

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

Osaka University of Economics



<b>Basic Information of the Institution</b>	
Ownership: Private	Location: Osaka, Japan
<b>Accreditation Status</b>	
Year of the Review: 2016	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2017 – March.31.2024)	

## Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the Osaka University of Economics

### Overview

The Osaka University of Economics (hereafter, the University) began as Naniwa Commercial High School, founded in 1932. The University opened under its current name with the Faculty of Economics in 1949. Thereafter, the University has undergone reorganization of new departments, faculties, and graduate schools, and currently has four faculties: the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Business Administration, the Faculty of Information Technology and Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Human Sciences. The University also contains four graduate schools: the Graduate School of Economics (master's program and doctoral program), the Graduate School of Business Administration (master's program), the Graduate School of Business Information System (master's program), and the Graduate School of Human Sciences (master's program). The University has three campuses (the Osumi campus and Kitahama campus in Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture, and the Settsu campus in Settsu City, Osaka Prefecture) and has conducted education and research activities based on the founding spirit of "freedom and harmony."

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA), the University developed a policy for creating a new internal quality assurance system, and since 2014 the University has worked on the development and implementation of this system. Specifically, the Self-Inspection Steering Committee examines "The Report on Self-Inspection, Self-Evaluation, Target Setting, and Progress," which indicates objectives, progress, tasks and improvement measures set by each organizational unit from the viewpoint of the entire university and makes the results public.

The University has implemented several programs to enhance student experiences, including a training camp for first year students that develops human relationships and nurtures relationship skills, and the "Seminar-1 Grand Prix," an annual competition involving the presentation of research outcomes in seminars across the university that helps students broaden their views and maximize their seminar activities. These efforts are distinguishing features of the University. It is also commendable that the Institute for Research in the Economic History of Japan and the Institute of Small Business and Business Administration promote research on economic history, small enterprises, and management. Furthermore, "Kisanji-juku School," a weekly event to promote the health of the elderly, and "Daikaidai (an abbreviated form of the school name in Japanese) Kids College" both enhance the exchange between the University and the local community and make significant contributions to society.

However, several issues must be addressed. For example, the policies on degree award in the Faculty of Business Administration and some graduate schools are insufficient in their content. Additionally, the criteria for examining master's theses and specific assignments are not clearly differentiated in the master's program of the Graduate School of Management, and the enrollment caps in several graduate schools are not fulfilled. These issues should be improved.

### Notable Strengths

#### *Education and Research Organization*

- It is commendable that the University has established unique research institutes, and that these institutes actively return their research outcomes to society. For example, in an effort to realize its teaching philosophy, "human practical learning," the Institute for Research in the Economic History of Japan has collected

significant historical materials concerning the research of economic history of both Japan in the world and Japan in Asia in order to enrich the research of economic history. In addition, the Institute of Small Business Research and Business Administration, as a specialized research institute on small enterprises, also engages in leading-edge activities in the field of small business research and business research.

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

- It is commendable that first-year education in the Faculty of Human Sciences includes the “studying humans from various viewpoints,” an educational objective of the faculty which compels students to be active in learning the knowledge and theory of how to develop meaningful human relationships. First-year students in the Faculty of Human Sciences take a compulsory subject, “Theory and Practice of Human Relations,” to learn theories of human relations development and communication before participating in the training camp, thus making it possible to effectively enhance both human relationship development and interpersonal skills. It is also commendable that the participation of second, third, and fourth-year students as volunteer staff creates valuable opportunities to practice building relationships and learning collaboration skills. This becomes an effective learning experience for the both parties.
- It is commendable that seminar activities are thriving, as expressed in the phrase “Daikeidai, well known for seminars.” In particular, the “Seminar-1 Grand Prix,” which is a competition for all faculties, gives students an opportunity to demonstrate the outcome of seminar work. It is also commendable that this event is carried out by a steering committee composed of student volunteers, with many cooperative individuals, such as businessmen and women and faculty members, serving as judges. The highly ranked prizewinners can participate in an intercollegiate presentation event among universities in western Japan. This event does not only help student maximize their seminars activities, but also learn how to perform research in wide-ranging fields and broaden their perspectives.

#### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- It is commendable that the University has made contributions to the region and society by making students involved and strengthening the local community through various activities. In particular, the University promotes exchanges with the local community via the “Kisanji-juku,” weekly events that promote good health of the elderly, and the “Daikeidai Kids College,” which provides sports instruction and supports learning. The Kids’ College offers local primary school students sport classes where University students instruct them, and “Daikeidai classes” where teacher education students provide learning support for participants. In the “Kisanji-juku,” students instruct older adults in exercise to support their health, while individuals who have taken the classes hold events in the annual school festival or during other seasonal opportunities. Thus, the university and local residents are interactive in promoting mutual experiences.

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

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

- In the Faculty of Business Administration, the master’s and doctoral programs in the Graduate School of Economics, and the master’s program in the Graduate School of Human Sciences, the policy on degree award does not indicate learning

outcomes, such as knowledge and skills required for the completion of the program. This should be improved.

- The criteria for master's theses and the research report on specific assignments are not differentiated in the master's program in the Graduate School of Business Administration. Individual criteria for each should be developed.

#### *Enrollment*

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.15 in the master's program in the Graduate School of Economics, 0.45 in the master's program in the Graduate School of Human Sciences, and 0.17 in the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Economics. These numbers should be improved.