

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

Musashino Art University



<b>Basic Information of the Institution</b>	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
<b>Accreditation Status</b>	
Year of the Review: 2015	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2016 – March.31.2023)	

## Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Musashino Art University

### Overview

Musashino Art University (hereafter, the University), whose predecessor was Teikoku Art School (established in 1929), was founded as a university in 1962. Following a period of establishing and reforming faculties and graduate schools, the University currently includes the College of Art and Design, the College of Art and Design for correspondence course, and the Graduate School of Art and Design with master's and doctoral degree programs. The University built its Takanodai campus in 1961 in what is now Kodaira City, Tokyo, and has been carrying out education and research activities according to its founding mission of “producing artists of well-rounded erudition.”

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2008, the University has made the enrichment of graduate school education the most important point for self-study. Following the suggestion of the University's president, it has built a system for improvement by establishing the “Future Vision in Graduate School Exploration Committee” in May 2011. The University has worked for improvements and reforms by holding university-wide workshops and issuing a survey questionnaire survey on the “graduate school” that targeted the entire graduate student population as well as full-time faculty members.

This accreditation review has noted efforts by the University such as the introduction of special full-time faculty members to develop a variety of subjects connected to real-life cutting-edge practices, which has contributed to improvements in education and research as well as students' motivation to learn. In the Museum and Library, a sophisticated database system has been developed that enables integrated and cross-sectional searching of materials such as books, arts, images, and folk arts. The database is used not only for education and research activities, but also by the general public.

However, the University still has several issues to address, such as the substantiation of the credit system in undergraduate education, making graduate school education transparent and accountable, and administration of the course-based doctoral degree. It is expected that hereafter, based on objective information, the University should improve internal quality assurance by gathering information about the entire university and sharing that information university-wide.

### Notable Strengths

#### *Faculty and Faculty Organization*

- It is commendable that the flexible job appointment system has contributed to improvements in education and research, as well as students' motivation to learn. In order to fulfill the goal of installing faculty members who have “the ability to contribute to developing their own specialties through state-of-the-art research and practical production activities,” the University has vigorously sought to hire creators who are successful in the real world as special full-time faculty members. The University has also installed and developed, both in the curriculum and as extracurricular activities a variety of subjects that are connected to cutting-edge real-world practices.

#### *Student Support*

- It is commendable that the University has established a functional system in which students learn from each other. As a support for students with disabilities, many

students, after taking annual training seminars led by experts, have volunteered as “note takers” who understand expressions unique to the arts and can accurately and swiftly convey instructions from faculty members to disabled students. At the same time, this experience becomes an opportunity for the volunteer students to realize their own growth as they gain greater awareness of society and broaden their perspectives.

- It is commendable that numerous students who have taken the Support Program for Creating the Portfolio have advanced to the arts and design fields (as professionals including designers). The Support Program for Creating the Portfolio has enhanced its quality by inviting lecturers from companies in various industries to advise or comment on students’ portfolios. In addition, since 2013, the University has developed a more effective system to support students aspiring to be creators by transforming the program into the Support Program for Creators.

#### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- It is commendable that the University has made a pioneering effort to develop an integrated and searchable database, the “MAU M&L Cross-search System,” for materials on figurative arts, and has made this database available to the public. With this database, a variety of materials collected and preserved in the Museum and Library have become searchable, and an integrated and cross-sectional search of materials such as arts, books (including rare books), magazines and other publications, images, and folk arts is possible from both inside and outside of the University. The effectiveness of the database has been demonstrated by the fact that these materials have been used extensively in education and research activities.

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

#### *Educational Content, Methods, and Outcome*

- The College of Art and Design does not set the maximum number of credits a student can register for in a year. This should be improved.
- In the graduate schools, research guidance plans are not communicated well to students. This should be improved.
- In the master’s degree program in the Graduate School of Art and Design, criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and graduation work have not been clearly stated. The situation should be improved, by clearly stating in the student handbook and made public.
- In the doctoral degree program in the Graduate School of Art and Design, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the university before completing their dissertation requirement within the time limit set by University. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have the enrollment status, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. This is an inappropriate use of the system that should be corrected. In accordance with the purpose of having doctoral program, the University measure to enhance the degree completion within the required time frame.

*Enrollment*

- The ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is low at 0.60 in the Department of Scenography, Display, and Fashion Design and 0.50 in the Department of Architecture, but high at 1.36 in the Department of Visual Communication Design and 1.33 in the Department of Arts Policy and Management in the College of Art and Design. These numbers should be improved.
- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 2.29 in the master's degree program in the Graduate School of Art and Design. This number should be improved.

*Internal Quality Assurance*

- The system to implement self-study based on objective evidence and to link the results to the self-study of the entire university has not been created. The University should make efforts to create a functional review system for the entire university by incorporating regular reviews of each faculty member and each department, and make the system function towards improvements and reforms.