

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

Kyoto Seika University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kyoto Seika University

Overview

Kyoto Seika University conducts educational and research activities based on its founding spirit of “freedom and autonomy” and philosophy comprised of the “Foundational Principles of Kyoto Seika University,” “Educational Responsibility of Kyoto Seika University,” and “Management Responsibility of Kyoto Seika University.” To achieve its principles and purpose, and the objectives of its faculties and graduate schools, the University formulated Vision 2024 Seika in 2018 with the target academic year of 2024, and is undertaking reforms centered on five visions, including a “university of expression” and “liberal arts university.”

Regarding the University’s education, all faculties and graduate schools appropriately design their curricula based on the diploma and curriculum policies. Graduation theses and projects required of all undergraduate students are screened by multiple faculty members using a rubric as indicated in the diploma policy. To award degrees, the graduate schools adopt various approaches to evaluate graduation projects objectively and fairly. For example, students are encouraged to present their graduation work at presentations or exhibitions as opportunities for social engagement while their work is reviewed by multiple faculty members. Master’s theses are examined through peer reviews and public final report sessions. The syllabuses are checked by department officials responsible for course planning, with adjustments made to ensure the educational content is appropriate for the student learning process.

In addition, the University offers the Faculty of Manga and the Graduate School of Manga, and has established the International Manga Research Center to conduct surveys and research on manga in Japan and abroad while collaborating with international projects. These efforts to enhance international networks are notable. The Center for Africa-Asia Contemporary Culture Studies also actively promotes research in cooperation with overseas universities. It is highly commendable that the University takes advantage of its distinctive research approaches to produce positive outcomes. Moreover, the Consortium of Universities in Kyoto, of which the University is a member, offers the Kyoto Museum PBL (Project-Based Learning) Course at the Kyoto International Manga Museum. The course is designed to foster students’ communication skills and generate ideas through the problem-solving

process and interactions with students from other universities. It is commendable that the University willingly utilizes its educational resources for purposes other than research. Furthermore, the University has newly built “Aichi-kan” and “Meiso-kan” facilities to help students actively engage in creative activities, and is improving the educational and research environment with the aim of expanding the opportunities for students to present the outcomes of their studies.

There are several issues the University needs to address, however. Research guidance methods and schedules as research guidance plans are not specified for the graduate schools’ master’s and Ph.D. programs, and the student enrollment quota has not been fulfilled in some departments. These situations should be corrected. Moreover, with the University’s internal quality assurance regulations and system in place, repeated revisions do not necessarily lead to the implementation of self-study, and there are no records of improvements made based on the results of inspections and assessments led by the Self-Study Implementation Committee (hereafter, the “Implementation Committee”). It is therefore difficult to describe university-wide teaching and learning management as functioning properly. In addition, there are multiple organizations responsible for internal quality assurance, and the functions of the Self-Study Steering Committee (hereafter, the “Steering Committee”), Implementation Committee, Board of Executive Trustees, and Teaching and Learning Management Meeting are unclear. The University is working to identify the problems to be addressed and undertake improvements, but the development of an effective internal quality assurance system is an urgent task. The University must organize the roles of each organization and make the university-wide committees aware of the importance of the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle in properly operating and implementing the system.

In the coming years, the University should swiftly address these issues to effectively operate the internal quality assurance system, and organically incorporate the results of student surveys, faculty development (FD) activities, the External Evaluation Committee, and other aspects to conduct more in-depth assessments, thereby further enhancing its ongoing distinctive initiatives.

Notable Strengths

Education and Research Environment

- The Faculty of Manga and the Graduate School of Manga carry out surveys and

studies related to manga in Japan and abroad at the International Manga Research Center, and widely disseminate the outcomes through the Kyoto International Manga Museum while collaborating with overseas academic organizations. The Center for Africa-Asia Contemporary Culture Studies conducts joint research on Africa's manga culture with the International Manga Research Center, and publishes the outcomes through exhibitions and other events. The center is also actively working to expand its international networks through exchanges with overseas universities. It is commendable that these efforts are contributing to progressive research outcomes as the University utilizes its distinctive features based on the strategy of "Becoming a Center to Disseminate Knowledge and Expressions Worldwide."

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The graduate schools monitor and evaluate student learning outcomes based on the screening of dissertations in the Ph.D. programs, and master's theses and projects in the master's programs. However, the connections between the learning outcomes stated in the diploma policies and the measurement methods are unclear in the Ph.D. Program in Art, Master's Program in Design, Master's Program in Manga, Ph.D. Program in Manga, and Master's Program in Humanities. This issue should be addressed.

Student Enrollment

- In AY2022, the Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Art, recorded a low average ratio of 0.81 in freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap over the past five years, and a low ratio of 0.84 in student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. These ratios should be improved with the faculty's student quotas thoroughly managed.

Recommendation

Internal Quality Assurance

- The University inspects and assesses its faculties, graduate schools, and other programs through an internal quality assurance system led by the Implementation Committee and the Steering Committee. However, there are no records kept on the responses based on the results, such as instructions for improvement issued by the president and support from the Implementation Committee. The Teaching and Learning Management Meeting and the Board of Executive Trustees are effectively in charge of the University's quality assurance efforts, and the roles of the organizations involved in internal quality assurance are not sufficiently structured, with the Board of Executive Trustees sometimes taking on the role of the Steering Committee due to overlapping members. This situation indicates that the University's internal quality assurance system is seriously flawed. The roles of each organization involved in internal quality assurance should be laid out to ensure the system functions effectively.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The research guidance methods and schedules as research guidance plans are not specified for the Master's Program in Art, Master's Program in Design, Master's Program in Manga, and Master's Program in Humanities. This situation should be corrected with the items defined and clarified for students beforehand through the University's publications, website, and other means.