

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

**Tokyo Woman's Christian University**



<b>Basic Information of the Institution</b>	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
<b>Accreditation Status</b>	
Year of the Review: 2023	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2031)	

## **Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Tokyo Woman's Christian University**

### **Overview**

Tokyo Woman's Christian University defines its educational philosophy and purpose as “nurturing women with advanced knowledge as an academic research and educational institution with Christianity as the fundamental policy of education, while teaching and researching specialized arts and sciences, and cultivating individuals who love truth and peace, and can contribute to the welfare of humanity,” based on the founding spirit of “providing women with higher education focusing on liberal arts with the spirit of Christianity symbolized by service and sacrifice as the foundation of character development.” Ahead of the 2018 marking of the 100th anniversary of its founding, the University developed the Tokyo Woman's Christian University's Grand Vision (hereafter “TWCU's Grand Vision”) in 2014 as a medium- to long-term plan with the aim of further advancing its liberal arts education, and reorganized its divisions and departments in the School of Arts and Sciences in AY2018 in pursuit of fostering “cultivated people with professional expertise.” To achieve the founding spirit, educational philosophy, purpose, and TWCU's Grand Vision, the Tokyo Woman's Christian University Medium-Term Plan for the five-year period from AY2020, and established five divisions in the School of Arts and Sciences, Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, and Graduate School of Science to continuously enhance its educational and research activities.

Regarding internal quality assurance, the University established the Tokyo Woman's Christian University Internal Quality Assurance Policy and Procedures (hereafter “Internal Quality Assurance Policy and Procedures”) in AY2020, with the Committee for Self-Assessment specified as an organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance. Based on the Internal Quality Assurance System Chart, inspections and assessments are conducted at the university-wide, faculty and graduate school, and class levels. In addition to annual inspections and assessments carried out under specific themes, each division began inspections and assessments using the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) Cycle Check Sheet in AY2021 to identify their own issues to address. The Committee for Self-Assessment verifies the inspection and assessment results, and presents the results and improvement measures to the Planning and Promotion Committee, with these items reflected in the University's medium- to long-term reform policy and improvement plans to establish the university-wide PDCA cycle.

As for education, the University has systematically designed the curricula with appropriate lesson subjects for each degree program. Starting in AY2024, the University plans to introduce the Subjects of Bridging across Disciplines, in which multiple faculty members in different fields jointly conduct classes based on common themes. This course is highly expected to develop as a distinctive approach to cross-disciplinary learning as well as a progressive initiative for liberal arts education. To monitor student learning outcomes, the undergraduate program adopts a wide variety of approaches using both direct and indirect indicators based on its diploma and assessment policies.

The University actively engages in various social cooperation and contribution activities. Notably, the University collaborates with the community to organize the Tokyo Woman's Christian University Business Planning Contest, which marked its sixth year in AY2022, with a wide range of contestants from high school students to women of all professions judged by faculty members and outside evaluators from government agencies, non-profit organizations, and other bodies. The Brush-Up Workshop and other sessions are also held in conjunction with the contest selection process to provide support for people seeking to launch startups. These activities are highly commendable as a career development initiative for women expected to foster an entrepreneurial mindset and help empower women to play managerial and other leadership roles as well.

There are several areas of improvement the University should address, however. First, some graduate school divisions have insufficient quota fulfillment in student enrollment. This issue should be addressed. Second, in terms of internal quality assurance, inspections and assessments using the PDCA Cycle Check Sheet have only recently begun, and the Committee for Self-Assessment's feedback is insufficient for effectively operating the university-wide internal quality assurance system stated in the policy and procedures. This situation needs to be improved. Next, to formulate the three diploma, curriculum, and admission policies, the School of Arts and Sciences has established diploma and curriculum policies based on a school basis, while the Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences has formulated curriculum policies for each course, in order to promote liberal arts education. However, the School of Arts and Sciences awards two degrees with the human resource development purpose and admission policy established for each division, indicating inconsistencies in the awarding of degrees, the human resource development purpose, and the three policies. This situation is also inadequately explained in the University's publicly available information. A similar case applies to the Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences, which also awards two degrees with the curriculum policy formulated for each course, pointing to inconsistencies between the degrees to be awarded and the three policies. The University should clarify

how the three policies were formulated to make the University's liberal arts education known to prospective students and the public in an easy-to-understand way, In addition, to conduct educational and research activities, the undergraduate school is expected to examine the measures more appropriately to ensure credit validity and the implementation of research ethics education, while the graduate schools are expected to measure student learning outcomes in a multifaceted way.

In the years ahead, the University should steadily implement the newly introduced inspections and assessments with the aim of developing a stable internal quality assurance system to become a university playing a leading role in women's higher liberal arts education. The University is expected to resolve these issues and advance its numerous distinctive initiatives.

## **Notable Strengths**

### *Social Cooperation and Contribution*

- To foster female entrepreneurs the University organizes the Tokyo Woman's Christian University Business Planning Contest for a wide range of people from high school students to professional women with faculty members and external experts from government and municipal agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and other entities invited as judges. The Brush-Up Workshop with female presidents and other executives serving as lecturers is held for the selected contestants, and business startup assistance is also offered to the participants by introducing organizations that support entrepreneurship. It is commendable that the University is supporting women's career development through industry-academia-government collaboration, with this initiative expected to foster an entrepreneurial mindset and help empower women to play managerial and other leadership roles as well.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### *Internal Quality Assurance*

- Regarding inspections and assessments using the PDCA Cycle Check Sheet starting in AY2021, the Internal Quality Assurance Policy and Procedures stipulates that each division conducts inspections and assessments, and the Committee for Self-Assessment serving as a body promoting internal quality assurance verifies the

results from a university-wide perspective and provides feedback to the divisions, but the committee only confirms the results and reports the improvement measures examined by the divisions based on the inspection and assessment results to the Planning and Promotion Committee. This situation indicates that the Committee for Self-Assessment does not adequately fulfill the role stated in the policy and procedures. In addition, some committees do not submit their check sheets, pointing to the ineffective operation of the University's inspections and assessments. In the coming years, efforts should be made to effectively operate the internal quality assurance system based on feedback from the Committee for Self-Assessment specified as the promotion body.

### *Student Enrollment*

- In terms of student quota management, the doctoral degree course in the Graduate School of Science had no students enrolled in AY2022, with a ratio of student enrollment to the student enrollment cap in AY2023 of 0.11. This situation should be improved with the graduate school's student quota thoroughly managed.