

**Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation
for Professional Graduate Business School**

Graduate School of Management, Ritsumeikan University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2020	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2021 – March.31.2026)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Graduate School of Management, Ritsumeikan University

Management Program, Graduate School of Management, Ritsumeikan University (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”) aims to “Develop capable students who contribute to the sustainable development of Japan and the world as leaders who create businesses.” The Program is engaged in training highly specialized professionals in the business field by establishing six educational objectives, such as the acquisition of vast knowledge concerning various aspects of corporate management, the thinking, analytical, and judgment skills necessary for corporate management, and the ability to take an interest in global changes and capable of planning innovations. In AY 2015, the curriculum was significantly reformed, and while switching to the new curriculum consisting of a Management Program mainly for working students and a career development program for graduates and international students without work experience, the Program relocated to the Osaka Ibaraki Campus in the same year and established a system to provide education to working students at the Osaka Umeda Campus. The education and research environment was enhanced on account of this. In 2018, the Program adopted the “R2030 Academy Vision”, the medium-term vision of the Ritsumeikan Academy. The Program’s vision is to produce more capable students who will create businesses in Japan and overseas while rooted in Kansai. In order to accomplish this, the information concerning the graduate school is being presented and advocated for high social approval, so that it can be recognized as an indispensable member of the Kansai business ecosystem open to the world. During the first half of the R2030 Plan (2021-2025), the Program also strengthened the academic areas in International Management, Service, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship and these changes were reflected in the next term’s curriculum. At the same time, their strategy included making improvements in methods of education and learning outcome assessments, expanding the network of graduate schools both domestically and internationally, expanding the enrollment quota for management programs in line with the school-wide enhancement of lifelong learning, and considering and preparing for international certification.

Based on this context, the Program has systematically designed its curriculum to address the six educational objectives. The inclusion of subjects related to business creation, such as “Corporate Analysis” which comprehensively utilizes accounting and strategy theory, and “Marketing Research” which uses actual corporate issues and data

to provide solutions, is distinct. Furthermore, it is commendable that in order to accommodate students with diverse backgrounds, consideration is given to the convenience of students, such as making basic courses available for working students on both weekday nights and weekends on two campuses. Moreover, the Program has established a system that enables continuous use of the facilities such as libraries even after graduation, and has also established the “Auditing Student System” to actively support continuous learning of the graduates. It can be said that the Program’s distinct features also include the faculty’s effective use of the special contract teacher system with a good balance of researchers and practitioners in position, and utilizing the research dedication period under the its use of Ritsumeikan Sabbatical for Working on Research to promote research activities by the faculty members.

While with such distinct features as discussed above, the following issues can be seen.

First, in terms of educational methods, because students with no work experience are accepted into the career development programs, there is a need to strengthen the initiatives further and devise methods to implement them by enhancing the content of the fieldwork subjects and expanding the field of research, etc., to ensure education with significant business practicality.

Second, it is necessary to establish a system that can query the questions from students about their assessment of academic achievement in order to ensure strict assessment. In this regard, although the Program has established a “Grade Confirmation System” based on the university-wide system, inquiries such as those mentioned above are not possible with the system. As such, it is hoped that Program’s own system will be considered.

Thirdly, regarding the ascertainment of learning outcomes, while efforts are being made to implement various surveys and to consider the introduction of rubrics, in addition to achieving educational objectives and satisfaction with the curriculum, further efforts are necessary to assess the educational outcomes and utilize the accreditation results according to specific purposes.

Fourth, the Program has continued to underfill its quota. Although improvement is seen through measures such as obtaining the designation of the “Training and Education Benefits System” from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and establishing independent scholarships in addition to the curriculum reform, improved promotion methods, and promoting its educational value to the local companies as described above, the quota of the Management Program continues to be underfilled. The Program must strive to secure working students, and increase capacity

as specified in the strategy after conducting appropriate quota management.

The Program is aware of some of the above mentioned issues and some activities for improvement are being carried out. Hereafter, based on its vision and strategy, with its ongoing understanding of the trends of the business world and the needs of the students, the Program is expected to continue making improvements and progress and enhance its distinct features while striving to train “leaders who create businesses” and share the results of these endeavors with society.