

Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development  
 (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)  
 Master's Course, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
 Hiroshima University  
 AY2024 Self-inspection and Annual Report

Overall review of evaluation results

(Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz))

The program aims to develop human resources with an ability to conduct research and practical work based on international cooperation principles in development studies and use social scientific approaches, and those with a high level of communication skills to collaborate with people with diverse backgrounds under the theme of Sustainability Studies. Since the establishment in October 2020, faculty members from Hiroshima University and the University of Graz have collaborated to provide research guidance through a common curriculum, offering distinctive educational content of both universities such as public policy to alleviate poverty in developing countries, economic analysis, social science analysis, and sustainable management of companies.

The Self-inspection and Annual Report covers the period 2024 FY, and the results of the evaluation are as follows: six criteria were judged to be “fully applicable,” one criteria were judged to be “Slightly applicable,” and three criteria were judged not subject to evaluation.

**Area 5: Criteria for admission of students**

**Criterion 5-2: The number of students enrolled is adequate for the admission quota.**

<b>Analysis item 5-2-1</b>	<b>The number of students enrolled does not significantly exceed or fall below the admission quota.</b>
Self-inspection/evaluation unit	Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Number of students enrolled: 3; percentage of admission quota: 150%
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① Three students were enrolled to fill the admission quota of two, and the percentage of admission quota was 150%. ② The admission quota of this program is only two (one student whose entrance university is Hiroshima University and one student whose entrance university is Graz University). To avoid causing a large decrease of the percentage of admission quota due to those who decline admission, upon preliminary consultation with relevant departments in the university, from AY2022 onwards we anticipate those who decline admission and determine the number of successful applicants to be up to twice as large as the admission quota (maximum: four).

	In FY2024, there were no admission withdrawals, resulting in a fill rate exceeding 130%. However, given the small number of students, the impact on the overall enrollment rate of the graduate school is minimal, and thus it is not considered a problem.
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**Area 6: Criteria for curriculum and learning outcomes**

**Criterion 6-1: The organization of the curriculum and the content of the class subjects are systematic and of an appropriate level in accordance with the diploma policy and the curriculum policy.**

<b>Analysis item 6-1-1</b>	<b>The organization of the curriculum and the content of the class subjects are systematic and of a level appropriate for the degree to be awarded.</b>
Self-inspection/evaluation unit	Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Curriculum Policy and Diploma Policy of the Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz) <a href="https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/senkougakui/kokusairenkei">https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/senkougakui/kokusairenkei</a> Student Handbook: "Courses Criteria" <a href="https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/system/files/246001/e51_Courses%2C%20Credits%2C%20Credits%20Required%20for%20Completion%20%28HU-Graz%29.pdf.pdf">https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/system/files/246001/e51_Courses%2C%20Credits%2C%20Credits%20Required%20for%20Completion%20%28HU-Graz%29.pdf.pdf</a>
[Remarks]  ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① In cooperation with the Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - Leipzig University) at the Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Basic Subjects are offered, allowing students majoring in social sciences and those majoring in science and engineering to study in the same classroom and come into contact with different perspectives and ways of thinking, thereby promoting their understanding of multiple fields beyond their conventional framework of expertise. In addition to this, in cooperation with the University of Graz, the program offers Specialization Subjects, Integration Subjects and Master Thesis Classes for the knowledge and theories necessary to deepen understanding of sustainable development. The curriculum is systematically organized to foster students with an ability to conduct research and practical work based on international cooperation principles in development studies and using social scientific approaches in order to resolve pressing regional and global issues related to the SDGs, and also to foster those with excellent collaboration and communication skills to be exerted at universities, research institutions, governments, international organizations, private businesses, NGOs, etc., as well as competitive capability to secure employment in the international labor market. Furthermore, these class subjects are taught by faculty members with high expertise who have been screened for educational qualifications at the Graduate School, and thus educational content of a level appropriate for the degree to be awarded has been ensured.

**Criterion 6-2: Appropriate forms of classes and teaching methods are adopted in accordance with the diploma policy and the curriculum policy.**

<b>Analysis item 6-2-1</b>	<b>The curriculum is systematically organized based on the curriculum policy; forms of classes and teaching methods (guidance for research, thesis, etc.) appropriate for the education of the field are prepared; and the methods and content of the classes are clearly shown to the students.</b>
Self-inspection/evaluation unit	Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Curriculum Policy of the Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz) <a href="https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/senkougakui/kokusairenkei">https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/senkougakui/kokusairenkei</a> Student Handbook: "Course Criteria" <a href="https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/system/files/246001/e51_Courses%2C%20Credits%2C%20Credits%20Required%20for%20Completion%20%28HU-Graz%29.pdf.pdf">https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/system/files/246001/e51_Courses%2C%20Credits%2C%20Credits%20Required%20for%20Completion%20%28HU-Graz%29.pdf.pdf</a>
<b>[Remarks]</b>  ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① The curriculum for the program is organized and implemented based on the following policy so that the students are able to achieve the objectives stated in the Diploma Policy.  - Basic Subjects (37 credits) are offered to allow students to develop a bird's-eye view of sustainable development and the fundamental ability to explore sustainable development for their own intrinsic growth from various perspectives.  - Specialization Subjects (83.5 credits) are offered to allow students to learn theories regarding development economics and their application to global issues.  - Integration Subjects (23.5 credits) are offered to deepen students' understanding of sustainable development through seminar classes by bringing together the various scientific approaches they have studied.  - Master Thesis Classes (30 credits) are offered to promote students' independent research and help them acquire research capabilities and practical skills to achieve the SDGs based on international cooperation principles in development studies.

**Criterion 6-4: Fair grading is carried out rigorously and objectively in accordance with the curriculum policy.**

<b>Analysis item 6-4-1</b>	<b>A standard of grading and credit approval are established appropriately in light of the educational policy of the field.</b>
Self-inspection/evaluation unit	Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)

Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Curriculum Policy: <a href="https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/senkougakui/kokusairenkei">https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gshs/senkougakui/kokusairenkei</a> Syllabus: <a href="https://momiji.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/syllabusHtml_en/index.html">https://momiji.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/syllabusHtml_en/index.html</a> Deliberation results regarding the self-inspection of grading, credit recognition, student guidance, and research ethics education in each program of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences: Minutes of the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee Meeting held on November 14, 2024 <a href="https://commu.office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/aqua/a54f66fc-e2cb-421c-ad0e-ddcd64ef30a1/view?modified=2025-03-11%2015:00:16&amp;modified=1741672816000&amp;lineId=a54f66fc-e2cb-421c-ad0e-ddcd64ef30a1">https://commu.office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/aqua/a54f66fc-e2cb-421c-ad0e-ddcd64ef30a1/view?modified=2025-03-11%2015:00:16&amp;modified=1741672816000&amp;lineId=a54f66fc-e2cb-421c-ad0e-ddcd64ef30a1</a> Minutes of the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee Meeting held on May 22, 2025 <a href="https://commu.office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/aqua/d129d9c7-8dae-48a9-a4aa-2821ac36bede/view?modified=2025-06-25%2012:02:41&amp;modified=1750820561000&amp;lineId=d129d9c7-8dae-48a9-a4aa-2821ac36bede">https://commu.office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/aqua/d129d9c7-8dae-48a9-a4aa-2821ac36bede/view?modified=2025-06-25%2012:02:41&amp;modified=1750820561000&amp;lineId=d129d9c7-8dae-48a9-a4aa-2821ac36bede</a>
[Remarks]  ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① Courses are arranged in accordance with the Program's curriculum policy. In addition, syllabuses clearly stating the grading methods, etc. are prepared for all class subjects and are available to students. ③ In order to systematically build the self-inspection and evaluation system of the graduate school, each program's faculty meeting has designated specific items for mandatory deliberation. The minutes of these deliberations are submitted to the Representative Committee (Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee), which conducts further review from the perspective of the entire graduate school. Regarding the results for FY2024, the Self-Inspection and Evaluation Committee meetings held on November 14, 2024, and May 22, 2025, reviewed the deliberation outcomes from each program and major and concluded that they were being implemented appropriately.

**Criterion 6-6: Appropriate learning outcomes are obtained in accordance with the objectives of the university, etc. and the diploma policy.**

<b>Analysis item 6-6-1</b>	<b>Learning outcomes are recognized based on the status of students' career paths, such as going on to higher education and finding employment.</b>
Self-inspection/evaluation unit	Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Career path survey at the time of completion

<p>[Remarks]</p> <p>① Grounds and reasons for evaluation  ② Supplementary explanation of evidence  ③ Distinctive activities and efforts</p>	<p>① Although it is difficult to quantitatively assess learning outcomes based on advancement to further studies or employment due to the small admission capacity of this major (two students) and the fact that the students scheduled to complete the program in FY2024 (both with the University of Graz as their home university) have postponed their graduation, it can be determined that the learning outcomes of the program are being achieved, as both of the previous graduates have secured employment with overseas companies and organizations.</p>
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<p><b>Analysis item 6-6-2</b></p>	<p><b>Learning outcomes are recognized based on the degree of skill growth required in the field of education and the status of course completion and acquisition of qualifications.</b></p>
<p>Self-inspection/evaluation unit</p>	<p>Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)</p>
<p>Self-evaluation</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable  <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable</p>
<p>Evidence</p>	
<p>[Remarks]</p> <p>① Grounds and reasons for evaluation  ② Supplementary explanation of evidence  ③ Distinctive activities and efforts</p>	<p>Since there is only one graduate (unanswered to the questionnaires at the time of graduation), it is not possible to analyze this item.</p>

<p><b>Analysis item 6-6-3</b></p>	<p><b>Results of interviews with students in terms of the levels of learning achievement and satisfaction indicate that learning outcomes have been achieved.</b></p>
<p>Self-inspection/evaluation unit</p>	<p>Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)</p>
<p>Self-evaluation</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable  <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable</p>
<p>Evidence</p>	
<p>[Remarks]</p> <p>① Grounds and reasons for evaluation  ② Supplementary explanation of evidence  ③ Distinctive activities and efforts</p>	<p>① Since there are only four eligible students, it is not possible to analyze class improvement questionnaires without identifying individuals.</p>

<b>Analysis item 6-6-4</b>	<b>Results of interviews with alumni and individuals involved in their careers indicate that the learning outcomes have been achieved.</b>
Self-inspection/evaluation unit	Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)
Self-evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	Since there is only one graduate (unanswered to the questionnaires at the time of graduation), it is not possible to analyze this item.

<b>Analysis item 6-6-5</b>	<b>There are systems and evaluation criteria to promote students' growth in research efforts and presentation of research results, and their growth in effectiveness (logical thinking, international perspectives, presentation skills, etc.) is recognized.</b>
Self-inspection/evaluation unit	Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development (Hiroshima University - University of Graz)
Self-evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ⑤ Fully applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ④ Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ③ Slightly applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ② Not very applicable <input type="checkbox"/> ① Not applicable
Evidence	Student Handbook p.16: "Completion Schedule" <a href="https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/system/files/163137/Master%26%23039%3Bs%20Thesis%20Preparation%20Schedule%20and%20Requirements.pdf">https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/system/files/163137/Master%26%23039%3Bs%20Thesis%20Preparation%20Schedule%20and%20Requirements.pdf</a>
[Remarks] ① Grounds and reasons for evaluation ② Supplementary explanation of evidence ③ Distinctive activities and efforts	① The flow of the schedule until completion is shown to each student as follows: taking "Research Ethics Education", submission of the "Outline of Research Plan", interim presentation, submission of the "Outline of the Master's Thesis," submission of the master's thesis, submission of the "Summary of the Master's Thesis," oral presentation for the master's thesis, and final examination. There is a functioning system whereby students can check the progress of their research efforts and results through interviews with their supervisors in each phase. As Basic Course subjects, "Research Method", "Quantitative and Analytical Social Science", "Fundamentals of Survey Methodology" are also offered, and by doing so, a curriculum with the idea of presenting a paper at international symposiums since enrollment is prepared.