

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

Kansai Gaidai University

Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Osaka, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2012	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2020)	
Related Links	
Kansai Gaidai University: http://www.kansai-gaidai.ac.jp/ (in Japanese)	
Full Text of the Accreditation Results (in Japanese): http://www.juaa.or.jp/accreditation/university/result_2012.html	
Accreditation Standards, Process and other related information (in English): http://www.juaa.or.jp/en/accreditation/university.html	

Accreditation Results for Kansai Gaidai University

Notable Strengths

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- It is commendable that Kansai Gaidai University has made efforts to develop and enrich foreign language education to actualize the university's founding mission and educational purposes. For example, the university offers intensive language courses in the freshman and sophomore years to help students improve their foreign language ability and to nurture talented persons who can contribute to global society. Moreover, the College of International Professional Development, two Schools in the College of Foreign Studies (i.e., the School of English Language and Communication and the School of Spanish Language and Communication), and the College of International Language and Communication offer specialized courses with instruction in only English or Spanish.
- It is commendable that the university has launched initiatives to realize the founding mission of nurturing talented persons who can contribute to global society. For example, the annually held Faculty Development (FD) Training Abroad Program was established in 2005 with the purpose of increasing the number of courses offered in English not only by foreign but also by Japanese faculty members. As a result, the number of courses offered in English has increased from 4 courses offered in English in 2010, to 23 in 2011, and 24 in 2012.
- It is highly commendable that the university has devised measures to promote students' studying abroad. For example, the university has actively promoted short and long term study abroad programs by enhancing students' advanced communication abilities and promoting intercultural awareness based on students' learning at the university. Moreover, the university has established a system to give financial support to students studying abroad. The university has also developed its study abroad support program, which includes a four-month preparatory program for sophomore or junior students who participate in study abroad programs for long term or exchange programs. In addition, students are exempted from paying tuition to host institutions. Together, these generous avenues of support have enabled approximately 1,700 students to study abroad each year.

Suggestions for Improvement

Faculty and faculty organization

- The selection process and criteria for faculty appointments in the graduate school have not been stipulated in the regulations. The criteria and procedures should be clarified to assure fairness and transparency in the screening process.

Educational content, methods, and outcome

- The policies for awarding degrees that clarify learning outcomes at the time of program completion have not been stipulated by each College or Graduate School. Policies for designing and implementing curricula have not been clarified. In accordance with the educational purposes of each academic unit, these policies should be clearly stated and made public.

- In the College of Foreign Studies and the Graduate School, undergraduate and graduate students can sometimes take the same classes with the same syllabi and grading criteria. However, this should be revised in accordance with the difference in purposes of the undergraduate and graduate programs.
- In the doctoral program of the Graduate School, the curriculum has not been clarified in accordance with the purpose of the course-based graduate school program. Educational content appropriate for that program is not offered. This should be improved.
- In the Graduate School, the criteria for examining degree-seeking dissertations have not been clarified. These should be clarified and stipulated in the Student Handbook (and other handbooks) to inform students.
- In the doctoral program of the Graduate School, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, and leave the university before completing the dissertation requirement within the time limit set by the university. Later, when these students submit their dissertations, even though they do not have enrollment status, they are granted doctoral degrees in the same manner as those students continuously enrolled. This is inappropriate and should be corrected. The university should modify the ways it has addressed this problem, and, in accordance with the purpose of having course-based doctoral programs, should create measures to encourage degree completion within the required time frame.

Enrollment

- In the School of Spanish Language and Communication in the College of Foreign Studies, the ratio of transfer students to the transfer student admission cap is low at 0.22. This should be improved.

Administration and finance

- The power and authority of the Chairs in each College and Graduate School has not been defined. Each committee has a list of members, but no description of the role it is expected to play. The power, authority, and responsibilities of individual committee should be clarified in order for each to function effectively.

Internal quality assurance

- Minutes have been compiled for only a limited number of meetings and committees. As a result, little evidence exists to show quality of their diverse activities, so it is difficult to say that the internal system for quality assurance is functioning. Measures to improve the objectivity and validity of internal quality assurance should be considered, so that the internal quality assurance system functions appropriately.

Area of Serious Concern

Administration and finance

- Minutes exist for only the Board of Trustees, the Faculty Meeting, and the Graduate School Committee. Transparency of management is insufficient, which must be improved.