

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

Kansai University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Osaka, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2025	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2033)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kansai University

Overview

Kansai University is a large-scale, multidisciplinary institution that has built up its history and accomplishments under the motto (philosophy) “Harmony between Academia & Society” for more than 100 years since its founding in 1922. Not resting on tradition, the University strives to upgrade its research and education to achieve the medium- to long-term vision in Kandai Vision 150.

Regarding internal quality assurance, the activities and structure of the Institutional Research Project are notable. The project actively supports the University’s quality assurance and improvement efforts, including organizing and visualizing teaching and learning institutional research (IR) data upon instructions and requests from the university-wide responsible body, the Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Project (Internal Quality Assurance Promotion Committee since AY2025; hereinafter, the “Internal Quality Assurance Project”), and reporting the survey results to faculty meeting bodies and executives, along with proposals for improvement. It is highly commendable that these activities substantially contribute to the University’s educational activities as they cover a wide range from curriculum improvement to individual faculty members, and organically connect university-wide, organizational, and member levels. The Institutional Research Project was rebranded the Institutional Research Advancement Committee in AY2025, and it is commendable that a robust personnel structure has been established with a considerable number of full-time faculty members assigned to the Division for Promotion of Educational Development to provide assistance.

As for education, the University has formulated the unique indicator of “think and act” capabilities as the Kansai University "Think and Act" competency (hereinafter, "Think and Act" competency). To materialize the capabilities, the University visualizes student learning achievements using its own feedback system and utilizes them for a wide range of educational programs.

There are other notable strengths in addition to the above. In terms of campus life and student support, Coordinator, Students with Disabilities are assigned to provide learning support for students with disabilities by conducting specifically designed individual consultations and briefing sessions, while the ASHINOHA-CLUB,

established as a place where scholarship students can interact with one another, has built networks across faculties and school years, and organizes sports day and new student welcome events to help create and maintain student-led exchange opportunities. The University actively conducts the Volunteer Experience Program, cleanup, and other activities led by the Center for Volunteer service. It also promotes student peer support activities, and organizes and supports purpose-driven communities. As for faculty and staff members, the University adopts personnel measures to support the recruitment of female and foreign national faculty members as it strives to promote diversity, while introducing a system that allows faculty members to ask research assistants for support during life events such as childbirth, childcare, and nursing care. The above initiatives highlight the University's notable strengths recognized in many areas.

There are areas of improvement and recommendations the University should address, however. Some graduate schools have low ratios of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. Enrollment rates have seen a gradual rise with Ph.D. students supported through a human resources development project selected by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and other initiatives, but the situation remains far from satisfactory. Moreover, one graduate school fails to separately specify the learning outcomes and other items in its diploma and curriculum policies for each degree, and this issue must be addressed.

In the years ahead, the University is expected to work to resolve these issues through active operation of its internal quality assurance system, while further advancing its numerous excellent initiatives.

Outstanding Initiatives

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Institutional Research Project, which operates in coordination with the Internal Quality Assurance Project, contributes to decision-making on internal quality assurance at the university-wide level by assigning a considerable number of full-time faculty members to the Division for Promotion of Educational Development that plays a supporting role, and by conducting multifaceted student surveys to visualize learning outcomes and behavior. The Institutional Research Project directly reports the visualized survey results, along with proposals and other comments, to the faculty councils and executive committees, thereby

providing improvement support that meets campus needs and organically connecting the university-wide level of internal quality assurance with divisional and individual levels. In addition, the efforts of the Institutional Research Project to visualize learning outcomes based on student surveys help promote learning tailored to individual students and substantially contribute to enhancing the University's education and learning outcomes. These are outstanding initiatives that can serve as a reference for other universities.

Notable Strengths

Teaching and Learning

- The qualities, skills, and abilities to materialize “think and act” capabilities are categorized and defined as Think and Act Competency. With this competency used to measure learning outcomes, students can compare their achievement level against the faculties as a whole through the University's unique feedback system, and advice provided at each level of achievement helps students set their next learning targets. Moreover, the “CANPRO MAP” organizes and lists a variety of Co-curricular Programs according to “Think and Act” competency, and is linked to the feedback system to facilitate students' selection of programs based on the skills they wish to develop. The Institutional Research Project has achieved successful outcomes, working carefully over a long period of time to connect these efforts started in a limited range to each division in order to elevate them to university-wide initiatives. This achievement is commendable as an effective approach to supporting and promoting student learning.

Faculty and Faculty Organization

- As for faculty recruitment, the University has adopted a personnel measure at the president's discretion to bring forward by two years a plan to hire women and foreign national faculty members, with multiple women recruited since the plan's introduction in AY2022. It is commendable that this initiative is part of the University's efforts to promote gender and nationality diversity in its faculty members in line with the policy goals of Kandai Vision 150, and to ensure organizational stability through new recruitment to secure top talent before the current members retire.

Student Support

- To provide learning assistance for students with disabilities, Coordinator, Students with Disabilities are assigned to offer support tailored to types of disabilities through individual consultations. To improve the quality of support, briefing sessions are regularly held between learning assistants and students receiving support, with opinions shared by student support staff and students with disabilities leading to better services. These are commendable initiatives in line with the policy goals of Kandai Vision 150 to provide appropriate support that meets student needs based on the common understanding of people with disabilities and learning assistants.
- The ASHINOHA-CLUB has operated since 2015 as a place where scholarship students can interact with one another, and social gatherings are held twice a year for alumni and supporters. Other social events organized since AY2023 offer new exchange opportunities such as sports day and new student welcome events led by student staff. It is commendable that these initiatives develop networks across faculties and school years as well as beyond supportive relationships, with students gaining various insights and inspiration for learning.
- The Center for Volunteer service plays a central role in actively undertaking various volunteer activities, including the Volunteer Experience Program that welcomes first-timers and programs planned and managed by students. Student peer support activities are expanding support networks among students through multiple communities created to engage in different initiatives, and provide students with valuable learning opportunities by fostering their social skills and teamwork abilities. These are commendable initiatives in line with the University's philosophy of "Harmony between Academia & Society" (Standard 7: Student Support).

Education and Research Environment

- To address the challenge of faculty members securing and maintaining their research time during life events such as childbirth, childcare, and nursing care, the

University has introduced a system that allows faculty members to ask research assistants for support in the first or second semester of each academic year, depending on the status of childrearing or caregiving. The University conducts surveys of research assistants to confirm and manage their assigned tasks, faculty members' work management status, experiences gained through the tasks, and other aspects, with the system facilitating improvements. It is commendable that the University not only focuses on ways to support research but makes constant efforts for improvement as well.

Suggestions for Improvement

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.25 in the Graduate School of Law (Ph.D. Degree Program). The graduate school is taking steps to promote internal advancement and student recruitment overseas, while providing support for Ph.D. students through A Kansai University Doctoral Program's Pioneering and Innovative Research Talent Development Project, which was selected in AY2021 for JST's Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING). These initiatives have helped gradually improve enrollment quota fulfillment, but enrollment remains insufficient. Efforts should be continued to produce positive results.

Recommendation

Teaching and Learning

- The master's and Ph.D. degree programs in the Graduate School of Science and Engineering allow students to earn degrees in science and engineering based on their majors, but the diploma and curriculum policies fail to separately specify the learning outcomes and other items required for each degree. This issue must be addressed.