

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

Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Gifu, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2021	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.1.2022 – March 31, 2029)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences

Overview

The Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences defines its founding philosophy as “the fusion of scientific thinking and artistic sensibility,” and, specifically, “the creation of new culture through the reevaluation of the act of production and research from a broad perspective, and the fusion of advanced, specialized technology and research in the sciences with artistic creation, rooted in a philosophical and intellectual perspective.” Additionally, the purpose of the Institute is defined as “fostering people, who, equipped with the attributes of highly creative individuals, pioneer new ontologies for our information society, and contribute to the improvement and development of academic culture and the promotion of industry.” Consequently, the Institute has devised a six-year medium-term plan and goals, beginning AY2018, based on the economic growth and employment strategy of Gifu Prefectural government, the Institute’s establishing body. The plan develops the Institute’s educational and research activities as a graduate school by establishing the Course of Media Creation in the Graduate School of Media Creation. In addition, a doctoral program was established in AY2021.

A “Management Council” was established in AY2020 to strengthen the internal quality assurance system. The Management Council, under the direction of the President, constructed a system for supporting the improvement of each organization, based on the self-assessment results of various committees, including the “Self-Assessment Committee.” However, the members of the Management Council and the Faculty Council sometimes overlap. Also, the improvement and enhancement efforts, based on the results of actual self-assessments, have so far been conducted by the Faculty Council. Therefore, an internal quality assurance system that clarifies the role of the Management Council must be developed and implemented.

Regarding education and other activities, the Institute has established three policies (a degree conferral policy (diploma policy), a curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy), and admission policy). The curriculum is designed to offer students a system of courses that provide them with basic skills in information science and the art field of their specialization, develop the knowledge and skills necessary for advanced media expression, and, lastly, enable them to

acquire applied and comprehensive knowledge and skills through seminar courses. In particular, the “Project Courses” enable students to study a wide range of media expression through participating in research and technological development projects alongside multiple faculty members from various areas of expertise. This is highly commendable as an effective method of education. Other commendably distinctive characteristics of the Institute are: the establishment of the “Research Center for Industrial Culture” (RCIC), which aims to apply the results of research widely in society through industry-academia-government collaboration and cultural activities while conducting a variety of social contribution activities, and faculty and students’ collaborative management of local artistic and cultural events that foster the next generation of “highly creative individuals.”

While the above-mentioned activities demonstrate the Institute actively taking advantage of the characteristics of an arts-oriented graduate school, there are also some issues to address.

The Institute states that it monitors and assesses learning outcomes, based on the evaluation of completed works and dissertations, and the results of awards received by students and graduates. However, these are not sufficient for the measurement of learning outcomes as indicated in the degree conferral policy. These outcomes should be properly monitored and evaluated so that the results can be used to improve and enhance the Institute’s curricula and educational methods. Next, the Institute must inspect and ascertain systematically the issue of the large number of graduate students who are enrolled beyond the standard term of study, and work on improving the situation. In order to improve these issues and guarantee the quality of the Institute’s education, it is important to have a functioning internal quality assurance system. However, as already mentioned, the system established in AY2020 requires review.

In the future, the JUAA hopes that the internal quality assurance system will function to guarantee the quality of education at the Institute, and that its characteristics and achievements will be communicated to society, producing further development.

Notable Strengths

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- In the Project Courses, graduate students with diverse backgrounds participate in projects alongside multiple faculty members with different areas of expertise, engaging in interdisciplinary research and technological development. This

offers hands-on learning of media creation in a wide range of fields including art, design, philosophy, science and engineering, and sociology, as well as experience with building teams from diverse groups of people. This program is commendable for developing a broad perspective and the ability to plan, organize, and realize ideas.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Various social cooperation and contribution activities, centered on the Research Center for Industrial Culture, are carried out on an ongoing basis to share the fruits of education and research with the local community. Especially commendable are the Institute's initiatives that contribute to the revitalization of the local community through the application of its specialization in the arts. These include multiple social contribution activities each year, such as: the "Gifu Ogaki Biennale," a public media art research event that promotes and educates the public about the state of manufacturing through art, and the "Ogaki Mini Maker Faire," where makers from various fields gather to showcase their skills. Both of these events contribute to the development of the next generation of "highly creative individuals."

Suggestions for Improvement

Internal Quality Assurance

- The Management Council, newly established in AY2020, is responsible for promoting internal quality assurance. The council is supposed to deliberate on measures for improvement and provide instructions or advice to ensure the functionality of the internal quality assurance systems. In practice, however, internal quality assurance is being conducted under the Faculty Council. Therefore, improvements are required to clarify the role of the Management Council within the internal quality assurance system and to ensure that it functions effectively.

Educational Program and Learning Outcomes

- The Institute monitors and assesses learning outcomes based on the evaluation of completed artwork, dissertations, and awards received by students and graduates; however, these are not sufficient to monitor and assess learning outcomes indicated in the degree award policy. Improvements are required to ensure that learning outcomes are appropriately measured, and the results are

used to improve and enhance the Institute's curricula and educational methods.

- Regarding the large number of students who remain enrolled at the Institute without completing their studies within the standard term, the reasons for this should be investigated by the department, and systematic improvements should be made. This could include identifying and sharing information students' progress on their master's graduation artwork and theses, as well as their challenges.