

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

Nishogakusha University



|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <b>Basic Information of the Institution</b>  |                        |
| Ownership: Private   | Location: Tokyo, Japan |
| <b>Accreditation Status</b>  |                        |
| Year of the Review: 2013   |                        |
| Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2014 – March.31.2021) |                        |

## Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Nishogakusha University

### Notable Strengths

#### *Education and research organization*

- It is commendable that Nishogakusha University (hereafter, the University) has revitalized and strengthened its educational and research activities. In particular, the University has incorporated the opinions not only of faculty and staff members but also of students, graduates, and parents/guardians regarding the direction of “expansion and enlargement of university” in its long-term vision statement of the “N’2020 Plan.” This is very appropriate to the University’s function within society. Based on the vision statement, the University has allowed academic and administrative entities (e.g., the University Reform Examination Meeting) to discuss future plans and reforms and to formulate “action plans,” which offer concrete perspectives and schedules for the steady implementation of the University’s vision.

#### *Student support*

- The University has stated its mission as fostering teaching professions, defined as the “Nishogakusha University Idea of Fostering Schoolteachers,” and, based on this mission, established Support Center of Teacher’s License Acquirement for those who wish to become schoolteachers. The University has appointed former high school teachers of long experience as advisors, offered good preparation programs for teacher certification exams, developed a learning environment for the student teaching practicum, and provided career support. These are commendable as a meticulous and thorough system of support for students. An increasing number of students have used these services and become schoolteachers at the levels of primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary schools. This is a successful outcome of the University’s efforts.

#### *Education and research environment*

- It is commendable that the University has made efforts for making its education and research resources available to the public. In particular, the University has stated that one of its education and research purposes is to cultivate people’s knowledge of eastern cultures. To pursue this aim, it has taken the following initiatives: developing a library collection of the materials concerning studies on oracle bone scripts and on the woodprints and hand-copied documents of the Edo Period that have high academic value; digitalizing these materials; and actively making them public.

#### *Social cooperation and contribution*

- It is commendable that the University has made contributions to society, using its strengths in its studies on Japanese and eastern cultures. For example, by utilizing the strength of the institution that has produced many schoolteachers in the field of Japanese, Chinese, and calligraphy, the University has held in-service courses for current schoolteachers such as “Teacher’s License Renewal Classes” for secondary-school teachers and “Education Research Meetings” for meeting the challenges of Japanese language education. Moreover, in order to widely disseminate the fruits of education and research in these and related areas and give

back to society, the University has very actively held a number of events such as extension classes, open lectures, and symposiums concerning Japanese literature, Chinese literature, international politics and economics, and calligraphy. The University has also stationed overseas coordinators at nine overseas universities in nine countries. It has also promoted research collaboration and exchanges through lectures given overseas and classes offered through the Internet, making contributions, for example, to the study of Japanese Kanbun that is undertaken outside Japan.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### *Mission and purpose*

- The purpose of the establishment of graduate schools as stated in the Graduate School Regulations is the same as the purpose of graduate education as stated in the School Education Law. As such, it does not express the unique mission and purposes of the University. This should be improved.

### *Faculty and faculty organization*

- Although the University has written the Nishogakusha University Constitution and stated its educational mission and purposes, few constant or systematic faculty development activities have taken place to improve the quality of faculty members, whether at the level of the University as a whole or that of each faculty and graduate school. This should be improved.

### *Educational content, methods, and outcome*

- In the Faculty of Literature and the Faculty of International Politics and Economics, there is no limit set for the maximum number of credits for which students can register in their final (i.e., graduation) year. This situation should be improved in accordance with the purpose of having a credit system.
- As an effort for improving the quality of teaching, each faculty and graduate school has conducted course evaluations by students. However, the results have not been used systematically for the improvement of teaching. Moreover, few samples are collected in the graduate schools and the results have not been utilized in any way. It cannot be said that the University has made active efforts for the improvement of teaching methods. This should be improved.
- The Graduate School of Literature and the Graduate School of International Politics and Economics have no clearly written criteria for examining degree-seeking theses and dissertations. This should be improved by having each graduate school clearly state the criteria in the student handbook (and other handbooks).

### *Enrollment*

- The Graduate School of Literature and the Graduate School of International Politics and Economics have formulated their policies to admit students, but have not made them public. This should be improved.
- In the admission-by-recommendation processes, the number of applicants admitted by the Faculty of Literature and the Faculty of International Politics and Economics has greatly exceeded the numbers of expected enrollment advertised in the Entrance

Examination Bulletin. It cannot be said that the University assures a fair opportunity for all applicants and students. This should be improved.

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is high at 1.26 in the Faculty of Literature as a whole, and at 1.26 in the Department of Japanese Literature and at 1.25 in the Department of Chinese Literature in particular. In the Faculty of International Politics and Economics, the average of the ratios of the last five years of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap is high at 1.25. This should be improved.
- In the Masters' program of the Graduate School of International Politics and Economics, the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low. This should be improved.

*Education and research environment*

- No full-time librarian with specialized knowledge has been positioned at the library of the Kashiwa Campus. This should be improved.