

Tokyo Medical and Dental University and Chulalongkorn University
International Joint Degree Doctor of Philosophy Program in Orthodontics

External Assessment Sheet

Term of the Assessment
August, 2020 - July, 2021

Evaluator name :

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Purpose and Background

In 2015, Tokyo Medical and Dental University (hereinafter referred to as the “TMDU”) and Chulalongkorn University (hereinafter referred to as the “CU”) received authorizations from their Ministry of Education to establish a joint degree program (hereinafter referred to as “JDP”).

In 2016, the JDP specializing in orthodontics started, and it has been operated jointly by TMDU and CU. TMDU and CU, through this JDP, aim for training medical professionals with a rich international quality, and enhance the universities’ international profiles, presences and competitiveness.

The JDP focus on fostering professionals who understand the essentials of clinical dentistry and service, and who show promise as talented researchers and future leaders in ASEAN countries.

In the Program, which is different from the usual doctoral program, we offer a curriculum that will enable students to develop the high-quality research capabilities needed to qualify for an academic degree and the clinical skills necessary to become effective dental clinicians.

The Program will provide students high-quality supervision for research training, thesis development and writing. Students will be awarded one degree under the joint names of TMDU and CU after successful completion.

As a Quality assurance system of the program, we set three steps; 1. Self-assessment, 2. External assessment, 3. Faculty Development. Concerning the external assessment, we must undergo assessment by external experts to evaluate the status of program implementation and achievement and make improvements. To this end, we have set guidelines as below.

- University’s Quality Assurance System (hereinafter referred to as “System”) shall be established for the purpose of carrying out assessments of the JDP.
- The system shall assess the status of program implementation and achievement and suggest improvements.
- The system shall consist of persons with relevant knowledge, outsourcing veterans, professors from other universities which hold doctoral degrees in relevant fields and have experiences of granting doctoral degrees.

Dr. Koichi Kato, School of Dentistry of Hiroshima University and Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry of Prince of Songkla University undertake the external assessors. This is a report of the assessment results.

External Assessment Method

Two external assessors assessed the status of project implementation/achievement and made comments on project achievements that are organized into eight assessment categories.

Assessment criteria is the same as the self-assessment report for the four categories, as shown below.

IV	Achieved more than was planned.
III	Plan was achieved.
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.
I	Plan was not achieved.

1. Mechanism for implementation of JD Program

Assessment Category

1-1. Joint implementation structure

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appropriate committees for discussing important matters of education activities and examining curricula and educational methods are organized and active. (1-1-1) ➤ Appropriate communication method is established. (1-1-2) 	
Self-assessment	Rating	The joint implementation structure was revised to be the well-designed one. Usual communications between the two universities have been well carried out regularly once a month.
	III	
External-assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> The joint committees have been well-designed and had regular committee meetings as expected. The communication methods were well established between TMDU and CU and smoothly used for communication.</p> <p>< Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul > All established joint committees were still active and regularly carried on their responsibility tasks very well. Communication by means of video conference and e-mail was very well performed in a CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center in Thailand with a JDP coordinator to manage the communication. The communication was conducted regularly according to the important activity occurring.</p>

Assessment Category

1-2. Policies

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diploma Policy is determined based on the educational objectives and published, and completion of the program is approved in a fair and strict manner. (1-2-1) ➤ Curriculum Policy is clearly indicated and published based on the educational objectives. (1-2-2) ➤ Academic curricula are organized and implemented based on Curriculum Policy. (1-2-2) ➤ Clear Admissions Policy is established and entrance examination is conducted in accordance with the policy. (1-2-3) 	
Self-assessment	Rating	The current policies, both diploma, and curriculum are performed very well. The Diploma Policy, Curriculum Policy, and Admissions Policy have been well applied and conducted. Some high conditions such as the high score of English proficiency was adjusted to the sufficient level to recruit more candidates.
	III	
External-assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Diploma, Curriculum, and Admission Policies have suitably been provided with a slight modification to the Curriculum Policy. The proposals for more efficient recruitment will serve to increase the number of eligible and excellent applicants.</p> <p>< Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul > The diploma policy was clearly indicated and very well performed. The curriculum policy has been established followed the educational objectives. The admission policy has been well performed and planned to recruit more candidates.</p>

Assessment Category

1-3. Quality assurance system

<p>Criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Self-assessment is implemented and the results are published, and reflected in the educational and research activities. (1-3-1) ➤ After carrying out the external assessment, the results are published and reflected in educational and research activities. (1-3-2) ➤ Opinions of university members (students and faculty members) obtained in order to ensure proper use of the results in concrete, sustainable improvement of educational quality. (1-3-3) ➤ Opinions of external parties are utilized properly toward concrete, sustainable improvement of educational quality (1-3-3) ➤ Faculty development is properly managed, and leads to improvement of educational quality and coursework. (1-3-3) ➤ Information such as that on educational activities (including the items defined in paragraph 2, article 172 of the Enforcement regulations of the school education Law, MEXT) will be publicized. (1-3-4) 				
<p>Self-assessment</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Rating</p> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program has had the complete quality assurance system comprising self-assessment, external assessment, feedback of assessment result and publication for the first time as the following timeline. Self-assessment was undergone in January 2021, and external assessment was undergone during January to March 2021. The complete external assessment report was reported in March 2021. The feedback of external assessment was being publicized and shared with faculty members through faculty development. Information about the program was publicized on the website. • The quality assurance system is going to be performed for the second time during the first quarter of 2021 according to the schedule of the previous one. </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>III</p> </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<p>Rating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program has had the complete quality assurance system comprising self-assessment, external assessment, feedback of assessment result and publication for the first time as the following timeline. Self-assessment was undergone in January 2021, and external assessment was undergone during January to March 2021. The complete external assessment report was reported in March 2021. The feedback of external assessment was being publicized and shared with faculty members through faculty development. Information about the program was publicized on the website. • The quality assurance system is going to be performed for the second time during the first quarter of 2021 according to the schedule of the previous one. 	<p>III</p>	
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<p>External-assessment</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Rating (Please circle)</p> </td> <td> <p>IV · III · II · I</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Comments</p> </td> <td> <p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Self-assessment and external assessment were performed for the latest term. These results have been posted on the universities' websites and reviewed in the Course Administrative Committee for improving the program. Questionnaires to students and supervisors have been carried out and the results have been fed back to faculties. Information on the program as well as latest news has been published on the universities' websites.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Rating (Please circle)</p>	<p>IV · III · II · I</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Self-assessment and external assessment were performed for the latest term. These results have been posted on the universities' websites and reviewed in the Course Administrative Committee for improving the program. Questionnaires to students and supervisors have been carried out and the results have been fed back to faculties. Information on the program as well as latest news has been published on the universities' websites.</p>
<p>Rating (Please circle)</p>	<p>IV · III · II · I</p>				
<p>Comments</p>	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Self-assessment and external assessment were performed for the latest term. These results have been posted on the universities' websites and reviewed in the Course Administrative Committee for improving the program. Questionnaires to students and supervisors have been carried out and the results have been fed back to faculties. Information on the program as well as latest news has been published on the universities' websites.</p>				

		<p>All these assessments and feedbacks enhance the quality assurance of the program.</p> <p>Regarding the comments by the external reviewers (the bottom of page 14 in the Self-assessment Report) TMDU and CU added more information on the dissertation defense procedures and guidelines to the Self-assessment Report. Their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic were also provided. These are appreciated.</p> <p>< Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul > The self-assessment, external assessment from previous evaluation, voice from the students and stakeholders, and all important quality assurance system were well carried on, analyzed and planned.</p>
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2. Operation of JD Program

Assessment Category

2-1. Progress of JD Program operation

Criteria	➤ Program is operated properly as planned.	
Self-assessment	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination, wire-bending examination, and essay examination were conducted at CU. The subsequent joint interview was conducted through a video conferencing system. CU and TMDU jointly conducted the entrance examination 2020, and 3 students were matriculated to JDP. • Qualifying Examination and Thesis/Dissertation proposal examination which is compulsory for the graduation has been conducted and all students have passed the exams so far. • Dissertation defense has been conducted and the two students out of three who matriculated in 2016 have passed it. CU and TMDU have finally produced two graduates through this JD program. The remaining one student is expected to graduate as soon as the manuscript is accepted, and the dissertation defense is completed.
	III	
External-assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> I found from the Self-assessment Report that the JDP was operated properly as planned. The entrance examination, student guidance, registration, an assignment to supervisors were conducted properly. The fact that two students have completed the JD program and that another student will soon be able to graduate indicate the progress as expected.</p> <p>< Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul > Entrance examination for 2020 new students was successfully conducted as well as all necessary process. Qualifying examination and thesis/ dissertation proposal examination has been conducted and all students passed the examinations to assure the future graduation.</p>

Assessment Category

2-2. Fulfillment of student capacity

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Admission Policy, Curriculum Policy and Diploma Policy are properly publicized and disseminated. ➤ Number of enrollments versus admissions quota is appropriate. 	
Self-assessment	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ratios of successful admission/number of applicants were 3/9 in 2016, 3/6 in 2017, 3/7 in 2018, 3/5 in 2019, 3/5 in 2020 and 2/4 in 2021. Student capacity fulfilled in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. There will be one vacancy in 2021. ▪ For increasing the number of applicants, one of the application qualifications about English ability test was modified from “CU-TEP 80 or more” into “CU-TEP 75 or more”, and this modification was applied to the entrance examination in 2020. ▪ Information on the curriculum is easily assessed on the first page of CU’s website. Applicants can find more details on the graduate school office website when they start the application process. ▪ For publicizing the JDP in the international level, the brochure introducing the JDP will be distributed at the international conference.
	III	
External-assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Although the number of enrollments versus admissions quota seems to be appropriate, there is still a vacancy in 2021. For this reason, more extensive recruitment is needed, as also described on page 12 in the Self-assessment Report.</p> <p>< Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul > All informations regarding admission, curriculum, and diploma policy are on both university’s websites. The number of enrollments versus admission were still maintained at 3/5 with a modification for English ability.</p>

Assessment Category

2-3. Syllabuses

Criteria	➤ Appropriate syllabuses have been prepared and are in operation.	
Self-assessment	Rating	The syllabuses for JDP have been published and updated every year on CU website both in English and Thai and on TMDU website both in English and Japanese.
	III	
External-assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<Dr. Koichi Kato> The syllabuses of the program are properly published on the websites of TMDU and CU, and these are updated every year. <Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul > The syllabuses in both Japanese and English are available on both TMDU and CU websites. They are in operation.

Assessment Category

2-4. Evaluation method and criteria

Criteria	➤ Evaluation methods and criteria (grading, recognition of credits, and completion of the course) are established for each subject. They are being conducted properly in a fair manner, and have been disclosed to students.	
Self-assessment	Rating	The grading system has been used effectively. A comparison table for grade conversion has also been practically applied.
	III	
External-assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> The grading system using the grade conversion method has successfully been applied.</p> <p><Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul > Both established grading system and conversion has been applied effectively as well as disclosed to the students on the website.</p>

3. Student Support

Assessment Category

3-1. Student support system

Criteria		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appropriate housing support for students is ensured. (3-1-1) ➤ Educational environment that provides education according to instruction goals is established. (3-1-2) ➤ Adequate financial support for students is ensured. (3-1-3)
Self-assessment	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year JDP students have got the scholarship called “100th Anniversary Chulalongkorn University Fund for Doctoral Scholarship”. Three 1st year students matriculated in 2019 will apply for this scholarship. • The 4th year students were arranged to attend the publication camp, held by Office of Research Affairs, Faculty of Dentistry, CU, to prepare their research manuscripts and get the language editing from the native English professors.
	IV	
External-assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV • III • II • I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> It was more than expected that students could be granted by Scholarships from 100th Anniversary Chulalongkorn University Fund and Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO). In addition, TMDU and CU made a great effort to support students in terms of finding accommodations and establishing appropriate research environments.</p> <p><Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul > All the current JDP students have got the scholarship to support their study. Moreover, the faculty of Dentistry, CU has provided a publication camp to assure the publication for graduation.</p>

Conclusion

	<p>Rating (Please circle)</p>	<p>IV · III · II · I</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Overall, I found that TMDU and CU properly conducted the JD program mostly as planned for the term from August 2020 to July 2021.</p> <p>During the term, TMDU and CU established the guideline for defense and final test. Eventually, two graduates and another PhD candidate could successfully complete the program. This is a great achievement.</p> <p>I imagine that there are a lot of difficulties under the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, their efforts and successes are highly appreciated.</p> <p>I learned from the Self-assessment Report that, as the program progresses, various digital contents are accumulating. It is advisable to archive them effectively, because they could be valuable online resources in the "with corona" era.</p> <p><Dr. Chidchanok Leethanakul > Since the score from the 1st section is III, the 2nd section is III with IV for the last section, the average would be III.</p>