

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

Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences



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| Basic Information of the Institution | |
| Ownership: Public | Location: Gifu, 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 Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences

Overview

The Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Science (hereafter, the Institute) was established in 2001 in Ogaki city, Gifu Prefecture as a part of the prefecture's Softopia Project, which aims to create a base for the information technology industry centered around the Softopia Japan Center in the Seino area. With the "fusion of science, technology, and art" as its founding idea, the Institute consists of one graduate school of media creation that advances education and research activities.

Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) conducted a review of the Institute for accreditation in 2007, suspended its decision, and reviewed the Institute again in 2010, resulting in its accreditation. During the present year, JUAA reaffirmed the second accreditation. After the previous accreditation review, the Institute took measures to cultivate an environment conducive to a well-rounded education, with research guidance by multiple faculty members and unique collaboration with the local community. However, there have been several issues hindering progress. For example, the policy on degree award and other policies are not clearly documented. Various reviews are only taking place during regular faculty member meetings, and the power and procedures of the organization are not clearly defined. Also, more appropriate support is required, particularly for adult working students. All of these issues should be improved. While the improvement of the problematic situation that caused the suspension of the accreditation decision in the previous review was validated in the rereview in 2010, it is still necessary for the Institute to clarify various policies as an institution, and to develop an effective system of internal quality assurance to improve the quality of education.

Notable Strengths

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- It is commendable that the Institute actually practices the founding idea of the "fusion of science, technology, and art" in its education by setting "Special Research" subjects and a "Special Research Consultation Period." In these subjects and consultation period, students are able to receive education and research guidance from multiple faculty members to get broader views and have opportunities to research in several interdisciplinary fields. Special Research also encourages faculty to improve their teaching methods.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the Institute has carried out various social collaboration efforts and made social contributions. For example, it has conducted a wide variety of activities at prefectural, municipal, and nongovernmental levels, including research funded by businesses, joint research, open lecture series, forums, various lectures for high school students, and other collaborative activities with the local community. At the Gifu-Ogaki Biennial, which is one of the notable activities the Institute has been actively and regularly involved in, the Institute raises interest in science and technology through art. Through such artistic expression of technology, the Institute has made its own contributions to society.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome

- The policy for awarding degrees has not been clearly defined, and thus, it should be stipulated and made known to the public.
- The curriculum design policy has not been clearly defined, therefore it should be stipulated and made known to the public.
- Many of the incoming students are working adults, and thus, a measure to enable planned study could be considered. This issue should be solved systematically.
- The contents of the syllabi vary in their specificities. For example, in some classes, detailed lesson plans and students' achievement goals are not clearly defined, making it difficult for students to meet the requirements. The contents of certain syllabi should be more specific.

Education and Research Environment

- In regards to the regulations on research ethics, the Institute's utilization of the ethical regulations for prefectural officials is not sufficient considering the characteristics of higher education. The Institute's own ethical regulations should be developed.

Internal Quality Assurance

- The self-study exercise is supposed to be conducted once in every several years, but the exact interval period has not been decided. Various reviews take place only at occasions such as regular faculty member meetings, and the power and procedures of the program of evaluation are not clearly defined. This situation is not appropriate for the regular self-study, and should be improved.