



Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation: Universities

Optional Evaluation Items

2009-2010

Introduction

The certified evaluation and accreditation by NIAD-UE evaluates overall condition of universities, particularly the education of regular programs. On the other hand, research is also one of important activities for universities. As a member of the society, universities are expected to cooperate and share their intellectual property, both of research and education, with local communities and the industrial sector.

Therefore, based on the objectives of evaluation “to provide high quality evaluation reports to universities for the quality improvement of their education and research activities”, and “to assist universities in fulfilling accountability to the general public on their status as public organizations, by clarifying the condition of their education and research”, NIAD-UE sets two optional evaluation items to evaluate their activities from a different dimension from the certified evaluation and accreditation: the conditions of research, and education offered to those other than full-time students. This scheme is designed to contribute to the enhancement of their individualization. NIAD-UE carries out this evaluation at the request of the university.

This evaluation does not lead to a judgment whether something meets certain standards or not, but focuses on how far the university is attaining its goals related to these items.

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Optional Evaluation Item A: The Conditions of Research

A-1 In light of the university's purpose, the necessary systems for the conduct of research are maintained and functioning.

A-2 In light of the university's purpose, research are conducted actively and producing positive outcomes.

Outline

Universities are responsible to foster excellent human resources and, through the conduct of a wide range of research, contribute to the development of the society, economy, and culture.

NIAD-UE's basic policy for its Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation is to evaluate the status of education and research comprehensively, particularly focusing on educational activities. In this process, research are therefore examined along with the educational aspects (See Viewpoints 3-3-i, 5-1-ii, 5-4-ii, and 5-8-ii). Accordingly universities conduct self-assessment of their research from these perspectives.

However, universities carry out a broad range of research that cannot necessarily be assessed adequately through the relation with educational activities. For the university to keep active in their research, it is essential that it establishes systems for conducting and supporting research and implements policies to promote them. At the same time, the university should accurately assess the current conditions, the research outputs, outcomes, and the impact for the society, economy, and culture. The findings should be reflected in enhancing its research, and informed to the public.

This optional evaluation item has been created to satisfy the needs of universities which requests comprehensive evaluation focused on their research.

With this item, at the point will be on, in light of the university's purpose, whether systems for conducting, supporting and improving research are established, and measures on resource allocation, rules governing research, and system for the quality improvement of research are functioning properly.

Other focuses will be on how actively research are conducted (the number of research publications, the status of collaborative research projects, the use of competitive research funds), the quality of research (factors such as the number of success for competitive research funds, the results of external evaluations, and the number of prizes won), and the social, economic, and cultural contributions clarified by analysis of the effective use of its

research outcomes. These factors are assessed in light of the university's purpose.

Here, the term "research" refers not only to basic and applied research, but also to the wide range of creative activities that academic staff are engaged in.

Viewpoints

A-1-i Appropriate organizational structures for conducting, supporting, and promoting research are maintained and functioning.

A-1-ii Appropriate policies and programs for research are defined and implemented.

A-1-iii Initiatives to monitor the status of research, address problems, and improve their quality are implemented.

A-2-i The evidences on research activities and outputs show that they are actively implemented .

A-2-ii The evidences on the outcomes show their high quality.

A-2-iii The status of applications of research outcomes in social, economic, and cultural fields and evaluation by external bodies indicate that the university's research is contributing to the development of those fields.

Optional Evaluation Item B: Education Offered to Those Other Than Full-Time Students

B-1 In light of the university's purpose, appropriate services are provided to persons other than full time students, and are producing positive outcomes.

Outline

With the advance of technology and the increasing complexity of society, the growing affluence of citizens and increasing diversification of values, it is required for universities to respond systematically to the demands for nurturing excellent human resources in various sectors, with enhanced vocational skills, providing life-long learning and contributing to the local community. In essence, it is required to open itself up more to society as centers of systematic and continuous learning. Many universities are already taking action in response to these developments, sharing its intellectual wealth with the society through offering education to a more varied audience.

The education may be offered by arrangements such as the auditing student for credit accepting system, auditing student system, open classes, and qualifications courses, training programs or seminars, as well as providing learning opportunities such as by opening their museums and libraries to the public. In addition, some universities also take part in lectures and symposia, join committees, to provide the local community with academic support under the cooperation.

Some universities view these social activities as an important social service. Where these are clearly stated in the university's purpose, it will be the subject for review for item.

The focus of this optional evaluation item will be the extent to which the university is attaining its goals for educational services by reviewing how well its goals and plans have been established and are informed of, the appropriateness of activities and methods, the positive outcomes of educational services being delivered, and the systems are in place for making improvements.

Viewpoints

B-1-i The university has established suitable plans and specific policies for achieving its goals for educational provisions. Staff and students are well informed of these plans and policies.

B-1-ii Educational services are provided appropriately in accordance with the plans.

B-1-iii The services are attracting a reasonable number of participants. The levels of satisfaction of the people conducting and receiving the services indicate positive outcomes.

B-1-iv The university addresses initiatives to enhance the quality of services.

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