

Joint Degree Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences between
Institute of Science Tokyo and Mahidol University

Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) and Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech) were integrated and became “Institute of Science Tokyo” (Science Tokyo) as of October 1, 2024.

External assessment report

Term of the assessment
From April 2023 to March 2024

Contents

Preparing the External assessment sheet.....	1
---	----------

External Assessment

1. Mechanism for implementation of the JD Program	2
1-1. Joint implementation structure.....	2
1-2. Policies.....	3
1-3. Quality assurance system	4
2. Operation of the JD Program.....	6
2-1. Progress of the JD Program operation	6
2-2. Fulfillment of student capacity	7
2-3. Syllabuses	8
2-4. Evaluation method and criteria	9
3. Student Support.....	10
3-1. Student support system.....	10
Conclusion.....	11

Preparing the External assessment sheet

On the basis of the self-assessment report written by TMDU and MU in July 2024, please assess the status of project implementation/achievement and make comments on project achievements that are organized into eight assessment categories. Please use the same criteria as the self-assessment report for the four categories, as shown below.

IV	Achievement greater than plan.
III	Plan was achieved.
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.
I	Plan was not achieved.

Furthermore, please provide comments and assess with regard to the conclusion of the review at the end of the report.

This sheet will be shared with Science Tokyo and MU faculty members who have operated the program in March 2025.

1. Mechanism for implementation of the JD Program

Assessment Category

1-1. Joint implementation structure (Self-assessment report page 1)

The above assessment category is divided into two categories; 1-1-1. Joint committees and 1-1-2. Communication method. Please make a comprehensive evaluation of the Joint implementation structure based on these two categories.

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appropriate committees for discussing important matters of educational 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	III
	<p>(MU) Communication between MU and TMDU via online conferencing is proceeding satisfactorily. We constantly share information regarding the program and have responded swiftly to problems that emerged. Additionally, three of the committee members, Prof. Thawatchai, Prof. Vitoon, and Dr. Asada visited TMDU on December 8, 2023, to hold more in-depth discussions regarding the program. In addition, these members met President Tanaka to invite the graduation ceremony in Mahidol University on Autumn of 2024.</p> <p>(TMDU) The Joint Implementation Structure and Communication methods are working effectively using teleconference systems (ZOOM). A regular committee meeting is held every month for curriculum management. Information and views are exchanged frequently via e-mail, as necessary. In addition, we conducted interviews with students to monitor the status of their research projects and credit acquisition. We conducted a Dean meeting in the last month of the academic year to confirm progress on this program, admission process for new students, and credit acquisition status. Additionally, one of the committee members, Keiichi Akita, visited Siriraj Hospital on June 23, 2023, and on January 19, 2024, to hold more in-depth discussions regarding the program.</p>	
External assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p>(Dr. Supakorn) The key success of join degree is the appropriate continuing</p>

		<p>communication between two Institutes. Both institutes have chosen online communications upon administrative procedures. The exchange visit between Institutes seemed to strengthen the bonding more effectively.</p> <p>(Dr. Nishikage)</p> <p>Appropriate committees are organized in both Universities and the online communication method is established.</p>
--	--	--

Assessment Category

1-2. Policies

(Self-assessment report page 4)

The above assessment category is divided into three categories; 1-2-1. Diploma Policy, 1-2-2. Curriculum Policy and 1-2-3. Admission Policy. Please make a comprehensive evaluation of the Policies based on these three categories.

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diploma Policy is set and published based on the educational objectives, 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 Admission Policy is established and entrance examination is conducted in accordance with it. (1-2-3) 	
Self-assessment	Rating	III
	<p>(MU)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All three students who enrolled in 2020 have successfully passed the dissertation and graduated Ph.D. 2. All eleven students who are currently enrolled (for 2020-2023) have successfully completed the first, second, and third years as per the prescribed curriculum. The course is progressing per schedule and without any problems. 3. The three of 2020 students visited Tokyo Medical and Dental University as clinical attendants 4. The three new students for 2024 are starting their course subjects under the supervision of both MU and TMDU faculty. <p>(TMDU)</p> <p>The Diploma Policy, Curriculum Policy, and Admission Policy are published in the admission guidelines and on the JDP website. The TMDU website was revamped. Students have joined this course in agreement with these policies. Students</p>	

	are progressing in their courses as per the curriculum. The first three students have graduated and will be awarded their degrees. Based on discussions between the two universities, it was decided that courses in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology will also be offered from 2024. This will enable us to accept more students.	
External assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p>(Dr. Supakorn) The policy is indeed lead the program toward the proper direction. Due to the early phase of the program, it might not be easy to evaluate the outcomes of the first established policy. Probably, we may need a couple of years to see More graduate students with their achievement after complete our program.</p> <p>(Dr. Nishikage) The Diploma Policy, Curriculum Policy, and Admission Policy are published in the admission guidelines and on the JDP website. Every student has been advancing to each next grade as per the curriculum.</p>

Assessment Category

1-3. Quality assurance system

(Self-assessment report page 11)

The above assessment category is divided into four categories; 1-3-1. Self-assessment, 1-3-2. External assessment, 1-3-3. Feedback of assessment results and 1-3-4. Information publication. Please make a comprehensive evaluation of the Quality assurance system based on these four categories.

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Self-assessment is implemented and the results are published and reflected in educational and research activities. (1-3-1) ➤ External assessment is implemented and the results are published and reflected in the educational and research activities. (1-3-2) ➤ Opinions of university members (students and faculty members) are heard and utilized properly in concrete, sustainable improvement of educational quality. (1-3-3) ➤ Opinions of external parties are utilized properly for 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 by paragraph 2, Article 172 of the Enforcement Regulations of the School Education Law, MEXT) are publicized. (1-3-4)
-----------------	---

Self-assessment	Rating	III
	<p>(MU) Students enrolled in the JDP program evaluated each course subject through a MU-designed evaluation form. We have received feedback and comments, then the information has been discussed in the program administrative committee to improve every aspect of the curriculum.</p> <p>(TMDU) This program has a quality assurance system comprising self-assessment and external assessment. We conducted the on-demand faculty development program together with other JDP programs supervised by TMDU. We used a questionnaire to sample students' opinions about improving the program, and MU and TMDU shared the results. In addition, inputs from student interviews were used to fully accommodate students' wishes regarding their studies. These wishes were also shared with the committee members at the meeting.</p>	
External assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p>(Dr. Supakorn) This program has been audited by both internal and external program auditors, such as the AUNQA, the WFME. The regular submission of program evaluation towards the Ministry of Education from both sides and approved every year has shown the optimistic progression.</p> <p>(Dr. Nishikage) Self-assessment and External assessment are implemented. Students' opinions are heard through a questionnaire or an evaluation form to improve the quality of this project.</p>

2. Operation of the JD Program

Assessment Category

2-1. Progress of the JD Program operation
(Self-assessment report page 15)

Criteria	➤ Program operation is properly conducted as planned.	
Self-assessment	Rating	III
	<u>(MU)</u> 1. Candidates who applied for the Joint Degree Program in the 1st semester of 2nd year were interviewed by interviewers (MU-TMDU committees) and provided evaluation scores. 2. For JDP students who enrolled in 2022 and 2023, the Qualifying Examination and Dissertation proposal examination were conducted after students pass all coursework.	
	<u>(TMDU)</u> The JDP committees of both MU and TMDU have been operating the program satisfactorily, including the entrance examinations, the guidance of course structure, and the supervision of their research plans. The situation of students' acceptance from MU to TMDU has also been favorable.	
External assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	(Dr. Supakorn) The overall progression of the program operation could consider as the successful joint program. During operation, both faculty encountered the discrepancies between the regulation of both sides. Anyhow, they could compromise at last for the sake of PhD students together. (Dr. Nishikage) Program have been conducted as planned, including the entrance examinations, the guidance of course structure and the supervision of their research plans.

Assessment Category

2-2. Fulfillment of student capacity (Self-assessment report page 17)

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Admission policy, Curriculum policy and Diploma policy are properly publicized and disseminated. ➤ Number of admissions versus admissions quota is appropriate. 	
Self-assessment	Rating	III
	<p>(MU)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All three students enrolled in 2020 have successfully passed dissertation and graduated Ph.D. 2. The third generation students (2022) come not only from the surgery department, but also the ENT department. All of them aim to conduct research on cancer. 3. The course curriculum is in the field of research and surgery. Students can register in all the subjects they are interested in, whether MU or TMDU, if these subjects conform to the curriculum structure. 4. The curriculum is expanding to the Department of Gynecology surgery. <p>(TMDU)</p> <p>Enrollments are successfully filled to the capacity number. It means the recruitment activities of both universities are functioning well and their efforts are satisfactory.</p>	
External assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p>(Dr. Supakorn) Having enrolled the students for the last five year up to 14 out of 15 positions (over 90%), this could reflect one of the favorite program among other PhD courses. This resulted from the attempt of faculty as well as the favorite from the potential candidates.</p> <p>(Dr. Nishikage) Numbers of applicants and enrollments fulfills quota every year except for 2023.</p>

Assessment Category

2-3. Syllabuses

(Self-assessment report page 18)

Criteria	➤ Appropriate syllabuses are prepared and operated.	
Self-assessment	Rating	III
	<u>(MU)</u> 1. The syllabus of each subject in the JD Program has been revised and updated for the new semesters. 2. The syllabus will be posted on the Graduate School website, the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital website, and the Department of Surgery website.	
	<u>(TMDU)</u> The syllabus includes important points regarding the course structure, such as assessment standards, appropriateness, and ease of comprehension. Written in English and uploaded on the website, the syllabus is easily accessible by JDP students or applicants.	
External assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · <u>III</u> · II · I
	Comments	(Dr. Supakorn) The syllabus has been revised and updated already. The JDP students can read and get the information of course structure from the website. (Dr. Nishikage) The syllabus is easily accessible by JDP students on the website which includes important points regarding course structure. Moreover, it has been revised and updated.

Assessment Category

2-4. Evaluation method and criteria (Self-assessment report page 20)

Criteria	➤ Evaluation methods and criteria (grading, recognition of credits, and completion of course) of each subject are established, applied properly in a fair manner, and disclosed to students.	
Self-assessment	Rating	III
	<p>(MU)</p> <p>1. Each subject will be evaluated based on student punctuality and in class activities during every class.</p> <p>2. The examination system (multiple-choice questions (MCQs) and oral examination) will be used in conjunction with the standard scoring system.</p> <p>(TMDU)</p> <p>Evaluation methods have been developed and agreed upon in accordance with the requirements of both universities.</p>	
External assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p>(Dr. Supakorn)</p> <p>The evaluation method and criteria are clear and proper which are indicated in the syllabus. Each subject has been evaluated in a fair manner and disclosed to all students.</p> <p>(Dr. Nishikage)</p> <p>The grading methods are established and clearly indicated in the syllabus. A grade conversion table is updated properly after changes in the grading system with the merger between TMDU and Tokyo Institute of Technology.</p>

3. Student Support

Assessment Category

3-1. Student support system

(Self-assessment report page 23)

The above assessment category is divided into three categories; 3-1-1. Accommodation, 3-1-2. Research environment and 3-1-3. Financial support. Please make a comprehensive evaluation of the Student support system based on these three categories.

Criteria	<div>➤ Appropriate housing support for students is ensured. (3-1-1)</div> <div>➤ Educational environment that will provide education according to instruction goals is in place. (3-1-2)</div> <div>➤ Ensure adequate financial support for students. (3-1-3)</div>		
Self-assessment	Rating	III	
	<div>(MU)</div> <div>All JDP students were awarded scholarships for four-year studies. This scholarship will cover both tuition and travel expenses to Japan for the duration of their stay in Japan.</div> <div>(TMDU)</div> <div>During their stay, students' accommodation needs are met. They can live on-campus in either Surugadai or Konodai. They can apply for the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) scholarship. Students can use the TMDU office during their stay in Japan. Additionally, for the successful completion of their research, support for research expenses during the students' stay in Japan is allocated to the respective laboratories to which the students belong..</div>		
External assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I	
	Comments	<div>(Dr. Supakorn)</div> <div>Students have a good support system included scholarships, accommodation and research environments.</div> <div>(Dr. Nishikage)</div> <div>Students can receive enough supports from the point of view of accommodation and finance.</div>	

Conclusion

Conclusion	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	We think this program has been progressing successfully. Discussion between both University is carried out very closely, support of students is established and every student has been advancing to each next grade as per the curriculum without drop out. I hope this quality will be maintained in the future.