

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

Kyoto Seika University



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Kyoto, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2015	
Accreditation Status: Accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2016 – March.31.2023)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Kyoto Seika University

Overview

Kyoto Seika University (hereafter, the University) succeeded Kyoto Seika Junior College, which was founded in 1968, with two departments, the Department of English and the Department of Art. The University was established in 1979 with a single faculty, the Faculty of Art. The University has its main campus in Kyoto City with five unique faculties (the Faculty of Art, the Faculty of Design, the Faculty of Manga, the Faculty of Popular Culture, and the Faculty of Humanities) and four graduate schools (the Graduate School of Art, the Graduate School of Design, the Graduate School of Manga, and the Graduate School of Humanities). The University has engaged in education and research activities based on its founding spirit and as reflected in such documents as the Memorandum on the Basic Policy of Education, the Mission of the University, and the Basic Concept of the University.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2008, the University has developed a mechanism for improvement through the Self-Study Committee and has improved the contents of syllabi as well as its research environment by establishing a new research-support body, Kyoto Seika University Research Laboratory. This time, JUAA has found in its second review that the University has created effective facilities to help produce activities for students and has made a variety of efforts to promote social cooperation and contributions to society. However, several issues must be addressed, including inadequacies in administration (such as inconsistencies among several regulations) and insufficient student enrollment.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- It is commendable that the University makes contentious efforts, through constant reviews and improvements, to stimulate students' motivation to realize their goals and encourages them to develop their own careers proactively. In particular, "The Presentation Tour in Tokyo" began in 2009 as part of the career support for students pursuing careers in creative fields, or more specifically, "one who is engaged in expressive activity aiming to make a debut as a creator." This event gives students opportunities to visit creative firms and gain practical experience in presenting their own portfolios and receiving comments. Both students and firms who participated in this initiative were highly satisfied with their experiences, and the students were able to recognize the skills that are required in business and what they need to accomplish in order to realize their goals.

Education and Research Environment

- Each of the students in the four faculties that require skill training is assigned a training space called a "homeroom." The University also has placed students' studios closer to their homerooms to ensure that they have sufficient space and an environment that helps them concentrate on their creative work. It is commendable that, by making efficient use of these facilities, the University helps produce activities of students.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the University has made efforts to realize sustainable and expansive social contributions as well as provide students with opportunities to show their achievements in the larger society. The University and affiliate organizations make substantial efforts to achieve social collaboration and contribution. Their efforts include exhibitions of their works at “kara-S of Kyoto Seika University” and GALLERY FLEUR; collection development and maintenance, and exhibition of manga at Kyoto International Manga Museum; conducting research on and holding events related to manga culture by Kyoto Seika University International Manga Research Center; and conducting collaborative works with the Industrial Tourism Department and the Internationalization Office of Kyoto City.

Suggestions for Improvement

Educational Content, Method, and Outcome

- While questionnaire surveys of classes are conducted as a part of faculty development (FD) activities, practical FD activities for educational improvement such as workshops, have not been carried out. In addition, FD activities specific to graduate school education have not been sufficiently practiced. This situation should be improved.
- In the doctoral programs in Art and Manga, some students complete all the requirements except the dissertation, but leave the university before completing their 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 who continuously enrolled. This is an inappropriate use of the system that should be corrected. In accordance with the purpose of having doctoral program, the University should create measure to enhance degree completion within the required time frame.

Enrollment

- The ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap is low at 0.37 in the master’s program in the Graduate School of Design. This number should be improved.

Administration and Finance

- Inconsistencies and redundancies among the University Regulations and other regulations, and inconsistencies between regulations and practices are often observed. For example, the class-taking regulation for undergraduate students is no longer in use and is not included in the Class-Taking Guidelines and Regulations Book, but some descriptions referring to the regulation incorrectly remain in the University Regulations. In addition, the University has insufficiently reflected the content of the revised School Education Act in the regulations. Therefore, the University should thoroughly review all regulations and make appropriate and prompt efforts to abolish, revise, and develop regulations.
- The University has not accomplished a goal set in the midterm and long-term financial plan from 2007, as it had been processed without any sufficient examination. Therefore, when implementing the midterm financial plan that begins in the 2015

and after, the University should carry it out by carefully examining the consistencies between the financial plan and the business plan and should assure the accomplishment of the goals.

Internal Quality Assurance

- The University has set up the Self-Study Management Committee as the major initiative of self-study, as well as its subordinate body, the Self-Study Implementation Committee. However, they have mainly dealt with the accreditation process, and do not make self-study according to their own regulations. Therefore, the University should make efforts to develop and implement an internal quality assurance system to help realize sustainable self-study.

Area of Serious Concern

Enrollment

- The last five-year average of the ratios of enrolled freshmen to the freshman admission cap and the ratio of enrolled students to the student enrollment cap are low at 0.79 and 0.78 respectively across the entire university, at 0.67 and 0.58 respectively in the Department of Material Expression Ceramics in the Faculty of Art, at 0.72 and 0.66 respectively in the Department of Architecture in the Faculty of Design, at 0.88 and 0.85 respectively in the entire Faculty of Art, and at 0.54 and 0.52 respectively in the Department of Liberal Arts in the Faculty of Humanities. These numbers must be improved.