

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

Otaru University of Commerce, Graduate School of Commerce,  
Major in Entrepreneurship



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: National	Location: Hokkaido, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2018	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2019 – March.31.2024)	

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for Otaru University of Commerce,  
Graduate School of Commerce, Major in Entrepreneurship**

Otaru University of Commerce, Graduate School of Commerce, Major in Entrepreneurship (hereafter, MIE), specifies the objectives of “fostering business innovators who can conceive and develop new business models into entrepreneurial projects, while cultivating business leaders with the ability to increase their knowledge and skills in business management and create new business opportunities.” These objectives have contributed to nurturing people who use a high degree of specialization and depth of knowledge to pursue opportunities and formulate solutions to problems in business, which can be characterized as developing people who will play core roles in business organizations in the future. The objectives also place MIE in a unique position to support Otaru University of Commerce in building a business development platform combining the humanities and sciences in collaboration with industries, local governments and other public-sector organizations, and universities in Hokkaido.

In particular, MIE is expected to contribute to establishing local business networks as the core hub for human resources development for companies in Hokkaido. In this situation, MIE has devised several effective ways of responding to expectations, including aggressively introducing educational content focused on regional contribution in its regular courses and other programs. It is also commendable that as an ongoing effort, MIE verifies the progress of its vision, strategy, and action plans every five years, and reviews and revises the contents as necessary to reform its curriculum. Moreover, the initiative to invite former graduates to participate as class lecturers in response to the wide-ranging academic orientation of its students is commendable as an effective means of providing students with more practical education and maintaining good relationships with its graduates.

In response to globalization of the corporate environment, MIE offers distinctive courses that include “Special Topics I (Intensive Course at Northwestern University).” In this course, MIE students spend one week at Northwestern University in the United States with participants from other universities, and attend lectures at the university’s business school, visit several leading companies in the United States for presentations and Q&A sessions, and complete case study assignments.

The “Intensive Course at Northwestern University” with its highly acclaimed content has been offered as a regular course (“Topics in Corp. Strategic Management H”) at the Institute of Business and Accounting in the Professional Graduate School at Kwansei Gakuin University since the 2016 academic year. It is commendable that some aspects of the course show potential for future growth, including expanded collaboration with other universities.

On the other hand, these distinctive educational initiatives are made possible largely by the contributions of MIE’s faculty members, thus it is desirable that MIE build a system that can sustain these initiatives systematically. It is also expected that MIE will continue its efforts to ensure diversity in the composition of its faculty, such as employing female and foreign faculty members, though this may not be easily given the many issues to consider, including appropriate staff assignment, work experience, and overseas experience.