

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

**International Budo University**



<b>Basic Information of the Institution</b>	
Ownership: Private	Location: Chiba, Japan
<b>Accreditation Status</b>	
Year of the Review: 2022	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2030)	

## **Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for International Budo University**

### **Overview**

International Budo University sets forth the educational principles of “respecting the value of traditional martial arts, promoting the concept of peace throughout the world, and building world peace by deepening international friendship and goodwill.” The University also defines its purpose as “developing leaders both inside and outside Japan specializing in Japanese martial arts; teaching and researching martial arts and sports science; cultivating international-minded, highly educated individuals with specialized knowledge and skills; and developing human resources who can play a leadership role in contributing to local and international communities.” To realize its foundational philosophy and purpose, the University has formulated the International Budo University Medium-term Plan (AY2021-AY2025) that specifies the future direction of its research, education, and social contribution through martial arts and sports, and strives to enhance its educational and research activities with a focus on teaching and learning management.

Regarding the University’s internal quality assurance, the faculty, graduate school, and divisions work to achieve their goals based on activity plans issued by the president at the beginning of each academic year. Self-study on the appropriateness and achievement of their activities is conducted, with the findings compiled in the Divisional Self-Study Report before being reported to the University Self-Study Subcommittee. The subcommittee inspects and assesses the report from a university-wide perspective, while the Internal Quality Assurance Review Committee issues instructions for improvement. The University not only instructs the faculty, graduate school, and divisions to compile their self-study findings in a report, but also interviews them on their future plans to facilitate communication on campus. This process indicates that the university-wide PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle is functioning effectively. The University is expected to further clarify the roles and authority of the committees and other organizations, with more groups established as needed.

As for the University’s education, curricula are appropriately designed based on the diploma and curriculum policies, with various approaches adopted to allow students to take subjects in a systematic and sequential way. These efforts include creating curriculum maps illustrating the connection between the entire

curriculum structure and subjects, and numbering subjects according to the lesson contents and levels. In addition, a fixed-course system was introduced in AY2013 to systematically monitor students' acquired expertise, and the curricula offer a certain degree of flexibility, such as course change that allows students to "choose as they learn." Moreover, a radar chart is used to visualize students' subject grades and credit status, and a university-wide communication app has been introduced to help teachers and students interact with each other in real-time remote lectures during the coronavirus pandemic.

Among the University's outstanding initiatives is the creation of a reconditioning room with student trainers from the University's sports clubs offering student athletes such support as injury prevention and recovery. It is notable that this longstanding student-to-student service provides not only care for athletes but also training opportunities for trainers. In addition, under the comprehensive partnership agreement signed with Katsuura City in Chiba Prefecture, the University offers classes for junior high schools on mental, physical, and health conditioning for athletic competitions, and dispatches instructors for CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), AED (automated external defibrillator), and other first-aid emergencies to the city. It is commendable that the University's efforts are contributing to regional revitalization; also highly commendable is the dispatch of specially appointed associate professors to overseas universities to promote international martial arts, sports, and physical education.

There are several issues the University needs to address, however. First, the undergraduate program is working to visualize student learning outcomes, but the graduate school has failed to monitor the learning outcomes stated in its diploma policy. This issue should be addressed. Next, the faculty and graduate school continue to fall short of fulfilling their student quotas, and the distribution of students admitted is skewed depending on the type of entrance examination. This situation should be corrected with the University's student quotas appropriately managed.

In the coming years, the University is expected to resolve these issues through internal quality assurance efforts, and to make further progress by advancing its various distinctive initiatives as a university pursuing and promoting Japan's traditional martial arts and sports on a global scale.

## **Notable Strengths**

### *Student Support*

- The Budo and Sports Research Institute has created a reconditioning room integrated with a health management room, medical office, and rehabilitation facility, where faculty members and nurses qualified as orthopedic therapists, athletic trainers, physical therapists, and strength and conditioning coaches offer student athletes comprehensive support from injury treatment to full recovery. The reconditioning room also provides students aspiring to become sports trainers with the practical experience of assisting athletes. It is commendable that the University takes advantage of its distinctive features and its affiliated institute's research outcomes to support extracurricular activities.

#### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- The University has signed a comprehensive partnership agreement with Katsuura City, where its campus is located, to help promote sports in the community. For example, the University organizes physical fitness programs, such as the Katsuura Energetic Physical Fitness Class and Physical Fitness Measurement for Adults, provides junior high schools with classes on mental, physical, and health conditioning for athletic competitions, and dispatches instructors for CPR, AED, and other first-aid emergencies to the city. The University also engages in community outreach activities linked not only to martial arts, sports, and physical education but to citizen safety and wellbeing through such activities as crime prevention patrols. It is commendable that the University and its students are involved in activities aimed at resolving issues in the local community, and are expected to continue to produce positive outcomes in the future.

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

#### *Educational Program and Learning Outcomes*

- The Graduate School of Budo and Sport inadequately monitors the student learning outcomes stated in its diploma policy. This issue should be addressed with indicators adopted to monitor and evaluate the learning outcomes in a multifaceted way.

*Student Enrollment*

- The Department of Physical Education, Faculty of Physical Education, has a low ratio of 0.88 in student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. This ratio should be improved with the faculty's student quotas thoroughly managed.
- The master's degree program in the Graduate School of Budo and Sport has a low ratio of 0.35 in student enrollment to the student enrollment cap. This ratio should be improved with the graduate school's student quotas thoroughly managed.