

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

The International University of Kagoshima



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kagoshima, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2019	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1.2020 – March 31.2027)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the International University of Kagoshima

Overview

The founding principles of the International University of Kagoshima (hereinafter referred to as the “University”) are to “harmonize Eastern and Western cultures” and “contribute to the local community.” In the Tsumagari Academy and University Mid-term Vision 2017-2021 formulated based on these principles (hereinafter referred to as the “Mid-term Vision”), the University defines its core missions as “to nurture individuals capable of thinking from a global perspective and contribute to the local community” and “to nurture individuals capable of supporting the lives of local people throughout their lifetime,” and currently implements education and research in line with these core missions.

With regard to internal quality assurance, the University has established a Self-Study Steering Committee with six Self-Study Implementation Subcommittees as subsidiary bodies. These subcommittees review the self-study activities of the secretariat, relevant committees, faculties, and graduate schools. The Self-Study Steering Committee compiles a General Summary of the Self-Study Report Evaluation Results (hereinafter referred to as the “General Summary”) that summarizes the subcommittees’ findings. However, the Self-Study Steering Committee does not provide adequate support with regard to improvement measures taken in response to the self-study results. Therefore, the University should clarify the procedures of internal quality assurance, provide the appropriate support for improvement measures in line with those procedures, and check/evaluate the appropriateness of the internal quality assurance system.

Regarding education, the University’s faculties, departments, and graduate schools have established and announced their degree award policies (diploma policies) and curriculum design and implementation policies (curriculum policies) in line with the characteristics of their field of academic study. The current curriculum, which was organized in 2016, features a curriculum map that indicates the correlation between the degree award policy and each subject, as well as a university-wide numbering code system that indicates the position of each subject within the relevant field of academic study. These features visualize the systematic nature and order of the subjects in the curriculum. In terms of educational methods, the Mid-term Vision and the university-wide curriculum design and implementation policy clearly indicate the intention to promote active learning, and the number of classes adopting active learning has increased.

It is noteworthy that the University has enhanced the quality of small-group tuition by assigning student assistants (hereinafter referred to as “SAs”) to first-year student seminars, among other classes.

Notable initiatives have been implemented to reduce the dropout rate. Specifically, the University has developed a learning support system for appropriately grasping the situation of students with poor grades or who need to repeat a year, or who wish to take leave or quit, and providing them with support and guidance. In addition, homeroom teachers, faculty members in charge of seminars, and learning support staff offer guidance and advice, and support is also provided in cooperation with the aforementioned SAs. The University assigns dedicated tutors and supporters to support international students in study- and life-related matters. Furthermore, the University encourages international students to actively participate in local exchange events, thereby providing them with many opportunities to experience Japanese culture. Furthermore, it is highly commendable that the University carries out seminar activities based on a partnership with Kagoshima City that contribute to the local community and offer students an opportunity to learn practical skills.

There are, however, several issues that need to be resolved. First, the student quota has not been met throughout the entire undergraduate program for some time. The University should thoroughly implement quota management for its undergraduate program. All graduate schools fail to clarify the examination criteria pertaining to the research outcomes of special assignments. Measures to give substance to credits are insufficient. Although a Curriculum Assessment Checklist has been created to grasp and evaluate learning outcomes, its relationship with the learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy should be clarified before it is utilization.

Going forward, we hope the University solves these issues through internal quality assurance efforts, and accelerates its remarkable initiatives for further development of its program.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- In order to facilitate information sharing among faculty and staff members involved in student support, the Research and Educational Development Center grasps students' credit acquisition status and attendance and provides this information to homeroom teachers and faculty members in charge of seminar subjects, who utilize it in regular

counseling meetings. Furthermore, senior students are assigned to seminars as student assistants to make it easier for new students to seek advice. Former faculty members are assigned to the Student Affairs Division as learning support staff, who provide support to students who have taken leave, who have re-enrolled, or who have been absent for an extended period of time. Such thorough and meticulous support has led to a decline in the dropout rate, which is a commendable achievement.

- As the University is focused on promoting the enrollment of international students, it assigns staff capable of offering support in foreign languages to the International Student Support Office. As part of a system for mutual support between students, current students act as individual tutors who provide international students with study- and life-related support. The University also assigns supporters to the Support Office who offer advice to international students on an as-necessary basis. Students act as tutors and supporters to provide advice and support, and international students are encouraged to actively participate in exchange meetings with local residents and other local events. This makes it easier for international students to get used to university life and has led to cross-cultural understanding, which is a commendable achievement.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- As part of seminars, based on a comprehensive cooperation agreement with Kagoshima City, the University carries out fieldwork in the Kiire Motofumoto area in the southern part of the city and holds exchange events with local residents. As part of a comprehensive cooperative regional revitalization program with Akune City, among other municipalities, the University is involved in selling local specialties in vacant stores located in front of the station. Aiming to work hand in hand with the community and consistently contribute to society, the University has formed partnerships with local municipalities and businesses and carries out a wide range of activities. It is especially commendable that the University integrates the aforementioned activities into its classes in order to contribute to local revitalization through employing its educational and research outcomes in the local community and provide students with opportunities to engage in practical learning in the community.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- With regard to the self-study results of the secretariat, relevant committees, faculties, and graduate schools, the Self-Study Steering Committee, the organization responsible for internal quality assurance, only describes matters that require improvement in the General Summary and does not provide sufficient support for improvement measures. The University should clarify the procedures of internal quality assurance, provide the appropriate support for improvement measures in line with those procedures via the Self-Study Steering Committee, and check/evaluate the appropriateness of the internal quality assurance system.

Education and Research Organization

- Although a limit is set on the number of credits students can register for in a single year, students in the Department of Child Studies, Faculty of Welfare Society, are allowed to register for credits in excess of the limit for subjects related to obtaining qualifications, etc. For this reason, there are many students who actually register for many credits in excess of the limit. Though the syllabus describes the procedures for preparation and review, measures to give substance to credits are insufficient.
- The Economics Master course, Welfare Society Master course, and Intercultural Studies Master course fail to clarify the examination criteria pertaining to the research results of special assignments.
- Although a Curriculum Assessment Checklist has been created as a specific indicator for measuring the learning outcomes of each degree course, the relationship between each benchmark and the learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy is unclear. The University has failed to grasp and evaluate the learning outcomes in a diversified and appropriate manner, and should therefore improve the situation.

University Management and Finance

- The net income from business activity (imputable net income) ratio of both the corporation as a whole and the university division has been below the average of private universities with multiple faculties, and the ratio of the financial assets to the required reserve fund is trending low. Therefore, the University does not have the necessary financial base for performing educational and research activities in a stable

manner. The University should formulate a mid- to long-term financial plan providing a projection for overall revenue and expenses, including in it the plan for renovation of old school buildings that is stated in the Mid-term Vision of the entire corporation, for example. The University should implement the financial plan in a consistent manner and improve its financial situation.

Recommendation

Student Enrollment

- In the last five years, the average of ratios of freshman enrollment to the freshman enrollment cap is high at 1.22 in the Department of Child Studies, Faculty of Welfare Society, low at 0.77 in the Faculty of Economics, 0.77 in the Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics, 0.78 in the Department of Business Administration, Faculty of Economics, 0.84 in the Department of Social Welfare, Faculty of Welfare Society, 0.72 in the Faculty of Intercultural Studies, 0.70 in the Department of Intercultural Studies, Faculty of Intercultural Studies, and 0.78 in the Department of Music, Faculty of Intercultural Studies, respectively, and low at 0.84 in the undergraduate program as a whole. The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.78 in the Faculty of Economics, 0.79 in the Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics, 0.77 in the Department of Business Administration, Faculty of Economics, 0.78 in the Department of Social Welfare, Faculty of Welfare Society, 0.73 in the Department of Intercultural Studies, 0.74 in the Department of Intercultural Studies, Faculty of Intercultural Studies, and 0.71 in the Department of Music, Faculty of Intercultural Studies, respectively, and low at 0.82 in the undergraduate program as a whole. The University should improve the situation by thoroughly implementing undergraduate quota management.