

Top Global University Project Midterm Evaluation Results

Name of university	International Christian University
Project ID	B13
Name of project	Creating responsible global citizens through a global liberal arts education

◇Evaluation provided by the Top Global University Program Committee

(Overall grade) S	The project is being implemented successfully, and achievement of the purposes of the project is expected.
(Comments)	<p>Through academic reform, the promotion of further internationalization, and the implementation of measures to improve education, this project, in accordance with the philosophy of the university, aims to cultivate capable internationally-minded citizens so that the bilingual liberal arts education in English and Japanese that the university has offered since its establishment may be transformed into a “global liberal arts education” that is open to the world.</p> <p>As regards the establishment of a system to realize the project, under the leadership of the president, the establishment of an organizational structure and the establishment of a system to realize the project are steadily underway and are going according to plan. The university has established the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) to set up an integrated and comprehensive support system for students and faculty. It is commendable that the university, through such efforts, is working towards the provision of comprehensive support that unifies the learning support provided to students and the educational support provided to faculty.</p> <p>As regards internationalization, there was sufficient diversity, with more than 90% of faculty members having an international background and approximately 40% of full-time faculty members being female. Regarding language skills, the percentage of courses that were offered in a foreign language was extremely high, with 28.9% of all courses being offered in a foreign language in AY2016. The students were highly skilled in languages from the start, and it is expected that their language ability will improve further. The university has introduced unique measures, such as making it possible for postgraduate students to satisfy the graduation requirements by studying in English only. For undergraduate study, the university strictly adheres to a policy that it has followed since its establishment, namely, the university makes it compulsory for all students to study in both English and Japanese. However, the university, taking into account the actual circumstances of international students, has made it possible for postgraduate students to satisfy the graduation requirements by pursuing their studies in English only.</p> <p>As regards governance reform, the university has remained reluctant to introduce an annual salary system. However, as part of its personnel system, the university has implemented a system of Distinguished Professors and has introduced a tenure track system. As regards the administrative staff, they are highly skilled in languages, and suitable systems are in place for implementing this project. To advance the project further, gaining the understanding and cooperation of all faculty and staff members is essential and it is necessary to devise measures that do not merely allow for the sharing of information but also allow for a shared sense of purpose to be built. As regards the reform of the admissions system, the incorporation of external examinations such as TOEFL in undergraduate admissions and the establishment of a system to select applicants using a multifaceted approach are progressing steadily.</p> <p>As regards the project goals that are unique to the university, the university has set its own detailed benchmarks regarding, for example, writing senior theses in English and increasing the amount of time that students spend studying outside class. Although for some items, the numerical targets have not been met, overall, the efforts that the university as a whole has put in are notable and positive outcomes have been achieved.</p> <p>It is expected that the goals of the project will be achieved comfortably. In the future, it is hoped for that the university will continue to work towards its goals and look for ways of improvement, aiming higher and seeking to achieve its aims with high levels of attainment. We hope that ambitious measures to foster outstanding individuals will be implemented.</p>

◇Evaluation provided by the Top Global University Program Committee (to be disclosed within the university only)

(Important points to note)

<Points to bear in mind>

- When this project was adopted, it was pointed out that “the measures that will be uniquely implemented in this project of ‘creating responsible global citizens through a global liberal arts education’ must be made clear.” Moving forward, it is recommended that sufficient attention be paid to this issue.
- Regarding courses that allow students to satisfy the graduation requirements by studying in a foreign language only, a core concept of the university has been the provision of a bilingual education, and for undergraduate study, the university does not allow students to satisfy the graduation requirements by studying in English only. However, for postgraduate study, the university, taking into account the reality of the situation, does not impose language requirements, and postgraduate students have the option of satisfying the graduation requirements by pursuing their studies in English only. This point was not made clear in the evaluation report; however, it is recommended that this item be recognized as an issue that is integral to this project, and future measures should be implemented based on this understanding.

<Remarks (for reference)>

- The liberal arts education provided at your university is based on an educational policy founded on extremely noble ideas, and it looks very promising. On the other hand, even if the university is very dedicated, whether ordinary students will develop an understanding of those ideas is another question. Even if the system that was established is excellent, if students do not resonate with it and if it does not attract many applications, the actual success of a program cannot be achieved. This was evident, for example, in the case of the “Accelerated Entry Program,” a 5-year Program in which students study Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) or Teaching Foreign Language (TFL) as part of their Master’s degree. Changing the system is not a problem in itself; therefore, it is important to implement reforms speedily in accordance with the actual situation.
- In order to contribute to the internationalization efforts of universities in our country, the university should seek to actively disseminate the achievements that have been accomplished through this project to other Japanese universities, etc., including those universities that have not been selected for the Top Global University Project.
- As regards financial plans, with a view to allowing the project to continue after funding from the government ends, the university should actively seek to secure its own funding that matches the measures that are being implemented as part of the project.