

Revision of the 2021 Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results
(Accreditation Decision) for Tokyo Women's Medical University

Universities in Japan are expected to develop their distinctive characteristics through providing structured university education in accordance with their degree award policy (diploma policy), curriculum design and implementation policy (curriculum policy), and admissions policy while striving to elevate student learning outcomes through improving and advancing education. Among all university activities and operations, it is especially important for the student selection process to be impartial and equitable, given that it represents the interface between society and the university. Furthermore, to build a faculty appropriate for delivering the educational programs offered, universities should ensure both fairness and integrity in personnel actions, which form part of the faculty organization process; and to build the foundations of education and the activities closely connected with education, such as those described above, universities as an institution must be managed and operated effectively. Universities are also required to be accountable to society by periodically evaluating the propriety of their activities carried out in line with the diploma, curriculum, and admissions policies and publicizing the evaluation results.

Notwithstanding these expectations and requirements for universities, the investigation report published in August 2024 by the Tokyo Women's Medical University's Third-party committee identified certain practices inconsistent with the principles of fairness and impartiality in relation to legacy admissions and the decision-making of alumni teachers' promotions. The University also faces challenges in the areas of university management and governance, with its former chancellor subjected to legal action and arrest on suspicion of embezzlement.

To fulfill its responsibility as an accreditation agency with the mission to help improve the quality of universities and provide quality assurance of higher education institutions for the public, the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) decided, in light of these circumstances, to review whether the 2021 Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Tokyo Women's Medical University should be upheld or reversed based on a re-evaluation of the University against four of the ten University Standards relevant to the issues raised. These standards included No. 5, Student

Enrollment; No. 6, Faculty and Faculty Organization; No. 10 (1), University Management; and No. 2, Internal Quality Assurance.

The re-evaluation conducted by JUAA's investigation subcommittee, established under the University Accreditation Committee, consisted of a document review of the report submitted by the University outlining its problems and the investigation report prepared by the independent scrutiny committee, followed by interviews with the relevant University personnel. The interviews were held on April 17, 2025.

The results of the review found that the University failed to

- a. implement fair and appropriate admissions practices in line with the student admissions policy as required in the University Standards (Student Enrollment);
- b. ensure fairness and impartiality in the decision-making of alumni teachers' promotions (Faculty and Faculty Organization);
- c. follow established rules and regulations in making important decisions, including the operation of the board of directors, and ensure effective functioning of its governance systems, which resulted in poor university management and operation (University Management); and
- d. conduct self-studies properly (Internal Quality Assurance).

These findings point to the University's lack of systems and processes necessary to assess the appropriateness of its activities and make improvements.

JUAA's board of trustees, which convened on May 29, 2025, took these findings seriously and determined to reverse its decision made in 2021 and revoke the University's accreditation.

In view of this decision, the University is strongly urged to recognize the importance for universities to ensure fair and impartial student enrollment and teaching staff personnel decisions, strive to secure independence as an educational organization, and ensure that appropriate procedures are established and followed in student admissions and teacher promotions. The University should also review, improve, and effectively implement its university management and governance systems and internal quality assurance arrangements.