art and the Faculty of Music. Since then, the University has established a graduate school, which was turned into a local public university corporation in 2012. Currently, the University has two undergraduate education units, the Faculty of Fine Art and the Faculty of Music, and two graduate education units, the Graduate School of Arts and the Graduate School of Music. The Campus is located in Kyoto City in Kyoto Prefecture. The University is carrying out education and research activities according to its founding mission.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2007, the University has developed a system of inviting well-known figures active in different fields to serve as visiting professors. This has contributed to the revitalization of human resources and has enhanced students' academic motivation. In addition, the University has taken initiatives for social cooperation and contribution in various fields, which has proven to be fulfilling. However, the University also has issues in its educational methods (at the level of graduate education, in particular) to address. JUAA hopes that the University will make improvements.

Notable Strengths

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- It is commendable that the University has made efforts to motivate students to study and make itself better known to the public. For example, in August 2012, following the mid-term plan, the University created a system for inviting visiting professors. So far, the University has invited thirteen well-regarded figures to have special lectures and concerts. The concerts were well attended as well, making the University more notable and visible.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has obtained good results in its social cooperation and contribution. In particular, the University has developed the "Project to Cultivate Young and Energetic Artists" in collaboration with Kyoto Art Center. The project invites art directors and artists who are active internationally to cultivate young, energetic artists. Through the program, the University has made contributions to the development of local art and culture by holding special lectures by the invited lecturers and "talk events" in which guests speak with moderators. Moreover, the University has held public lectures on traditional music and exhibits to display artifacts and designs created by Japanese and French students. Both of these projects are rooted in Kyoto culture and take advantage of the University's strengths, and it is commendable that the University has developed such fulfilling projects. Both exemplify social cooperation and contribution through university activities in various fields, including those focused on international issues. Further, the University has made an excellent effort to publicize its lectures and events and disseminate the information by hiring people with work experience in the advertising industry, publishing a new event information journal entitled "Gallery

and Concert Guide,” and enriching its home page. These efforts have been very successful, as the number of event participants has increased.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The policy on degree award in the Faculty of Music and the Graduate School of Music do not specify learning outcomes at the time of program completion. This should be improved. In these programs, curriculum design policies do not state the basic ideas for educational content and methods. This situation should be improved consistent with the policy on degree award. Moreover, the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Arts does not define its policy on degree award and curriculum design policy. The Graduate School of Music defines these policies only at the level of Graduate School. This situation should be improved by each master’s or doctoral program defining these policies.
- In the master’s course in the Graduate School of Arts and the Graduate School of Music, credits earned by taking undergraduate classes are allowed to be counted as credits for the completion of master’s course; however, the University has not clarified the ways to evaluate graduate students who take these undergraduate classes. This situation should be improved from the perspective of quality assurance of education.
- The Faculty of Fine Arts does not stipulate the maximum number of credits students can register for per year for the third and fourth year students. The Faculty of Music has set the number high at sixty. This situation should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.
- The master’s course of the Graduate School of Arts and the master and doctoral course of the Graduate School of Music have not clarified the criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and dissertations. This situation should be improved by each program clarifying and stating its criteria in the student handbooks such as the “Registration Guidelines.”
- In the doctoral course of the Graduate School of Arts and the Graduate School of Music, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the University before completing their dissertation requirement within the time limit set by the University. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have enrollment status, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students who earn the degrees within the time limit. This is not an appropriate use of the system. The University needs to reconsider the ways to administrate their course-based doctoral course, and in accordance with the purpose of course-based doctoral course, the University should improve the situation by creating measures to ensure the degree completion within the required time frame.

Enrollment

- The doctoral program of Graduate School of Arts does not define its admission policies. Although the Graduate School as a whole has such admission policies, both master’s and doctoral course should formulate separate student admission policies. This situation should be corrected.

Area of Serious Concern*Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome*

- The master's program in the Graduate School of Music has not formulated research instruction plans. This situation must be corrected by giving guidance for research and writing degree-seeking theses based on the research guidance plans.