

Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation

Greeting from the President

The Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation (JIHEE) is a certified accreditation agency established to support the improvement of voluntary internal quality assurance at Japanese universities, junior colleges, and professional graduate schools, and to contribute to the advancement of higher education in Japan through accreditation. Since the majority of JIHEE's member institutions are private universities and junior colleges, we place great importance on respecting the unique characteristics of each institution. We promote reform and improvement aligned with each institution's diverse missions, while fostering open dialogue based on the spirit of "Peer Review."

JIHEE was founded in 2004 as a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation (Koueki Zaidan Houjin). We were subsequently certified by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as an accreditation agency for universities in 2005, for junior colleges in 2009, and for professional graduate schools specializing in fashion and business in 2010. In 2024, JIHEE celebrated its 20th anniversary, having conducted accreditation reviews for numerous universities.

We sincerely extend our deepest gratitude to all stakeholders who have provided exceptional support and cooperation in JIHEE's operations and accreditation activities over the years.

JIHEE is a member of several international networks, including the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), and the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG). We are actively working to enhance our international presence as a quality assurance agency for higher education. In addition, we engage in global activities such as building relationships and exchanging information with overseas quality assurance agencies, conducting research on international quality assurance practices, participating in mutual reviews and collaborative projects, and fostering international cooperation.



President
Toshikazu YASUI

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation System

Since the 2004 academic year, all universities, junior colleges, and colleges of technology in Japan have been legally required to undergo evaluation at least once every seven years by one of accreditation agencies certified by MEXT. This system is known as the "Certified Evaluation and Accreditation System." Our organization is officially recognized by MEXT as an authorized accreditation agency.

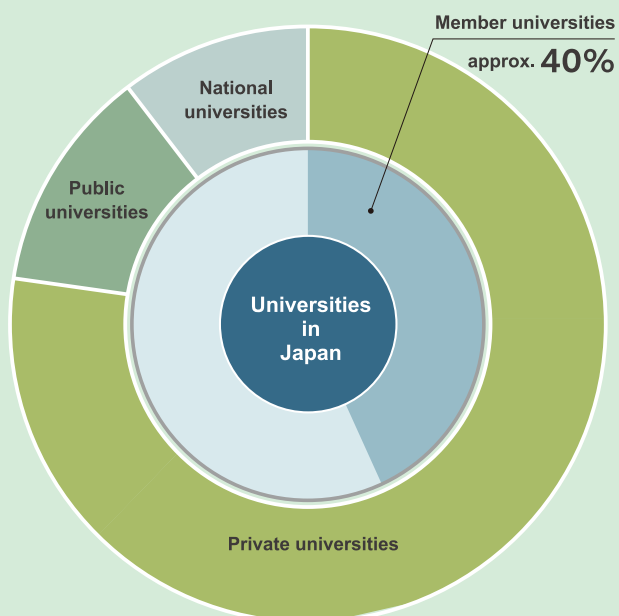
The primary purpose of these evaluations is to support the improvement and enhancement of education and research at universities, thereby contributing to the overall advancement of higher education in Japan. The underlying philosophy of certified evaluation is often expressed as "Voluntary and Peer Review." This means that faculty members from various institutions voluntarily assess institutions other than their own.

Evaluations of universities and junior colleges are known as institutional evaluations, which comprehensively assess elements such as curricula and administrative operations. In contrast, professional graduate schools, such as law schools, are subject to specialized field evaluations, which focus primarily on the content and quality of their academic programs. These specialized evaluations are required at least once every five years.

Membership

JIHEE launched a membership system in the fiscal year 2005, initially targeting universities. Since the fiscal year 2011, junior colleges have also been eligible for membership. Approximately 40% of universities in Japan are members of JIHEE, and approximately 60% of all private universities are our members.

The membership system is intended to promote mutual cooperation among universities and to support accreditation evaluations that ensure and enhance the quality of higher education institutions. We offer member institutions access to various evaluation-related activities, including our Evaluation Enhancement Conference, and provide them with publications and regular email newsletters.



◀ the latest members
https://www.jiheer.or.jp/en/about/member/list_detail.php

JIHEE's Evaluation

Evaluation Objectives

- 1 To evaluate the overall situation of educational and research activities of institutions, on the basis of the Evaluation Standards developed by JIHEE taking into consideration the analysis of the results of Self-Inspection and Evaluation; and to verify the Self-Inspection and Evaluation and to support the institutions' efforts to strengthen internal quality assurance on their own initiative.
- 2 To assist and promote the autonomous development of the institutions' individual and distinctive educational and research activities, etc. through evaluations that consider their individuality and distinctive qualities.
- 3 To provide support that enables institutions to attain wide public backing through appropriate disclosure of the overall state of their educational and research activities.

Evaluation Standards (Universities)

Standard 1	Mission and Objectives	Incorporation of mission, goals and educational and research objectives
Standard 2	Internal Quality Assurance	Organizational system for the internal quality assurance, Self-Inspection and Evaluation for the internal quality assurance, Functionality of Self-Inspection and Evaluation
Standard 3	Students	Admission of students, Support for learning and class instruction, Career guidance, Student services, Development and improvement of the learning environment
Standard 4	Educational Curriculum	Awarding credits, certifying graduation and completion, Educational curriculum and teaching methods, Identification and evaluation of learning outcomes
Standard 5	Faculty and Staff	Functionality of administration for educational and research activities, Assignment of faculty, Training and professional development for faculty and staff, Support for research
Standard 6	Management, Administration and Finance	Management discipline and integrity, Functions of the Board of Directors, Facilitation of administration and checking functions, Financial base and fiscal balance, Accounting
Unique Standards		
Remarks		

*Please check on the JIHEE website for the evaluation standards for the certified evaluation and accreditation of junior colleges and fashion business professional graduate schools, and details of these standards.

the latest evaluation system ►
<https://www.jiheer.or.jp/en/evaluation/>



Evaluation schedule

June	Submission of Self-Inspection and Evaluation Report
June-	Off-site investigation
September-	On-site investigation
March	Confirmation of evaluation results

No. of accredited universities

	No. of accredited universities
First term (2004–2010)	272
Second term (2011–2017)	346
Third term (2018–2024)	340

*One term shall be seven years

the latest evaluation results ►
<https://www.jiheer.or.jp/en/list/>



Research Activities

Fiscal year	Themes	Content
2022-2023	Research study on the engagement of stakeholders (especially students) in Quality Assurance of higher education in Europe	Interviews and Questionnaire Surveys of overseas agencies
2021-2022	Research Study on Quality Assurance of Vocational Education Training institutions in Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia	Interviews with overseas agencies
2021	Research Study on the Interim Verification of the Third Phase of Certified Evaluation and Accreditation	Questionnaire result analyses and investigative visits to domestic agencies
	Research Study on Quality Assurance of Professional and Vocational Universities	Investigative visits to domestic agencies
2019-2020	Investigative research into creation self-Inspection and Evaluation Reports	Data analysis and case study of self-Inspection and Evaluation Reports
	Investigative research into university evaluation in the Nordic countries	Investigative visits to overseas agencies

the latest research activities ▶
<https://www.jihee.or.jp/en/research/>



International Partnerships

Philippine Association
of Colleges and Universities
Commission on Accreditation



Korean Council for
University Education



Korean University
Accreditation Institute



Shanghai Association for
Non-Government Education,
Educational Evaluation Center



Higher Education Evaluation
and Accreditation Council
of Taiwan



International Memberships

International Network for
Quality Assurance Agencies
in Higher Education (INQAAHE)



Asia-Pacific Quality Network
(APQN)



CHEA International
Quality Group (CIQG)



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