

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: 2019	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1.2020 – March 31.2027)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kansai Gaidai University

Overview

The founding principles of Kansai Gaidai University (hereinafter referred to as the “University”) are “nurturing individuals with a well-rounded education who can contribute to the international community” and “focusing on practical learning in order to meet the changing social needs and viewing the world from a fair-minded perspective.” Its purpose is “to nurture individuals with a well-rounded education who can contribute to the international community through promoting practical learning in order to meet the changing social needs and viewing the world from a fair-minded perspective.” As a mid-to long-term plan for achieving its founding principles and purpose, the University has established the Kansai Gaidai University Vision and Mid-term Plan, and is making efforts to improve its educational and research activities.

The Board of Trustees is the organization with ultimate responsibility for internal quality assurance. In accordance with the policy established by the Board of Trustees, a Self-Study Committee gathers the results of checks and evaluations carried out by Specialized Self-Study Committees that are established under the educational division and administrative affairs division, and, based on that, the Board of Trustees gives instructions for improvement. However, in actual practice, the Self-Study Committee gives specific instructions for improvement based on the results of the check and evaluations. Therefore, the University should make appropriate improvements to its internal quality assurance system so that university-wide educational management can function effectively.

With regard to education, each faculty appropriately organizes its curriculum according to its degree award policy (diploma policy) and curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy). Furthermore, each department makes it easier for students to take courses in a systematic and orderly fashion by providing a curriculum map indicating the overall structure of the curriculum, correlation between subjects, and correlation with the degree award policy, and adopting a subject numbering system whereby each subject is given a particular number according to its content and level. Graduate schools also make it easier for students to take courses in a systematic and orderly fashion by allocating subjects to the appropriate category and year, and provide education that appropriately combines course work and research work. The University adopts class methods that promote active student participation. For example,

consideration is given so that the class size matches the class form, and some classes adopt active learning methods and project-based learning methods. With regard to achieving its founding principles, it is especially commendable that the University capitalizes on its distinctive features as a foreign language university and provides a variety of study abroad programs both as part of and outside the curriculum, and combines learning in Japan and actual practice abroad through the active development of distinctive educational programs such as the Super IES Program, Kansai Gaidai Global Human Resources Development Program, and Service and Hospitality Industry Leader Development Program.

However, several issues need to be resolved, especially in the graduate schools. It is necessary to establish a policy indicating the methods and ideas for achieving the goal of improving and enhancing the University. However, the degree award policy and curriculum design and implementation policy are not set appropriately in the Graduate School of Foreign Studies, among others. Research supervision methods are not clearly presented to students in the form of a research supervision plan, whether students have attained the learning outcomes stated in the degree award policy is not adequately grasped or evaluated, and the M.A. Programs have not been able to gather enough students. These issues should be addressed.

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

Notable Strengths

Educational Program and Outcome

- With regard to achieving its founding principles, it is especially commendable that the University capitalizes on its distinctive features as a foreign language university and provides a variety of study abroad programs both as part of and outside the curriculum, and combines learning in Japan and actual practice abroad through the active development of distinctive educational programs such as the Super IES Program, which was developed in collaboration with overseas affiliated universities, the Kansai Gaidai Global Human Resources Development Program, which involves participating in many subjects all taught in English, and the Service and Hospitality Industry Leader Development Program, which combines specialized education in English, studying abroad, and domestic and overseas internships with the aim of

nurturing individuals who can participate in hotel management both in Japan and abroad.

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Board of Trustees is the organization with ultimate responsibility for internal quality assurance, and is supposed to give instructions for improvement to the relevant divisions in charge based on the results of checks and evaluations. However, the instructions for improvement by the Board of Trustees are a formality, and it is the Self-Study Committee that actually promotes initiatives for improvement based on the results of checks and evaluations carried out by the each Specialized Self-Study Committee. Therefore, the University should clarify the authorities and roles of the Board of Trustees and Self-Study Committee and make appropriate improvements so that its quality assurance system can function effectively.

Educational Program and Outcome

- The M.A. Program and Ph.D. Program in the Foreign Studies Research Division do not have a degree award policy corresponding to each degree. This should be improved.
- The M.A. Program and Ph.D. Program in the Foreign Studies Research Division do not have a curriculum design and implementation policy corresponding to each degree. This should be improved.
- The M.A. Program and Ph.D. Program in the Foreign Studies Research Division do not clearly present research supervision methods to students in the form of a research supervision plan. This should be improved.
- The relationship between the learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy and the measurement methods thereof are unclear in the M.A. Program and Ph.D. Program in the Foreign Studies Research Division, and thus the learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy are not measured in a diversified and appropriate manner. This should be improved.

Student Enrollment

- The ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in the M.A. Program and Ph.D. Program in the Foreign Studies Research Division is low at 0.37. The University should thoroughly implement graduate school quota management to improve the situation.