

## Research Study on Quality Assurance of Professional and Vocational Universities

Professional and Vocational Universities and Professional and Vocational Junior Colleges (hereafter referred to as “Vocational Universities”), launched in April 2019, are new higher education institutions established for the purpose of providing high-quality practical vocational education. Vocational Universities are required to undergo certified evaluation and accreditation in the same manner as conventional universities. JIHEE plans to conduct certified evaluation and accreditation of Vocational Universities from FY2024. This survey was conducted to fully understand the characteristics of Vocational Universities and their institutional differences from conventional universities, and to utilize the results of the survey for the consideration of the evaluation system for Vocational Universities.

First, the JIHEE evaluation standards and the accompanying “important notes about self-judgement regarding perspectives for evaluation” were examined from the perspective of whether they could be applied in their current state, whether there were any additional items to be checked, and whether there were any items that were unnecessary when evaluating Vocational Universities. Several issues were identified. Next, in order to resolve these issues, interviews were conducted with two Vocational Universities and one Vocational Junior College that opened in the first year the system was introduced. At the two universities that we visited, we also toured their facilities and equipment to deepen our understanding of the uniqueness and characteristics of each university.

### Interview Survey Overview

Name of university (location)	Date of interview	Venue
Kochi Professional University of Rehabilitation (Kochi Prefecture)	Tue, July 8, 2021	Online
Professional Institute of International Fashion (Tokyo)	Fri, June 10, 2021	Visit
Yamazaki Professional College of Animal Health Technology (Tokyo)	Thu, June 29, 2021	Visit

Interviews with the three universities revealed that they all provide distinctive education and fully utilize the “Curriculum Collaboration Council,” which they are

required to establish by law, thereby enhancing their education and research. In addition, they are actively engaged in self-inspection and evaluation activities as part of their certified evaluation and accreditation, and the results of these activities are shared within the universities. In the future, JIHEE plans to examine the content and methods of evaluation of Vocational Universities, based on the requests of Vocational Universities obtained from the interview survey and the experience of evaluations of Professional and Vocational Departments\* that have already been conducted.

\*A new system established to train professionals at conventional universities.

Members in charge of this research study

Department of Research and Development

Zhongmin LU Director (concurrently serving as Director, Department of Quality Assurance)

Sumiko KOBAYASHI Chief

Chika ITAGAKI Section Chief

Yuki NAKAZATO Assistant Section Chief