

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

Fukui Prefectural University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Fukui, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2016	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2017 – March.31.2024)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results For Fukui Prefectural University

Overview

Fukui Prefectural University (hereafter, the University) originated with the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Biotechnology in 1992. Several faculties and graduate schools were added later, and currently, the University has four faculties (economics, biotechnology, marine science and technology, and nursing and social welfare sciences) and three graduate schools (economics and business administration, bioscience and biotechnology, and nursing and social welfare science). After becoming a university governed by a public university corporation in 2007, the University has engaged in education and research at the Eiheiiji Campus in Eiheiiji Town, Fukui Prefecture, and the Obama Campus with the Faculty of Marine science and technology in Obama-City, Fukui Prefecture.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2009, the University, under the leadership of the Management Council and the Education and Research Council, has carried out its midterm plan; evaluated its outcomes and made improvements in order to conduct cutting-edge education and research, cultivate persons of talent in international settings, and contribute to local communities. The outcomes include establishing a career center to strengthen student support and making an active contribution to local communities. With all faculty members and staff working together towards these efforts, positive results are expected in the future.

The current accreditation review has identified two notable features of the University: its pragmatic education, which introduces career-based subjects across the University beginning in the first year that incorporate collaboration with companies and organizations in the prefecture; and its efforts for social contribution, in which it shares the outcomes of research performed by its research guidance with local communities. In the future, the University is expected to make systematic efforts to publicize these features to a wider audience.

However, the University faces a number of challenges. The objectives of each of the faculties and graduate schools are undefined in the regulations, and a number of graduate schools have not formulated a schedule for research guidance and have failed create criteria for examining the degree-seeking thesis. An inadequate admission policy is also another concern. The University is expected to work on these challenges in order to continue its development.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has made efforts to realize its vision of being “a University open to the public and collaborative with local communities.” For example, every year faculties and centers hold open lectures on economics, biotechnology, nursing, culture and United Nations-related matters that attract many people from the community. Also, the Dinosaur Research Institute helps enhance dinosaur research in Japan and promotes international research as well. Furthermore, the Bio Incubation Center tackles revitalizing local biotechnology industries in various ways, including serving as consultants in fermentation technology. These two institutes not only collaborate with domestic and international universities and research institutes, but also actively work with companies and local authorities to carry out research that makes full use of unique local natural resources and research resources that are distinctive to the University.

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and Purpose

- As noted in the previous accreditation review, faculties and graduate schools do not stipulate their objectives in the school regulations. This should be improved.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- The Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration and the Graduate School of Nursing and Social Welfare Science do not clearly state their criteria for hiring faculty members who can teach graduate courses. This needs to be improved.

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The criteria for examining the degree-seeking thesis are not stated in the Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration. These criteria should be stated in the Graduate School's student handbook.

Enrollment

- The Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration and the Graduate School of Bioscience and Biotechnology have their own admission policies, but these are not stipulated in each of their master's and doctoral programs. This should be improved.
- In the Master's Program of Economics and Business Administration, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.48. This should be improved.

Area of Serious Concern

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- In the Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration and the Graduate School of Bioscience and Biotechnology, research instruction plans have not been formulated. This situation must be corrected by offering, based on research instruction plans, instruction for both conducting research and writing up theses and dissertations.