

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

The Graduate School of Project Design



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Private	Location: Tokyo, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2024	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2032)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for the Graduate School of Project Design

Overview

The Graduate School of Project Design defines its purpose as “fostering human resources who can conceptualize business and society,” based on the mission of universities established by its school corporation: “Playing an important role in society through intellectual practical research and education.” To achieve the School’s mission and purpose, the school corporation Advanced Academic Agency (Graduate School of Project Design and Graduate School of Social Design) has formulated its medium-term plan under which the School strives to enhance its educational and research activities.

Regarding internal quality assurance, the Internal Quality Assurance Policy specifies the Self-Study Committee as an organization responsible for promotion, but the Appointed Faculty Meeting, which is not stated in the regulations or other rules, actually plays an important role in internal quality assurance by discussing improvement measures and other matters, while the Self-Study Committee simply compiles annual inspections and assessments, pointing to the committee’s insufficient role as an organization in charge of promoting internal quality assurance. This issue should be addressed by reviewing the policy and procedures as well as clarifying the organizations responsible for promoting internal quality assurance to improve the internal quality assurance system.

As for education, the School specifies the three abilities of “creativity, inspiration, and imagination,” “conceptualization,” and “communication for inspiring people” in the diploma policy, based on its mission and purpose as well as educational and research objectives. With learning outcomes monitored through student questionnaires and project design plans, the School is expected to continue working to improve survey collection rates and conducting analyses, including visualizing the acquired abilities of students.

To achieve the objective of “promoting project design across the country” stated in the school corporation’s medium-term plan, the School opened campuses in Osaka and Fukuoka in AY2018, Nagoya in AY2019, and Sendai in AY2022. Accordingly, the School is planning various projects, such as coordinating among multiple campuses, providing interactive online and hybrid-flexible (HyFlex) lessons, improving information and communications technology (ICT), and creating a better environment for working graduate students to balance school and work.

With the expansion of campuses in regional cities, the School’s community-based

efforts have increased. Among the distinctive initiatives are social cooperation and contribution activities. Notably, Research Group on Project Design at the Project Design Research Institute focuses on the School's campus areas to return its outcomes to society by offering "project design" solutions to regional challenges. The number of selected items by Research Group on Project Design is increasing each year, some of its projects carried out. This is a highly commendable activity to realize the School's mission and purpose. As the school corporation's medium-term plan aims for more regional engagement, the community-rooted Research Group on Project Design is expected to expand further and return its outcomes to education through social cooperation and contribution activities.

There is an area of improvement the School should address, however, in addition to internal quality assurance as mentioned above. The School has not formulated a specific medium-term plan since AY2024. With its purpose and mission different from that of the other school established by the school corporation, this issue should be addressed by establishing specific and feasible plans with an eye to the School's future.

With faculty and staff working together to achieve the School's mission and purpose through prompt decision-making, the School is expected to progress further in the years ahead while fulfilling its accountability to society by effectively operating the internal quality assurance system.

Notable Strengths

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- Research Group on Project Design at the Project Design Research Institute has been underway since the School's opening, and a growing number of its projects have been carried out in recent years with the expansion of campuses in regional cities. Research Group on Project Design is also working as an industry-academia-government collaboration to develop a project model for social problem-solving using the "Corporate Furusato Nozei Program" (Furusato Nozei refers to a hometown tax donation system. People make donations to local municipalities they wish to support and in return receive tax deductions as well as local specialties as gifts.) In 2024, the outcomes of Project Research Group on Project Design based on a partnership agreement led to the implementation of employment support services that connect construction firms and people with disabilities. These are commendable

activities that greatly contribute to addressing community challenges through the School's mission of "project design."

Suggestions for Improvement

Mission and Purpose

- The school corporation's medium-term plan has been laid out, but the School has not formulated its own medium-term plan since AY2024. This issue should be addressed by formulating a specific and feasible medium- to long-term plan at an early date, based on the results of the AY2021 Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Professional Graduate Business Schools, to achieve the School's mission and purpose.

Internal Quality Assurance

- The School's policy specifies the Self-Study Committee as an organization responsible for promoting internal quality assurance, but the president-led Full-Time Faculty Meeting, which is not stated in the policy, regulations, or other rules, actually plays a central role in discussing improvement measures and other matters. This situation indicates that the Self-Study Committee fails to play its role as an organization tasked with promoting internal quality assurance. Moreover, the procedures for university-wide self-studies are not stated in the regulations or other rules. The School should address these issues by reviewing the policy and procedures, clarifying the organizations in charge of promoting internal quality assurance to improve the internal quality assurance system, and specifying the inspection and assessment procedures in the regulations and rules to effectively operate the system.