

# INTERNATIONAL JOINT ACCREDITATION PROJECT

Quality assurance  
in university education

“International Joint Accreditation Project”  
shows the appeal of the universities  
to the international community.



TAIWAN ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (TWAEA)

<https://www.twaea.org.tw>

[TEL] 886-2-3343-1177 [Email] [ijas@twaea.org.tw](mailto:ijas@twaea.org.tw)

[ADD] 5F-1, No.3, Nanhai Rd., Zhongzheng District, Taipei City 10066, Taiwan



JAPAN UNIVERSITY ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION (JUAA)

<https://www.juaa.or.jp/en/>

[TEL] 81-3-6228-1315 [Email] [intl@juaa.or.jp](mailto:intl@juaa.or.jp)

[ADD] 2-7-13 Ichigayasadohara-cho Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0842, Japan



OFFICE FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARDS AND QUALITY  
ASSESSMENT (ONESQA)

<http://en.onesqa.or.th>

[TEL] 66-2-216-3955 [Email] [policy@onesqa.or.th](mailto:policy@onesqa.or.th)

[ADD] 24th Floor, Phayathai Plaza Building, 128 Phayathai Road, Ratchathewi,  
Bangkok 10400, Thailand

# Cross-border Quality Assurance Framework

## International Joint Accreditation among Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand PROJECT BACKGROUND

As the mobility of students and faculty increases with globalization and ICT-based education advances worldwide, there is an even greater need for international recognition of the quality education being provided. As well, QA agencies are required to conduct highly reliable accreditation activities.

The iJAS ( International Joint Accreditation Standards ) project is cross-border quality assurance framework launched by JUAA and TWAEA in 2018 to contribute to the promotion of internationalization of universities.

The iJAS project is developing with the participation of ONESQA in 2021, with universities in Japan, Thailand, and Taiwan as its assessment targets. By collaborating with overseas QA agencies to develop and jointly evaluate an internationally standardized evaluation criteria, this project aims to improve the quality of higher education in each country and provide a robust platform to further progress toward the next global era. The distinctive feature of the iJAS project is that the assessment focuses on a university's internal quality assurance system.

In addition, the iJAS project will be extended not only to universities in Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, but also to higher education institutions in the Asian region in the near future, actively supporting quality enhancement of universities in order to improve the learning outcomes of students studying in the Asian region.



## SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENT

- Accredited by international accreditation agency
- Boost international visibility
- Attracting excellent international students and researchers
- Promote exchange between universities in Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand
- Provide a reference for the making of international cooperation agreements on Joint Degree/ Dual Degree system, exchange and overseas students

## ABOUT US



### TWAEA Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association

TWAEA was established in 2003 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of evaluation mechanism that meets policy requirements and practical needs. TWAEA has been engaged in evaluation projects and officially recognized as a certified evaluation agency by the Ministry of Education in Taiwan since 2009. On the basis of unbiased position with objective and fair perspectives, TWAEA has acquired a solid reputation in the implementation and development of quality assurance system. TWAEA, jointly founded by senior members of Taiwan's academia and business sectors, is committed to provide external quality assurance for any concerned party. As a professional evaluation agency, TWAEA is dedicated to the provision of evaluation services, as well as the development and promotion of evaluation knowledge and techniques.

TWAEA is always committed to exploring international exchanges, forming partnerships, and actively creating new collaboration opportunities for international partners. In response to the evolving global economy, TWAEA collaborates with other international evaluation agencies to launch the "International Joint Accreditation" project to help institutions grow and connect with the international quality assurance systems. This helps institutions to open up to the international community and adopt a Blue Ocean Strategy for globalization.

TWAEA has a long-term commitment in helping to improve the teaching quality of Taiwan's higher education institutions and the mission in promoting healthy growth of domestic evaluation system. TWAEA will continue to work with other international agencies to realize the vision of "Toward an Outstanding Evaluation Agency with Credibility."



### JUAA Japan University Accreditation Association

JUAA was established in 1947 by 46 universities, taking several U.S. accreditation agencies as a model, and certified as the Certified and Evaluation and Accreditation Agency for universities by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in 2004. JUAA is a voluntary organization of higher education institutions which mission is "to promote to qualitative improvement of higher education institutions in Japan through the voluntary efforts and mutual assistance of member institutions and to contribute to international cooperation such as educational and research activities in higher education institutions." JUAA conducts certified evaluation and accreditation for institutions and professional graduate schools, and program accreditation for schools of veterinary medicine and dentistry.

In addition, JUAA prioritizes survey and research in order to develop more advance projects for quality assurance and quality improvement of higher education institutions. JUAA Research Institute for Quality Assurance of Higher Education (RIQAHE), established in 2018, carries out several projects and publishes their results, as well as regularly organizes open seminars and conferences to provide a platform for university stakeholders to share their views and opinions. Furthermore, JUAA also works to enhance its credibility as a quality assurance agency by collaborating with overseas quality assurance agencies through staff exchange and international student surveys.



### ONESQA Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment

ONESQA has been established as a public organization to oversee the External Quality Assessment (EQA) of all education institutions in Thailand since 2000. It aims to enhance the quality of education throughout Thailand and to enable the educational institutions to provide quality education to the Thai learners who will be endowed with virtue, competence, and happiness. ONESQA strives to become an academic organization that will harness information technology to support its EQA's operation, as well as developing innovative prospects for the enhancement of quality assurance system that will fit the specific needs of individual institution.

The Office also pursues to build-up its reputation and visibility to be recognized by academic communities both nationally and internationally by means of honoring its commitments, as well as engaging and connecting with prominent networks and organizations so as to fulfill its goal for internationalization.

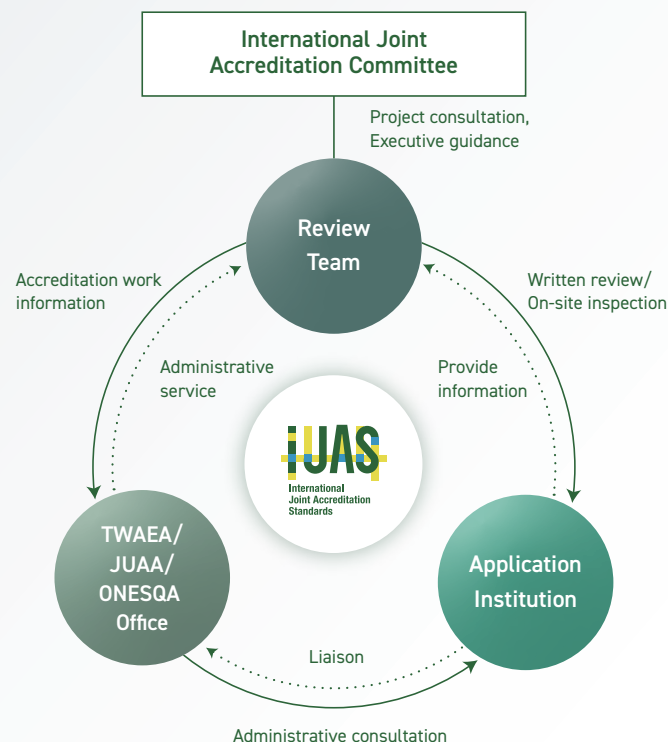
Furthermore, ONESQA plays a part in the development of ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF), which is designed to provide guidelines and to enhance capacity building for QA in ASEAN, aiming to support the harmonization of higher education. ONESQA is the sole national EQAA (External Quality Assurance Agency) in Thailand that its establishment conforms to the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF)'s principles.



# ACCREDITATION

## ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

The “International Joint Accreditation Committee” shall be set up under the jurisdiction of JUAA, TWAEA and ONESQA. Then, “Review Team” shall be formed for each applicant institution based on their nationalities, features and attributes under the Committee. The review team is composed of 5 members. Senior professors with administrative experience or senior administrative staff related to evaluation/quality assurance activity, or top industry executives should in principle be invited to serve on the review team. Of the five evaluators, one shall include the applicant institution’s local evaluator, and the remaining four shall be selected from two other countries each.



## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility to apply for the iJAS project is open to any college or university that received accreditation or evaluated by TWAEA, JUAA, or ONESQA.

## STANDARDS FOR INTERNATIONAL JOINT ACCREDITATION

The iJAS Standards consist of the following six criteria and focus on the internal quality assurance of the HEI. It evaluates how university performs its educational and research activities in accordance with its purposes.

STANDARD 1	STANDARD 2	STANDARD 3	STANDARD 4	STANDARD 5	STANDARD 6
					
Mission, Goals & Strategy	Internal Quality Assurance	Teaching & Learning	Faculty	Social Connection	Governance

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFORMATION

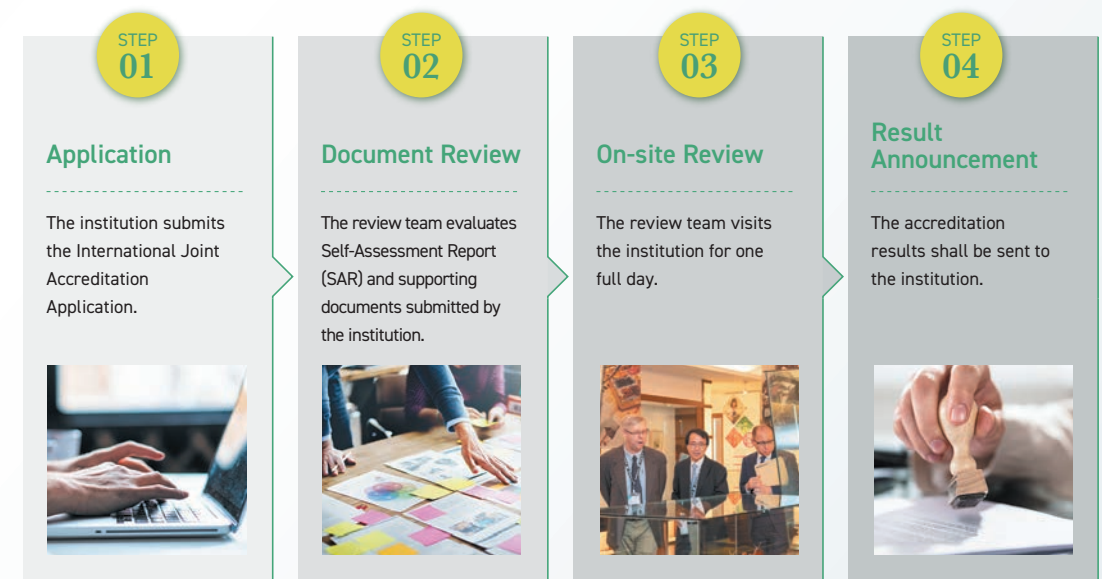
On Handbook of International Joint Accreditation and Application Form.



## ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The major flow of the accreditation is shown in the figure below.

The review team will provide a “Request for Clarification List” 5 weeks before the on-site review. The institution should provide its response to the items in the “Request for Clarification List” 2 weeks before the on-site review. Before the finalization of the accreditation results, there is also an opportunity for the institution to submit comments on the draft accreditation results.



## ACCREDITATION RESULT

ACCREDITATION RESULT		DESCRIPTION
Accredited	Valid 6 years	Fully meets with all requirements for international joint accreditation standards, sufficient supplementary information was provided, and can continue to maintain steady growth.
Not Accredited		Does not achieve the educational goals in a definite manner and does not satisfy the basic requirements for international joint accreditation standards.

Accreditation results can be “accredited” or “not accredited” in accordance with iJAS standards. The accreditation certification will be issued in 4 languages (Chinese, Japanese, Thai, and English). The results are also published on the website and in relevant public documents. The information can also be disseminated on suitable occasions.



## MESSAGE FROM ACCREDITED UNIVERSITIES



**Dr. Norihiko Suzuki**  
Former President  
Akita International University  
(Japan)

Despite the long-standing call for the internationalization of higher education, finding a common direction for developing specific strategies has not been easy. That said, international collaboration among quality assurance agencies for university education is, at present, the most fundamental framework for international quality assurance in higher education as it involves the tasks of verifying and assuring the quality of higher education in accordance with a mutual set of standards.

The Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) and its Taiwanese counterpart, the Taiwan Assessment and Evaluation Association (TWAEA), together developed the International Joint Accreditation Standards (iJAS) as an international collaborative framework for evaluation and accreditation of Japanese and Taiwanese university education. The first institutions to undergo an accreditation review under this project were Akita International University (AIU) in Japan and Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science (CNU) in Taiwan. At the review session that essentially marks the first step of internationalization activities by a Japanese quality assurance agency for higher education, an assessment team made up of Japanese and Taiwanese evaluators performed a rigorous, day-long assessment covering six accreditation standards and concluded that the two institutions meet international standards in both education content and levels.

As a first-of-its-kind experience even for AIU teachers and staff who are used to international exchanges, anxiety intensified during the many hours spent preparing for the review. We expect that undergoing an accreditation process will be a requisite for other Japanese universities in the future. With overseas institutions increasingly demanding quality assurance in education from their potential international collaboration partners, we now live in a time when by what quality assurance agency a university is accredited has become a serious question.



**Dr. Hong-chu Chen**  
Former President  
Chia Nan University of  
Pharmacy and Science (Taiwan)

A large number of higher education institutions around the world are faced with the issue of a declining birthrate, and Taiwanese institutions are no exception. Many universities in Taiwan are scrutinizing their strengths and positions to ensure lasting development as well as tackling the important challenge of finding new ways to promote essential improvements, provide quality education, and develop professionals capable of meeting the needs of industries.

As part of the efforts to raise its international competitiveness, Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science (CNU) not only recruits international students but actively offers support to help students thrive on the global stage.

To gain global recognition, higher education institutions need to be part of an international quality assurance program and, through this type of collaborative international accreditation project, be assessed based on international standards and with an international perspective in such areas as the university's features and development plans, effectiveness of quality assurance in education, research and industry-academia collaboration results, and social contribution activities.

Established 53 years ago, CNU has partnership agreements in place with over 200 institutions, providing students with various learning opportunities that include study abroad and double degree programs. Between 2019 and 2021, our university has ranked among the top ten percent in the Center for World University Rankings. The latest iJAS accreditation has allowed us to take a big first step forward towards our goal of increasing the international recognition of our university.

