

Ritsumeikan University passes JUAA Accreditation Screening – Commended for Strengths in Seven Areas including Internal Quality Assurance

Ritsumeikan University was recently notified by the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) of the results of the accreditation screening conducted in AY2018.

To quote the notification letter: “As a result of our assessment for the 2018 academic year, we hereby deem Ritsumeikan University in compliance with JUAA standards. This accreditation is valid from April 1, 2019 until March 31, 2026”.

By law, universities are required to undergo accreditation screening once every seven years, and this marks the third time Ritsumeikan University has been deemed in compliance with JUAA’s accreditation standards since this accreditation scheme went into effect 2004.

In its screening results, JUAA provided advice for the further enhancement of the university based on seven 'Notable Strengths' and three 'Suggestions for Improvement'. (No Recommendations were issued.)

Regarding our strengths, we were commended for Internal Quality Assurance (Standard 2). According to JUAA, we have ensured the appropriateness and objectivity of internal quality assurance by developing a system that ties the self-assessments in each college and graduate school to actual improvements, implements external evaluations for the entire university as well as for each specialization in each college and graduate school, and ensure the systematic involvement of students.

We were also commended for Educational Program and Outcome (Standard 4) for developing learning processes for our undergraduate programs and systematically tracking and evaluating a wide range of learning outcomes on a year-round basis using both subjective data based on students' self-awareness and objective data centered on the analysis of grades for subjects.

Furthermore, regarding Student Support (Standard 7), JUAA commended us for placing learner-centered education at the core of university education and using a variety of peer learning systems to enrich student life, thereby helping students to improve their self-directed learning ability.

JUAA also noted strengths in the areas of research (e.g. wide-ranging research support programs, strong industry-university-government alliances, and efforts to secure external funding), which functions to fulfill our mission along with education, and social contribution (e.g. peace education, open lectures, and disaster recovery assistance).



The three suggestions for improvement were graduate school enrollment management, establishment of Three Policies for each degree program, and clarification of screening standards for research outcomes on specific topics. Taking this to heart, we will earnestly endeavor to make improvements by leveraging our internal quality assurance system.

In light of these results, we at Ritsumeikan University will continue raising the level of our education and research in response to the expectations of our students, their parents, and our other stakeholders.

See the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) homepage at the link below:

<http://www.juaa.or.jp/en/index.html>