

Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Nursing from Guangxi Medical College

Context and scope

Guangxi Medical College commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in Nursing, which was completed in February 2023

The Diploma in Nursing is one of the programmes offered by Guangxi Medical College after the merging of three medical schools: Guangxi Health Administration College, Guangxi Pharmaceutical School, and the Health School attached to Guangxi MCH.

The main aims of the benchmarking were to:

- Establish comparability in the context of the UK through reference to the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), and by extension, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)¹
- Assess the extent to which the College's underpinning quality assurance meets a set of international standards.

Key findings

The Diploma in Nursing seeks to develop students' knowledge in clinical nursing, paediatric nursing, dental nursing, and other areas within healthcare. In line with national requirements, the Diploma also encompasses "public basic courses" which include topics from arts, social sciences and science domains.

The general entry requirement for the programme is the National College Entrance Examination (NCEE, popularly known as the *gaokao* 高考) – comparable to GCE A Level / RQF Level 3 in the UK – or suitable marks in one of the College's own tests.

The Diploma is a three-year full-time programme equating to approximately 2899 hours' guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with practical-based simulated learning and a nine-month internship in which students experience real-life nursing situations within the workplace.

Upon completion, many students enter the workforce²; however, some students will be eligible to apply for top-up Benke (本科) / Bachelor degree programmes. These require a minimum of two years of further study, which shows that the Diploma has similar academic progression routes to that of HND, Diploma of Higher Education and other UK Level 5

¹ To date, a total of 36 countries have now referenced their national education systems to the EQF.

² The employment rate of graduates was 97% between the years 2017 – 2019.

awards.

The study revealed several strengths of the Diploma in Nursing, namely that it demonstrated:

- A selection of modern teaching and learning environments where students and teachers have access to excellent information technology facilities and simulated clinical settings.
- A clear focus on professional preparation and employability.
- The development of theoretical knowledge and practical skills in both simulated and real-life contexts, preparing students for registration and practice in a range of key nursing roles.
- An established teacher recruitment, development, and quality monitoring system.
- Clear processes that are in place for design, development, and regular review. Wide-ranging consultation with industry experts and consideration of market demand ensure the ongoing relevance of the curriculum.

In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Nursing has been found comparable to Level 5 of the RQF and EQF. It has also met international quality standards in the following five areas:

- **Admission**
There is a pre-defined and published admissions policy ensuring transparency in the admissions policy and supporting consistency in admissions decisions
- **Programme development, approval, monitoring and review**
There is a clear, process in place for the design, approval and monitoring of programmes
- **Teaching and learning**
There is a formalised process for monitoring the quality and effectiveness of delivery, relevant to the modes of study employed
- **Assessment**
Assessment provides a sufficiently fair, valid and reliable evaluation of the intended knowledge, skills and competencies
- **Information**
The information available to prospective students, current students and other interested stakeholders is accurate, transparent and clear for the intended audience.

Engagement

Guangxi Medical College has committed to further development and engagement encompassing:

- Undertaking a review of the Talent Training Programme (TTP) document to centre programme design around the intended outcomes and ensure a clear, central, and overarching specification for the programme.
- Undertaking a review of learning outcomes at programme and module level to ensure they are specific, measurable and feasible whilst placing emphasis on critical thinking.
- Undertaking a review of existing assessments and marking approaches to ensure coherence with the desired learning outcomes and assessment objectives.
- Development of an overarching assessment framework to strengthen the overall validity and rigour of the assessment in line with RQF Level 5.
- Maintaining and ensuring adoption by all staff of the unified quality assurance handbook.

Ecctis is a gold-standard provider of services in international education, training, and skills, and in the development and recognition of globally portable qualifications. We are an internationally trusted and respected reference point for qualifications and skills standards.

We are UK-based and operate worldwide, with a global network and client base spanning 62 countries and 5 continents. We have a 20-year track record in international consultancy and development.

Ecctis provides official UK national agency services on behalf of the UK Government in qualifications, skills, and migration – including UK ENIC, formerly UK NARIC.

UK ENIC is the UK National Information Centre for global qualifications and skills. Following the UK's leaving the EU, the former UK NARIC recognition agency function changes from a NARIC (which is an EU-only title) to an ENIC (the wider European title for national recognition agencies) in order to meet the UK's continuing treaty obligations under the [Lisbon Recognition Convention](#).

Since 2019, through our China representatives and Beijing office Nalike, and our UK China Council and UK NARIC China Council projects, we have conducted qualification benchmarking in China and fostered educational links between China and other countries, to support the internationalisation efforts of China's higher vocational colleges.