

Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development
(Hiroshima University - University of Graz)

Master's Course, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Hiroshima University
AY2020 Self-inspection and Annual Report

Overall review of evaluation results

(Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz))

The program was established in October 2020 under the theme of Sustainability Studies, after formulating the three policies aimed at developing human resources with an ability to conduct research and practical work based on international cooperation principles in development studies and using social scientific approaches, and those with a high level of communication skills to collaborate with people with diverse backgrounds. Since the establishment, faculty members from Hiroshima University and the University of Graz have collaborated to provide research guidance through a common curriculum, offering distinctive educational content of both universities such as public policy to alleviate poverty in developing countries, economic analysis, social science analysis, and sustainable management of companies.

This Self-inspection and Annual Report covers the six months immediately after the program's establishment (from October 2020 to March 2021); 16 criteria were judged to be "fully applicable," three criteria were judged to be "applicable," and six criteria were judged not subject to evaluation.

In the future, we will steadily implement the approved curriculum and continue to identify issues and consider improvement measures based on the needs of students, etc. in cooperation with the University of Graz.

Area 2: Criteria for internal quality assurance

Criterion 2-1: Internal quality assurance is functioning effectively.

Analysis item 2-1-1	Initiatives to systematically and continuously collect and analyze the information necessary for self-inspection/evaluation are implemented in the school or the program, and verification is conducted on whether such initiatives are functioning effectively.
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Number of meetings held by the Self-inspection and Evaluation Committee: 2 (19 members)
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① The Self-inspection and Evaluation Committee conducts inspections and evaluation of educational and research activities, etc. The results of the class improvement questionnaire for each term are accumulated as evidence, and faculty members' opinions in response to students' evaluations in the class improvement questionnaire are fed back.

Analysis item 2-1-2	The opinions of students, alumni and other parties concerned are collected and analyzed systematically and continuously, and efforts for utilizing such opinions are made.
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Results of the questionnaire on the class by MOMIJI Student Handbook, "Master's Thesis, etc. Preparation Schedule for Master's Courses and Professional Degree Programs"
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① Each laboratory has established a communication system between the faculty and students. In cooperation with the University of Graz, interviews are held as necessary to share issues related to educational and research activities and student life. In addition, there is a functioning system for faculty members in charge of class subjects to check the results of the class improvement questionnaire by MOMIJI and return comments in response to the students' evaluation. ② Based on the "Master's Thesis, etc. Preparation Schedule for Master's Courses and Professional Degree Programs" in the Student Handbook, students and supervisors conduct interviews to share issues and progress in educational and research activities.

Criterion 2-2: The quality of the faculty and those who support or assist educational and research activities is ensured through an organization-wide initiative, and efforts are made to maintain and improve it.

Analysis item 2-2-1	Information on grading and student guidance is shared at the Program Committee, etc. for improvement.
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Number of Program Committee meetings: 6
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① The Program Committee shares information on the student's course registration status, research progress, and problems in their daily life, and discusses regarding improvement.

Analysis item 2-2-2	Related personnel participate in faculty development (FD) workshops held by the university, schools, programs, etc., and the content is shared at the Program Committee, etc. for the improvement of education and research.
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	FD materials of the Graduate School, etc.
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① Faculty members who participated in FD workshops held by the University and Graduate School share the content at the Program Committee for the improvement of education and research.

Area 3: Criteria for information disclosure

Criterion 3-1: Information on educational and research activities is properly disclosed and thus accountability is

Criterion 4-2: Counseling, advice and support are provided to students in terms of their daily lives, career paths, financial assistance, etc.

Analysis item 4-2-1	Appropriate support is provided to students in terms of course guidance, learning, daily life, financial matters, etc.
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Website of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (Financial support for students whose entrance university is Hiroshima University) https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/system/files/157311/Program_Information_for_Entrance_HU_20210113%20%28002%29.pdf Student Handbook p. 22, "Master's Thesis, etc. Preparation Schedule for Master's Courses and Professional Degree Programs"
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① Each laboratory has established a communication system between the faculty and the students. In cooperation with the University of Graz, interviews are held as necessary to share issues related to educational and research activities and student life. In addition, a scholarship system unique to the program has been established to provide financial support to students whose entrance university is Hiroshima University. ② Based on the "Master's Thesis, etc. Preparation Schedule for Master's Courses and Professional Degree Programs" in the Student Handbook, students and supervisors conduct interviews to share issues and progress in educational and research activities.

Area 5: Criteria for admission of students

Criterion 5-1: Students are properly admitted.

Analysis item 5-1-1	The admission process is carried out with an appropriate system in line with the admission policy.
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Number of meetings held by the Admissions Committee: 6 (15 members) Admission Policy of the Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz) https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/gshs/senkougakui/kokusairenkei
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① The Admissions Committee determines the implementation plan and methods of the admission process and conducts appropriate selection in accordance with the Admission Policy. The Admission Policy is clearly stated in the application guidelines and on the website. In cooperation with the University of Graz, an online management system has been established in consideration of the time difference, convenience of the applicants, and crisis management.

Analysis item 5-1-2	Efforts are made to verify whether students are actually admitted in accordance with the admission policy, and the results are used to improve the admission process.
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Admission information for the Joint Degree Programme Hiroshima - Graz “Joint International Master’s Programme in Sustainable Development” https://www.jointdegree.eu/de/sustainable-development/
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① The Admission Policy is clearly stated in the application guidelines. A draft of the admission criteria is prepared jointly with the University of Graz in accordance with the Admission Policy, and appropriate decisions are made at the admission decision meeting (Board of Representatives). A system has been established to share information with the University of Graz and make improvements in case problems should arise in the admission process.

Criterion 5-2: The number of students enrolled is adequate for the admission quota.

Analysis item 5-2-1	The number of students enrolled does not significantly exceed or fall below the admission quota.
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Number of students enrolled: 2; percentage of admission quota: 100%
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① A system to manage the admission quota of the entire Graduate School has been established in cooperation with the University of Graz. Thus, in AY2020, two students (one student whose entrance university is Hiroshima University and one student whose entrance university is the University of Graz) were enrolled to fill the admission quota of two.

Area 6: Criteria for curriculum and learning outcomes

Criterion 6-1: The organization of the curriculum and the content of the class subjects are systematic and of an appropriate level in accordance with the diploma policy and the curriculum policy.

Analysis item 6-1-1	The organization of the curriculum and the content of the class subjects are systematic and of a level appropriate for the degree to be awarded.
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Curriculum Policy and Diploma Policy of the Joint International Master’s Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz) https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/gshs/senkougaku/kokusairenkei Student Handbook pp. 6-8, “Courses, Credits, Credits Required for Completion” (Joint International Master’s Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University and

	University of Graz))
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① In cooperation with the Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - Leipzig University) at the Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Basic Subjects are offered, allowing students majoring in social sciences and those majoring in science and engineering to study in the same classroom and come into contact with different perspectives and ways of thinking, thereby promoting their understanding of multiple fields beyond their conventional framework of expertise. In addition to this, in cooperation with the University of Graz, the program offers Specialization Subjects, Integration Subjects and Master Thesis Classes regarding the knowledge and theories necessary to deepen understanding of sustainable development. The curriculum is systematically organized to foster students with an ability to conduct research and practical work based on international cooperation principles in development studies and using social scientific approaches in order to resolve pressing regional and global issues related to the SDGs, and those with excellent collaboration and communication skills to be exerted at universities, research institutions, governments, international organizations, private businesses, NGOs, etc., as well as competitive capability to secure employment in the international labor market. Furthermore, these class subjects are taught by faculty members with high expertise who have been screened for educational qualifications at the Graduate School, and thus educational content of a level appropriate for the degree to be awarded has been ensured.

Criterion 6-2: Appropriate forms of classes and teaching methods are adopted in accordance with the diploma policy and the curriculum policy.

Analysis item 6-2-1	The curriculum is systematically organized based on the curriculum policy; forms of classes and teaching methods (guidance for research, thesis, etc.) appropriate for the education of the field are prepared; and the methods and content of the classes are clearly shown to the students.
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Curriculum Policy of the Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz) https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/gshs/senkougaku/kokusairenkei Student Handbook pp. 6-8, "Courses, Credits, Credits Required for Completion" (Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University and University of Graz))
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① The curriculum for the program is organized and implemented based on the following policy so that the students are able to achieve the objectives stated in the Diploma Policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Subjects (36 credits) are offered to allow students to develop a bird's-eye view of sustainable development and the fundamental ability to explore sustainable development for their own intrinsic growth from various perspectives. • Specialization Subjects (78.5 credits) are offered to allow students to learn theories

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regarding development economics and their application to global issues.

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	explore their research fields more deeply, develop their career after completion, and enhance their intellectual curiosity, etc.
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Criterion 6-4: Fair grading is carried out rigorously and objectively in accordance with the curriculum policy.

Analysis item 6-4-1	Grading and credit recognition are carried out in light of the educational policy of the field, and are effective in the educational field.
Self-inspection/evaluation unit	Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	Not subject to evaluation. (This item cannot be described because it is difficult to show verifiable evidence, as the implementation period of this program in AY2020 was only six months.)

Analysis item 6-4-2	Grading criteria are made known to the students.
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Student Handbook p. 8, "Grade objection filing system"
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① An agreement on the credit transfer system has been signed between Hiroshima University and the University of Graz, and the rules are clearly stated in the Student Handbook. In addition, Hiroshima University's system for filing grade objections is also made known via the Student Handbook. If a petition is filed by a student, the University responds appropriately and fulfills its accountability.

Analysis item 6-4-3	It is systematically confirmed that grading and credit recognition for each class subject are carried out rigorously and objectively in accordance with the grading criteria.
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	Not subject to evaluation. (This item cannot be described because it is difficult to show verifiable evidence, as the implementation period of this program in AY2020 was only six months.)

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Criterion 6-5: Fair decisions on completion are made in accordance with the objectives of the university, etc. and the diploma policy.

Analysis item 6-5-1	Evaluation criteria for degree theses, etc. related to the recognition of completion have been established and are made known to the students, and completion is recognized under an appropriate screening system.
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable

Evidence Student Handbook pp. 22-42, "Master's Thesis, etc. Preparation Schedule for Master's Courses and Professional Degree Programs," "Degree Conferral Judgment Criteria and Dissertation Evaluation Criteria [Master's Courses]," "Hiroshima University By-Laws of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences," "Regulations of the Graduate

Evidence	
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	Since this program has just started and there are only two students, it is not possible to analyze class improvement questionnaires without identifying individuals.

Analysis item 6-6-3	Results of interviews with students in terms of the levels of learning achievement and satisfaction indicate that learning outcomes have been achieved.
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① Since this program has just started and there are only two students, it is not possible to analyze class improvement questionnaires without identifying individuals.

Analysis item 6-6-4	Results of interviews with alumni and individuals involved in their careers indicate that learning outcomes have been achieved.
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	
[Remarks] ①	

	Professional Degree Programs”
<p>[Remarks]</p> <p>① Grounds and reasons for evaluation</p> <p>② Supplementary explanation of evidence</p> <p>③ Distinctive activities and efforts</p>	<p>The phases of the schedule to completion are shown to each student, and there is a functioning system where students can check the progress of their research efforts and results through interviews with their supervisors in each phase.</p>

Area 7: Criteria for the internationality of education

Criterion 7-1: Initiatives to internationalize the campus and develop global human resources are systematically implemented.

Analysis item 7-1-1	International students are admitted under an appropriate system at schools, departments, programs, etc.
Self-evaluation	<p>■ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable</p>
Evidence	<p>Number of international students: 1 out of 2 (50%)</p> <p>Number of courses that can be completed in English: 1</p>
<p>[Remarks]</p> <p>① Grounds and reasons for evaluation</p> <p>② Supplementary explanation of evidence</p> <p>③ Distinctive activities and efforts</p>	<p>① An international student was admitted as the first cohort in October 2020. A curriculum that can be completed in English is available. The Student Supporters provide assistance to international students by supporting their course registration, etc. so that international students who cannot come to Japan can take classes online and in English. Assistance after enrollment includes improving submission forms and materials on the bulletin board and providing daily life support.</p>

Analysis item 7-1-2	Students are properly informed about study abroad programs, and receives appropriate support such as course guidance.
Self-evaluation	<p>■ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable</p>
Evidence	<p>Student Handbook pp. 6-8, “Courses, Credits, Credits Required for Completion” (Joint International Master’s Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University and University of Graz))</p>
<p>[Remarks]</p> <p>① Grounds and reasons for evaluation</p> <p>② Supplementary explanation of evidence</p> <p>③ Distinctive activities and efforts</p>	<p>① A joint curriculum with the University of Graz is provided for the program, and students spend their second and third semesters after enrollment at the partner university (University of Graz or Hiroshima University). Students are guided through an orientation for new students and course counseling by supervisors so that they can proceed with their course plans until completion without problems.</p>