



University of Chile and TMDU Joint Degree Doctoral Program  
in Medical Sciences with mention of a medical specialty

# Self-assessment report

<Term for evaluation: April 2023 - March 2024>

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# 1. Mechanism for implementation of the Joint Degree Program

## 1-1. Joint implementation structure

### 1-1-1. Joint committees

[Evaluation indicator]

Appropriate committees for discussing important matters of educational activities and examining curricula and educational methods are organized and active.

#### [Plan]

Tokyo Medical and Dental University (hereafter referred to as “TMDU”) and University of Chile (hereafter referred to as “UCh”) will jointly establish committees to discuss important matters of education and research and to examine curricula and educational methods.

The committees are:

- (1) Dean Council  
The Dean Council calls meetings at least once a year to deliberate important matters of education and research.
- (2) Academic Committee  
The Academic Committee examines credit recognition for each subject. Entrance examinations, curriculum development, regular examinations and reporting assignment are also managed by this committee.
- (3) Qualifying Examination Committee  
The Qualifying Examination Committee examines students in the qualifying examination and thesis/dissertation proposal examination at the end of the second year.
- (4) Thesis Examination Committee  
The Thesis Examination Committee conducts thesis examinations.
- (5) External Assessment Committee  
The External Assessment Committee conducts external assessment.

### [Current situation]

The Dean Council and the Academic Committee have been currently active based on the established rules.

The meeting of the Dean Council was held in March 2024, and the Academic Committee meeting has been conducted approximately once a month, discussing various topics regarding education, program operation, and thesis defense, with everything progressing as expected thus far.

#### <Past committee meetings>

##### (1) Dean Council

TMDU and UCh conducted a Dean Council meeting on March 28, 2024, reviewing the matters discussed and settled between April 2023 and March 2024, and finally approving the self-assessment results and the external-assessment results for 2022. TMDU and UCh also exchanged opinions and feedback aimed at improving the Joint Degree Program (hereafter referred to as “JDP”). The next Dean Council meeting will be held around March 2025.

##### (2) Academic Committee

The TMDU and UCh have been conducting Committee meetings every month.

(Table 1)

Date	
May 16, 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting
June 15, 2023	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting(email)
July 19, 2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting
August 21, 2023	4 <sup>th</sup> meeting(email)
September 15, 2023	5 <sup>th</sup> meeting
September 20, 2023	6 <sup>th</sup> meeting(email)
October 24, 2023	7 <sup>th</sup> meeting
December 5, 2023	8 <sup>th</sup> meeting
March 5, 2024	9 <sup>th</sup> meeting
March 21, 2024	10 <sup>th</sup> meeting(email)

## 1-1-2. Communication method

[Evaluation indicator]

Appropriate communication method is established.

### [Plan]

- The Latin American Collaborative Research Center (hereafter referred to as “LACRC”) in Chile is to be established by TMDU in Clínica las Condes (CLC), an affiliated hospital of the Faculty of Medicine at UCh, and the video conferencing system at TMDU will be utilized for communication with each other.
- One faculty member will be assigned as a coordinator for better cooperation between TMDU and UCh.

### [Current situation]

Continuing from last year, TMDU and UCh prioritized the use of online communication systems for convenience.

TMDU–UCh coordinator has continuously supported the program management; the JDP students are receiving direct support from Chilean staff, who is fluent in Japanese, English, and Spanish languages. This has facilitated operating the program smoothly and efficiently in various situations.

**[Evaluation of 1-1. Joint implementation structure]**

		2016	2017	2018	2019
IV	Achievement greater than plan.				
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.				
I	Plan was not achieved.				

		2021	2022	2023
IV	Achievement greater than plan.			
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.			
I	Plan was not achieved.			

➤ Evaluation of current situation

**(UCh)**

The JDP has been implemented and formalized across the different levels of the organization, which requires the approval of both the Faculty of Medicine (FM) as well as the central university body of government.

The academic administration procedures of the JDP have been incorporated into the workflow common to all graduate programs in the FM, which will help to have a coherent management of every aspect of the program as well as incorporate wider experience in all details. The academic committee of the previously existing PhD program in medical sciences with associated medical speciality now oversees the admission and progress of the students in the JDP, given the very similar or overlapping profiles of the students and fields of study. This should also help to the eventual expansion of the subjects of study.

The institutional relationship between UCh and Clínica Las Condes (CLC) has been terminated by FM and therefore no more academic activity formally associated with UCh at CLC is projected.

**(TMDU)**

The program has been implemented as planned through good mutual communication via online meetings and other means.

➤ Proposals for improvement

**(UCh)**

All efforts for the recruitment of students in the current subspecialties have been carried out, although the success has been limited. Very importantly, work with TMDU is ongoing on the identification of new fields of study – associated with specific medical specialties and subspecialties that can be incorporated into the JDP to expand recruitment.

**(TMDU)**

We will maintain and check the efficiency and effectiveness of the current online meetings and other communications.

**1-2. Policies**

**1-2-1. Diploma Policy**

[Evaluation indicator]

Diploma Policy is set and published based on the educational objectives, and completion of the program is approved in a fair and strict manner.

**[Plan]**

According to the following Human Resources Development Goals of the Program, TMDU and UCh will make a diploma policy and confer the degree of Doctor of Philosophy on students.

**【Human Resources Development Goals】**

This program aims to form highly advanced professionals and leaders with highly professional experience and skills in clinical medicine, well versed in medical research, all with a global perspective. We will improve human resources specifically as follows.

- (1) Human resources who possess the required technical skills to be recognized as a clinical expert in the fields of upper gastrointestinal surgery and gastroenterological surgery, including advanced training in colorectal surgery, gastroenterology, endoscopy, and advanced use of advanced diagnostic equipment.
- (2) Human resources who possess academic knowledge in the fields of pathology, molecular biology, genetics, epidemiology, public health, clinical research, and biostatistics.
- (3) Human resources who possess a high potential to become an independent basic-clinical researcher in the fields of esophageal, stomach and colorectal cancer (gastrointestinal oncology); with the capacity to become a leader of national/international clinical research projects upon completion of course.

### [Current situation]

TMDU and UCh, with mutual consent, established the following Diploma Policy based on the Human Resources Development Goals of this Program.

### 【Diploma Policy】

The Program confers the degree of Doctor of Philosophy on students who attain the required credits, pass the thesis/dissertation defense and final examinations and can do all of the following.

- 1) Practice highly advanced medical surgery using the latest medical diagnostic equipment and therapeutic instruments in gastrointestinal surgery.
- 2) Acquire cutting-edge medical techniques using upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and be able to practice advanced internal medicine.
- 3) Acquire the experience and skills necessary to lead medical teams in clinical practice.
- 4) Conduct research activities, which are backed up by academic knowledge, to obtain superior results from one's research and disseminate it through publication.
- 5) Have an expert grasp, through international research experience, of current conditions in the research environment and the associated research methods, and a grasp of related research problems, so that one is able to display the leadership and management capabilities needed for the research process.
- 6) Unify research results independently and disseminate them internationally by acquiring skills for future planning through debate, summarizing, conference presentation, and thesis examination.
- 7) Obtain a certificate in a medical specialty in Chile, for Chilean students who have a medical license in their country.

TMDU and UCh faculty members explain the Diploma Policy to new students in their university's guidance. The policy can also be viewed on the websites of both universities.

In 2022, in accordance with the Diploma Policy, TMDU and UCh have finally reached a decision to confer a doctoral degree on a student who matriculated in 2016 as a first student of this JDP.

For this year, TMDU and UCh conferred doctoral degrees to two students who matriculated in 2017.

## 1-2-2. Curriculum Policy

### [Evaluation indicator]

- Curriculum Policy is clearly indicated and published based on the educational objectives.
- Academic curricula are organized and implemented based on Curriculum Policy.

### [Plan]

TMDU and UCh will draw up a Curriculum Policy and put together a curriculum for acquiring the essential knowledge, skills, experience and leadership needed for the degree and to become highly specialized medical professionals.

### [Current situation]

The following Curriculum Policy has been established with the mutual consent of TMDU and UCh. TMDU and UCh added (6) and (7) in 2021.

### 【Curriculum Policy】

The curriculum has been designed based on the following policies in order to create an environment in which students can acquire the knowledge, skills, experience and leadership abilities necessary to obtain a degree and become a highly specialized medical professional.

- (1) Establish general, basic and advanced subjects as a scientific foundation of medicine to foster professionals with high ability to carry out research, in-depth specialized knowledge, thinking skills and standards of ethics required by researchers, who can make a global contribution. “Initial Research Training” is a compulsory subject for learning what is necessary for starting research, and the other subjects to be taken by students will be determined by the Academic Committee in consideration of orientation toward a specific area of educational experience as well as clinical training, scientific interest and admission examination results.
- (2) Establish supervisor-guided “Research Subjects” in each specialized field in Japan and Chile as compulsory subjects to enable students to determine new problems regarding various phenomena targeted by research by themselves, conduct scientific analysis on these problems, propose solutions based on scientific data and implement them, and evaluate the results. Two research subjects will be provided, one regarding basic medicine and the other clinical research.
- (3) Establish “Seminar” in the presentation style as a compulsory subject to enable students to acquire the ability to help each other improve their abilities by discovering problems, acquiring problem solving ability as well as that to evaluate each other. Another aim is to foster persons who have various leadership abilities, who are capable of dealing with problems appropriately and promptly as team leaders not only in research but also in educational activities.



- (4) Establish the 3 subjects of “Upper Digestive Surgery”, “Colorectal Surgery” and “Gastroenterology” so that students can acquire the essential knowledge, skills, experience and leadership required of highly specialized medical professionals. These subjects will have basic and advanced contents, and also include clinical training, and will be established in TMDU and UCh separately.
- (5) Establish “Thesis” as compulsory subject for the provision of special guidance by TMDU and UCh faculty members in writing dissertations. Dissertations should be prepared in the thesis format, which has high international applicability.
- (6) Evaluate student academic performance based on formative and summative criteria, as described in the syllabus, in order to achieve educational goals.
- (7) Evaluate thesis/dissertation strictly based on diploma policy, and conduct thesis/dissertation defense and final examination appropriately.

Academic curricula are organized and implemented based on the Curriculum Policy. Table 2 shows the list of subjects reflecting each item of the policy. The Curriculum Policy can be accessed from both universities’ websites.

(Table 2)

Field		Subject	Credits (TMDU )	Credits (UCh)
Scientific Foundation of Medicine	(1) General subjects	• Cancer Genome and Bioinformatic Engineering	3	5
		• Discussion of Scientific Papers in English	3	5
		• Grammar and Written Communication Skills in Scientific English	4	5
		• Biostatistics	3	4
		• Biostatistics II	3	3
		• Ethics in Biomedical research	3	5
		• Initial Research Training	1	1
		• Clinical Biostatistics and Statistical Genetics	2	3

(2) Basic subjects	• Physiology and Cell Biology	5	7
	• Cellular and Molecular Biology of Cancer	5	6
	• System Physiology	5	7
	• Introduction to Immunology	4	8
	• Basic Pharmacology	4	6
	• Molecular Microbiology	4	6
	• Clinical Research Methods (Basic)	3	4
	• Cellular and Molecular Biology	5	7
	• Bioethics of research	3	3
	• Big Data Analytics	1	1
	• Introduction to Gastrointestinal Surgery Research	4	6
	• Introduction to Specialized Surgeries Research	4	6
	• Integrative Biomedical Sciences for Preemptive Medicine I	1	1
	• Integrative Biomedical Sciences for Preemptive Medicine II	1	1
	• Comprehensive Clinical Oncology	1	1
	• Basic Principles and Clinical Applications of Cancer Genomic Medicine	1	1
	• Introduction to Gastroenterology and Hepatology	4	6

	(3) Advanced subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Cell and Molecular Biology</li> <li>• Organ Specific Physiology and Pathology</li> <li>• Cellular and Molecular Immunology</li> <li>• Genetic Medicine</li> <li>• Human Biochemistry</li> <li>• Cell Signaling in Biomedicine</li> <li>• Molecular Biology Applied to Diagnosis and Clinical Research</li> <li>• Epidemiology</li> <li>• Bioinformatics I</li> <li>• Bioinformatics II</li> <li>• Biofunctional Molecular Science</li> <li>• Overview of Public Health Medicine in Disease Prevention</li> <li>• Special Lectures on Clinical Oncology Research</li> <li>• Biomedical Science</li> <li>• Data Science I</li> <li>• Special Lectures on Comprehensive Pathology</li> </ul>	3 5 5 5 5 3 3 3 2 2 2 2 4 2 1 4	4 7 7 7 7 4 4 6 4 3 3 3 6 3 1 6
	(4) Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Research</li> <li>• Clinical Research</li> <li>• Research 3</li> </ul>	10 10 15	15 15 24
	(5) Seminar	• Seminar	3	4

(6) Clinical Training	Upper Digestive Surgery	• Basic Clinical Training in Upper Digestive Surgery at UCh	20	
		• Advanced Clinical Training in Upper Digestive Surgery at UCh	27	
		• Basic Clinical Training in Upper Digestive Surgery at TMDU	20	30
		• Advanced Clinical Training in Upper Digestive Surgery at TMDU	35	52
		• Advanced Clinical Training in Upper Digestive Surgery II at TMDU	8	12
	Colorectal Surgery	• Basic Coloproctological Clinical Training at UCh	20	
		• Advanced Coloproctological Clinical Training at UCh	27	
		• Basic Coloproctological Clinical Training at TMDU	20	30
		• Advanced Coloproctological Clinical Training at TMDU	35	52
		• Advanced Coloproctological Clinical Training II at TMDU	8	12
	Gastroenterology	• Basic Gastroenterology Clinical Training at UCh	20	
		• Advanced Gastroenterology Clinical Training at UCh	27	
		• Basic Gastroenterology Clinical Training at TMDU	20	30
		• Advanced Gastroenterology Clinical Training at TMDU	35	52
		• Advanced Gastroenterology Clinical Training II at TMDU	8	12
(7) Thesis	• Thesis at UCh		40	85
	• Thesis at TMDU		40	85

### 1-2-3. Admissions Policy

[Evaluation indicator]

Clear Admissions Policy is established and entrance examination is conducted in accordance with it.

[Plan]

In accordance with the Human Resources Development Goals of the Program (Refer to the item, 1-2-1), TMDU and UCh will draw up an Admissions Policy and conduct entrance examinations in accordance with it.

[Current situation]

TMDU and UCh have drawn up the following Admissions Policy by mutual consent. Both added the 《Basic Entrance Examination Policies》 in 2021.

【Admissions Policy】

《What We Expect of Our Students》

This Program offers upper gastrointestinal surgery, colorectal surgery and gastroenterology courses. It aims to foster highly skilled experts who possess a wealth of experience in clinical practice, and are also leaders who are well versed in medical research and have a profound knowledge and global perspective. Qualified applicants who meet any of the following criteria are therefore highly encouraged to apply for our program.

- 1) Eager to acquire the required technical skills to be recognized as a clinical expert in the area of upper gastrointestinal surgery, which includes advanced training in gastrointestinal surgery and digestive diseases using endoscopy and advanced diagnostic equipment, colorectal surgery, and gastroenterology.
- 2) Eager to gain academic knowledge in the areas of pathology, molecular biology, genetics, epidemiology, community hygiene, clinical research and biostatistics.
- 3) Eager to possess expertise in basic research and clinical research that can be applied in the areas of esophageal cancer, stomach cancer and colorectal cancer, as well as capability to be a leader in national/international clinical research projects.

《Basic Entrance Examination Policies》

Applicants are evaluated in a comprehensive manner through a written examination to appraise basic knowledge and essay ability required for research in specialized fields and an oral examination and application document to assess aptitude and motivation.

The policy and details regarding the entrance examination are clearly explained in the Student Application Guide, as well as on the websites of TMDU and UCh. The entrance examination and curriculum are conducted rigorously according to the policies. Entrance examination subjects are set to meet the requirements of the Admissions Policy and include an English examination, an essay examination (Japanese or Spanish), an interview conducted by each university (Japanese or Spanish), and a joint interview (English).

[Evaluation of 1-2. Policies]

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
IV	Achievement greater than plan.					
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.					
I	Plan was not achieved.					

		2021	2022	2023
IV	Achievement greater than plan.			
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.			
I	Plan was not achieved.			

➤ Evaluation of current situation

**(UCh)**

All reglementary aspects for the program are formally approved and up to date according to the requirements of the UCh. The academic committee and the Graduate School at FM UCh are well acquainted with requirements for admission, the scope of the program and its curriculum.

**(TMDU)**

Curriculum policies were revised to specify the policies on mutual agreement. Admission policies were also revised by adding the “Basic Entrance Examination Policies.”

➤ Proposals for improvement

**(UCh)**

We expect to expand the curriculum to new medical specialties and subspecialties as soon as the approval for it is granted in TMDU. There is no formal obstacles or such an expansion from UCh point of view. A joint seminar with researchers of different topics from both institutions was held in November 2022 in order to identify collaborations that can support different theses, and some follow up has occurred, but it is necessary to work in the stablishing actual scientific collaborations between researchers in both institutions to foster codirected thesis work and other joint academic activities.

**(TMDU)**

To increase the opportunities for the candidates, we must add new medical specialties and subspecialties to the program. To achieve these goals, we will

facilitate communications between researchers in the two universities through joint seminars and other methods.

## 1-3. Quality Assurance System

### 1-3-1. Self-assessment

[Evaluation indicator]

Self-assessment is implemented and the results are published and reflected in educational and research activities.

[Plan]

TMDU and UCh will evaluate the educational and research activities of the Program, and write a self-assessment report each fiscal year.

[Current situation]

The self-assessment of this program was implemented in December 2023 by the Academic Committee. TMDU and UCh wrote a self-assessment report based on the same evaluation categories and provided an evaluation of the current situation as well as proposals for improvement. The evaluation period was between April 2022 and March 2023.

The same as every year, the self-assessment reports were published on the respective universities' websites. TMDU and UCh discussed the improvement in educational and research activities based on the reports derived from the academic meeting held in December 2023.

### 1-3-2. External assessment

[Evaluation indicator]

External assessment is implemented and the results are published and reflected in the educational and research activities.

[Plan]

TMDU and UCh will undergo external evaluation by the External Assessment Committee based on the self-assessment report. External evaluators will consist of outsourcing veterans and professors from other universities in Japan and Chile, which have doctoral programs in the medical or life science field, and experience of granting doctoral degrees.

[Current situation]

TMDU and UCh underwent external assessment in March 2018 and 2024. The next external assessment will be conducted in March 2029.



### 1-3-3. Feedback of assessment results

#### [Evaluation indicator]

- Opinions of university members (students and faculty members) are heard and utilized properly in concrete, sustainable improvement of educational quality.
- Opinions of external parties are utilized properly for concrete, sustainable improvement of educational quality.
- Faculty Development is properly managed, and leads to improvement of educational quality and coursework.

#### [Plan]

In this Program, we will ask students to complete questionnaires on the subjects. Also, supervisors will hear students' opinions via the video conferencing system. The results and opinions will be fed back to faculty members, and utilized for improvement of educational quality. They will also be reflected in curricula, the method of supervision and entrance examination.

With a view to developing faculty members' teaching skills, we plan to conduct a faculty development workshop to share relevant information such as on curriculum planning and making teaching materials.

#### [Current situation]

TMDU administers a questionnaire to students on the program and the subjects they selected during their first academic year. In addition, TMDU and UCh conducted a survey of all students to improve the programs, and the results were presented and examined at a meeting called by the Academic Committee. Furthermore, we conducted a video workshop on faculty development jointly with Chulalongkorn University and Mahidol University, which also manage Joint Degree Programs with TMDU. In concrete terms, we shared information related to Artificial Intelligence.

### 1-3-4. Information publication

#### [Evaluation indicator]

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.

#### [Plan]

There is a public relations section at TMDU, which plans publicity, and issues an overview of TMDU and a PR brochure. They will provide information on the industry-academia-government collaborations, educational and research activities, and social contribution activities of TMDU. UCh will also be proactive in providing information.

#### [Current situation]

Through the cooperation between TMDU and UCh, information on educational and research activities is available on both universities' websites in English, Japanese, and Spanish languages. (Referene 1 and 2)

[https://www.tmd.ac.jp/cmn/jdp/tmd\\_u ch.html](https://www.tmd.ac.jp/cmn/jdp/tmd_u ch.html)

<http://rrii.med.uchile.cl/page15.html#msg-box8-98>

<http://rrii.med.uchile.cl/EN/page15.html#msg-box8-98>

The JDP team is in charge of managing the JDP website, which provides information on the educational and research activities listed in Table 3.

Moreover, newsletters have been regularly published to inform the public about the current situation of the JDP's operation (Reference 3).

However, with the closure of LACRC, the newsletter was not updated after April 2023.

#### (Table 3)

<Information on educational and research activities provided on JDP website>

- University's educational objectives
- Basic organization for education and research
- Faculty members' information
- Number of admissions, admission quota, number of enrolled students
- Subjects' details, teaching methods, curriculum
- Facilities, research environment
- Tuition fees, admission fees

Reference 1: TMDU Website (English and Japanese)

Reference 2: UCh's website (English and Spanish)

[Evaluation of 1-3. Quality assurance system]

		2016	2019	2018	2019	2020
IV	Achievement greater than plan.					
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.					
I	Plan was not achieved.					

		2021	2022	2023
IV	Achievement greater than plan.			
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.			X
I	Plan was not achieved.			

➤ Evaluation of current situation

**(UCh)**

Questionnaires and the website have been implemented as planned.

**(TMDU)**

Questionnaires were delivered and effective feedback from the students was obtained. A faculty development/video workshop was held to increase our education effectiveness in online communication.

➤ Proposals for improvement

**(UCh)**

Continuous improvement of the website, including testimonials from students and new opportunities. The opening of new areas of study should greatly enhance the interest and visibility of the program.

**(TMDU)**

We might consider other methods of asking for feedback about the program and deliver more effective information in the education of the current students.

## **2. Operation of the Joint Degree Program**

### **2-1. Progress of the Joint Degree Program operation**

[Evaluation indicator]

Program operation is properly conducted as planned.

#### **[Plan]**

TMDU and UCh will jointly conduct entrance examinations. After successful applicants have matriculated for the program, both universities will give the students appropriate guidance, confirm the completion of course registration and assign research supervisors to students. At the end of each semester, credits for subjects will be recognized upon approval by the Academic Committee. By the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> academic year, students will take the qualifying examination, and they will receive advice on their research projects from their supervisors.

#### **[Current situation]**

Although TMDU and UCh prepared to jointly conduct Entrance examination and published application guidelines, there were no applicants.

If there are new students in this JDP, university faculty members of both TMDU and UCh guide students, explaining the procedures for course registration and Diploma Policy. Three supervisors, one from each institution (TMDU, UCh, and CLC), are assigned to the student. Using e-mails and online communication systems, the supervisors offered advice and guidance on the subjects selected by the student and his research plan. TMDU makes lecture videos of "Initial Research Training," a required first-year course, available on-demand so that a student in Chile can take the course.

Despite the difficult situations caused by COVID-19, a fifth-year student who matriculated in 2016, when this JDP started, finally passed the thesis/dissertation defense and completed this JDP in March 2023. Additionally, two students who matriculated in 2017 completed this JDP in September and December 2023, respectively.

[Evaluation of 2-1. Progress of the Joint Degree Program operation]

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
IV	Achievement greater than plan.					
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.					
I	Plan was not achieved.					

		2021	2022	2023
IV	Achievement greater than plan.			
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.			
I	Plan was not achieved.			

➤ Evaluation of current situation

**(UCh)**

Entrance examination has been conducted according to plan, although the number of applicants is low.

**(TMDU)**

- Although there were no applicants this year, TMDU and UCh were ready to jointly conduct entrance examinations.
- The operation has been implemented well, as two students have completed the program this year.

➤ Proposals for improvement

**(UCh)**

In our view the specific scope of the program heretofore has precluded the application of more prospective students. Since the capabilities to interview, admit and guide students in a wider range of the medical sciences/specialties are available in both institutions, the expansion mentioned above would significantly improve the operation of the JDP

**(TMDU)**

No specific point needs to be improved.

## 2-2. Fulfillment of student capacity

[Evaluation indicator]

- Admissions policy, Curriculum policy and Diploma policy are properly publicized and disseminated.
- Number of admissions versus admissions quota is appropriate

[Plan]

- Information such as on awarded degree, requirements for completion, curriculum, academic calendar, fees, hours per credit, scholarships and student welfare and student support will be given in the admission guide and on websites.
- The admission quota for this program is three, and it is expected that 1~2 Japanese and Chilean candidates will apply.

[Current situation]

Both universities publish relevant information, such as communications related to Diploma Policy, Curriculum Policy and Admission Policies on their respective websites. All the necessary information listed below is available in both the application guide and university websites (Reference 1).

- Awarded diploma
- Completion requirements
- Educational content and teaching methods
- Academic calendar
- Tuition fees
- Student support (scholarships)

No student applied and enrolled (Table 4). Thus, the number of enrollments was insufficient based on the admission quota.

Despite various efforts to find prospective students, no one matriculated in AY 2023. Thus, both universities agreed to suspend recruitment to the program and to discontinue the program as soon as the enrolled students graduated at Dean Council meeting on March 28, 2024. In the future, we will consult with the Japanese Ministry of Education to proceed.

(Table 4)

(1)	April, 2016	April, 2017	October, 2017	April, 2018
Admissions quota	3	3	3	3
Number of applicants	1	0	2	1
Number of successful applicant	1	0	2	0
Number of enrollments	1	0	2	0

(2)	October, 2018	April, 2019	October, 2019	April, 2020
Admissions quota	3	3	3	3
Number of applicants	3	0	1	0
Number of successful applicant	2	0	1	0
Number of enrollments	1	0	1	0

(3)	October, 2020	April, 2021	October, 2021	April, 2022
Admissions quota	3	3	3	3
Number of applicants	0	0	1	1
Number of successful applicant	0	0	1	0
Number of enrollments	0	0	1	0

(4)	October, 2022	April, 2023	October, 2023	April, 2024
Admissions quota	3	3	3	3
Number of applicants	0	0	0	0
Number of successful applicant	0	0	0	0
Number of enrollments	0	0	0	0

TMDU renewed the website for the JDP to improve recognition.

The admission requirement on the TMDU side was relaxed to recruit possible candidates more widely.

[Evaluation of 2-2. Fulfillment of student enrollment capacity]

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
IV	Achievement greater than plan.					
III	Plan was achieved.					
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.	X	X	X	X	X
I	Plan was not achieved.					

		2021	2022	2023
IV	Achievement greater than plan.			
III	Plan was achieved.			
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.	X	X	
I	Plan was not achieved.			X

➤ Evaluation of current situation

**(UCh)**

Enrollment remains below what is expected due to the restricted field of study (mainly digestive cancer) in which capable students have alternative professional paths and opportunities that may result more attractive than a demanding academic program. Nevertheless, our experience shows that several comparable areas attract very able students which have become leaders in their fields, supporting the desirability of widening the scope of the JDP.

**(TMDU)**

Applicants and enrollees have not reached initial expectations. The suspension of student recruitment and the discontinuation of the program are unavoidable choices.

➤ Proposals for improvement

**(UCh)**

We are ready to enroll in the JDP new students entering after their first year in the PhD program in Medical Sciences with a medical specialty at UCh in a wider range of domains (as an example, since 2001 this program has enrolled and graduated MD PhDs in the fields of Internal Medicine, Neurology, Pediatrics, Urology, Psychiatry, Anesthesiology, General Surgery and others). This should increase the incorporation of younger motivated physicians. This move depends on the approval of the counterparts. We are also exploring the expansion of research interactions which may support co-mentored thesis works.

**(TMDU)**

Instead of recruiting students for this program, both universities will now focus on research exchanges to strengthen ties between the two universities.



## 2-3. Syllabuses

[Evaluation indicator]

Appropriate syllabuses are prepared and operated.

### [Plan]

- Syllabuses, which include important information such as assessment standards, will be publicized on websites. They will be written in both Japanese and English. Appropriate committees for discussing important matters of educational activities and examining curricula and educational methods are organized and active. (1-1-1)

### [Current situation]

TMDU syllabus is written entirely in English while that of UCh is written in both Spanish and English. The syllabus includes the Human Resource Development Goals, the Admission Policy, Curriculum Policy, Diploma Policy, and Assessment and Information for students. It is available on the websites of the respective universities. The syllabus is checked and revised every year.

### [Evaluation of 2-3. Syllabuses]

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
IV	Achievement greater than plan.					
III	Plan was achieved.		X	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.	X				
I	Plan was not achieved.					

		2021	2022	2023
IV	Achievement greater than plan.			
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.			
I	Plan was not achieved.			

- Evaluation of current situation

#### **(UCh)**

The syllabus is adequate.

#### **(TMDU)**

Most of the important information for JDP students or applicants is well described in the syllabus.

- Proposals for improvement

**(UCh)**

No specific improvements are proposed.

**(TMDU)**

No specific point needs to be improved.

**2-4. Evaluation method and criteria**

**(Grading, Recognizing credits and Completion of course)**

[Evaluation indicator]

Evaluation methods and criteria (grading, recognition of credits, and completion of course) for each subject are established, applied properly in a fair manner, and disclosed to students.

**[Plan]**

- Credit recognition will be examined and approved upon deliberation by both universities' faculty members in the Academic Committee.  
The performance of each student in courses at TMDU will be graded on a 6-point scale, as follows, to enable each student's level of achievement to be visualized.  
A+=4, A=3.5, B=3.0, C=2.0, which means pass,  
D=1.0, F=0, which means fail.  
This is based on paragraph 19 of the TMDU Graduate School Regulations.  
The performance of each student in courses at UCh will be graded on a 6-point scale, as follows, to enable each student's level of achievement to be visualized.  
7.0-6.5, 6.4-6.0, 5.9-5.0, 4.9-4.0, 3.9-3.0, 2.9-1.0,  
A grade of 4.0 or over will be deemed as a passing grade.  
In English, the grades are expressed as: 7.0-6.5=Outstanding, 6.4-6.0=Very Good, 5.9-5.0=Good, 4.9-4.0= Fail, and 2.9-1.0= Poor.
- Both universities will record students' performances after converting their grades using the conversion table.
- Standards for the grades of each university will be written in syllabuses, and also posted on the universities' websites.

**[Current situation]**

Grades for each subject are assigned by the university that originally established such lectures, which, in turn, are approved by the Academic Committee jointly operated by TMDU and UCh. For the academic records at TMDU and UCh, a grade conversion table (Table 5) has been designed to convert the respective evaluations of subjects. TMDU and UCh concluded the MOA in February 2019.

(Table 5)

TMDU		UCh	
GP	Grade	Score	Grade
4.0	A+ (Superior)	7.0-6.5	Outstanding
3.5	A (Excellent)	6.4-6.0	Very Good
3.0	B (Good)	5.9-5.0	Good
2.0	C (Fair)	4.9-4.0	Fair
1.0	D (Failing)	3.9-3.0	Failing
0.0	F (Failing)	2.9-1.0	Poor

[Evaluation of 2-4. Evaluation method and criteria (Grading, Recognizing credits and Completion of the course)]

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
IV	Achievement greater than plan.					
III	Plan was achieved.		X	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.	X				
I	Plan was not achieved.					

		2021	2022	2023
IV	Achievement greater than plan.			
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.			
I	Plan was not achieved.			

➤ Evaluation of current situation

**(UCh)**

Grades have been duly matched and assigned according to plan and according to the guidelines and procedures common to graduate and medical specialty programs at FM UCh.

**(TMDU)**

Student evaluations in each university have been proceeding smoothly.

➤ Proposals for improvement

**(UCh)**

No specific improvement is required.

**(TMDU)**

No specific points to be improved.

### **3. Student Support**

#### **3-1. Student support system**

##### **3-1-1. Accommodation**

[Evaluation indicator]

Appropriate housing support for students is ensured.

**[Plan]**

TMDU will provide dormitories for the accommodation of students. In Chile students will find accommodation with the help of staff at LACRC.

**[Current situation]**

TMDU is currently making preparations to provide rooms at TMDU Ichikawa Dormitory for prospective students conducting research activities in Japan.

##### **3-1-2. Research environment**

[Evaluation indicator]

Educational environment that will provide education according to instruction goals is in place.

**[Plan]**

- One supervisor from TMDU, UCh and CLC will be assigned for each student before starting courses so that the student can receive research guidance from both universities.
- Both universities will make their facilities available - such as those at the Yushima campus of TMDU and campus of UCh's Faculty of Medicine. Thus, the necessary environment for graduate education and research for JDP will be put in place so that a multifaceted approach to student education and research is possible

**[Current situation]**

Students' research works have progressed smoothly by assigning one supervisor (pertaining to one of the three associated institutions) per student. TMDU supervisors regularly contact students to obtain information and updates, and at the same time, they usually give comments on the progress of their work via e-mail or through different online communication systems.

### 3-1-3. Financial support

[Evaluation indicator]

Ensure adequate financial support for students

#### [Plan]

- Examination fees, admission fees and tuition fees will be waived for all JDP students.
- To financially support students who matriculated at TMDU, TMDU plans to award scholarships from the TMDU fund to students who have achieved outstanding research performance.
- For those who matriculated at UCh, CONICYT or CLC, the funding agencies of UCh, plan to provide financial support to students.

#### [Current situation]

Examination fees, admission fees, and tuition fees have been waived for students enrolling in this program.

TMDU has applied for JASSO scholarships (80,000JPY/month) for students who matriculated at UCh and start their clinical activities at TMDU, and they will be granted. (However, due to COVID-19, no one was able to come to Japan.)

TMDU continues to look for more opportunities for financial support, such as monetary aid derived from private scholarships, public institutions, or university funds.

[Evaluation of 3-1. Student support system]

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
IV	Achievement greater than plan.					
III	Plan was achieved.	X	X	X	X	X
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.					
I	Plan was not achieved.					

		2021	2022	2023
IV	Achievement greater than plan.			
III	Plan was achieved.			
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.	X	X	X
I	Plan was not achieved.			

➤ Evaluation of current situation

**(UCh)**

The impossibility of travel due to the pandemic did not allow student travel for a sustained period. The Internationalization Grant awarded to the UCh expired on 12/2022 and therefore there is no active source of support for student travel at this time.

**(TMDU)**

Although scholarships were prepared for students at UCh, owing to the research situation, none of the students could travel to Japan.

➤ Proposals for improvement

**(UCh)**

It is expected that students that enter de JDP within the framework of the MD PhD program can apply and obtain fellowships from the ANID (Chilean agency for promotion of science) both for their basic support as well as for international travel.

**(TMDU)**

We must consider searching for other scholarship opportunities to apply for. As mentioned above, the program has been discontinued (Refer to the item, 2-2), but both universities will work together to ensure that students enrolled in the program are not disadvantaged.