
**NATIONAL
INSTITUTION
FOR ACADEMIC
DEGREES
AND UNIVERSITY
EVALUATION**



**EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION OF
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION**



**AWARDING
OF ACADEMIC DEGREES**



**INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES**



**RESEARCH
ACTIVITIES**

Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education Institution



Certified Evaluation and Accreditation (CEA)

Institutional evaluations of education and research activities at higher education institutions

- NIAD-UE, certified by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) conducts CEA of universities, colleges of technology, and graduate law schools.
- Each university/school must be evaluated at least once every 7 years.
- Each graduate law school must be evaluated at least once every 5 years.
- CEA by NIAD-UE began in 2005 **and is now in its 2nd cycle.**

Standards of the Institutional CEA for Universities

1. Mission of the University
2. Teaching and Research Structure
3. Academic Staff and Teaching Supporting Staff
4. Student Admission
5. Academic Programs
6. Learning Outcomes
7. Facilities and Student Support
8. Internal Quality Assurance System of Teaching and Learning
9. Finance and Management
10. Public Information on Teaching and Learning

Institutional Thematic Assessments

Focusing on distinctive features of institutions

NIAD-UE offers three thematic assessments on distinctive features of universities.

- Theme A: Research Activities
- Theme B: Community Engagement
- Theme C: Internationalization of Higher Education

National University Corporation Evaluation (NUCE)

on education and research

NIAD-UE conducts NUCE every 6 years to ensure each National University Corporation has achieved its mid-term objectives, mid-term plan and annual plan in the areas of education and research.

Awarding of Academic Degrees



NIAD-UE provides alternative routes to earn academic degrees for individuals based on their learning outcomes.

NIAD-UE awards bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees to those who demonstrate an acquisition of academic ability equivalent to that achieved in undergraduate or graduate education. As provided in the School Education Law, NIAD-UE is the only entity besides universities that is authorized to confer degrees in Japan. NIAD-UE administers two schemes for learners to earn academic degrees.

Scheme 1

NIAD-UE awards bachelor's degrees to learners who have accumulated credit hours as non-matriculated students at universities and who have demonstrated academic attainment equivalent to the knowledge and skills required to complete undergraduate programs.

Process

- Applicants who have completed at least the first two years of higher education or its equivalent can acquire additional credit hours* until the accumulation is equal to the baccalaureate requirement. Each applicant is required to prepare a work, such as a thesis, artwork, or musical performance to demonstrate the learning outcomes.
- Documentation of acquired credit hours and submission of a work are required upon application.
- NIAD-UE evaluates applicants' academic ability by examination of earned credit hours and submitted works.
- Successful applicants will be awarded bachelor's degrees by NIAD-UE.

* Credit hours can be earned at universities as a non-matriculated credit-based student or at advanced programs attached to junior colleges or colleges of technology that are approved by NIAD-UE.

Scheme 2

NIAD-UE awards bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees to those who successfully complete a university-equivalent program at NIAD-UE recognized educational institutions.

Process

- Applicants complete programs recognized by NIAD-UE.
- Documentation of acquired credit hours is required upon application for all degrees. Submission of a thesis is also required upon application for master's and doctoral degrees.
- NIAD-UE evaluates applicants' academic ability by examination of earned credit hours. Applicants for master's and doctoral degrees will be required to defend their theses.
- Successful applicants will be awarded bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees by NIAD-UE.

International Collaborative Activities



Activities to promote wide-ranging international understanding of Japanese higher education and confidence in quality assurance.

NIAD-UE also provides information to Japanese institutions about overseas higher education and quality assurance systems in order to support their activities in international collaboration and quality enhancement.

Major Initiatives

Information Provision Tool

- **Information Package:**

Wide distribution of the comprehensive 'Information Package' composed of bilingual publications, including:

- *Glossary of Quality Assurance in Japanese Higher Education*
- *Overviews of Quality Assurance Systems providing basic information on respective countries' higher education and quality assurance systems*

- **International Cooperation Webpage:**

Online information regularly updated on quality assurance related to international collaborative education programs and recent developments on quality assurance in other countries.

Forums and Seminars

- Annual forum and other seminars with international guest speakers to promote quality enhancement.

Partnership in the Quality Assurance for International Collaborative Education

- Japan-China-Korea Collaboration: Joint QA project on pilot programs for transnational education.

International Networks and Partners

- NIAD-UE has formal memberships in the following organizations:
 - *International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)*
 - *Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)*
 - *CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG)*
- NIAD-UE has a formal agreement with the overseas quality assurance agencies:

QAA (UK)

AERES (France)

NVAO (the Netherlands and Flanders)

Nuffic (the Netherlands)

HEEC (China)

HKCAAVQ (Hong Kong)

HEEACT (Taiwan)

KCUE (Korea)

MQA (Malaysia)

BAN-PT (Indonesia)

TEQSA (Australia)

Research Activities



Research is conducted for the development of quality assurance practices and degree-awarding activities by the research department.

The output and findings of research and analysis are made widely available through academic papers and reference documents with data and indicators for practical use by higher education institutions.

Strategic priorities

- Basic research on evaluation and accreditation frameworks for higher education to enhance the current system
- Studies of institutional internal quality assurance to develop new evaluation system and assessment
- Basic research on degree and other academic credentials, assessment of learning outcomes, and degree compatibility
- Studies of the international compatibility of Japan's degree-awarding and evaluation systems

Research Journal

- NIAD-UE publishes the annual academic journal '*Research on Academic Degrees and University Evaluation*'

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→ www.niad.ac.jp/english



NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR ACADEMIC DEGREES AND UNIVERSITY EVALUATION (NIAD-UE)

NIAD-UE was established in 1991 as the National Institution for Academic Degrees, which conferred academic awards in Japan outside the university sector. In 2000, it added the function of evaluations and accreditations of higher education institutions. Since 2004 as an incorporated administrative agency, it has been formally recognized as an organization responsible for higher education quality assurance.

NIAD-UE's publication

Information Package

For promoting mutual understanding
in higher education and quality assurance community

Overviews of Quality Assurance Systems in Higher Education

- Japan, the US, UK, Australia the Netherlands, France, Korea
- Compiled in bilingual format, the overviews provide basic information on their respective countries' higher-education and quality-assurance systems.

NIAD-UE Glossary of Quality Assurance in Japanese Higher Education

- In a Japanese-English bilingual format, the Glossary defines and describes the terms used in Japan's higher-education and quality-assurance systems and in NIAD-UE's evaluation system.

NIAD-UE's evaluation materials

- English translations of documents regarding the **principles, criteria** and **methods** applied by NIAD-UE in its evaluation and accreditation processes.

All of these publications are available on our website:

→ www.niad.ac.jp/english



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