

# Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Engineering Surveying Technology from Jiangxi College of Applied Technology

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## Context and scope

Jiangxi College of Applied Technology commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in Engineering Surveying Technology, which was completed in December 2024.

The Diploma in Engineering Surveying Technology is one of 58 qualifications delivered by the College in areas such as land and resource surveying and management, mechanical manufacturing and automation, and construction engineering technology.

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)<sup>1</sup>
- Assess the extent to which the College's underpinning quality assurance meets a set of international standards.

## Key findings

The Diploma in Engineering Surveying Technology seeks to develop students' knowledge in geographic information system (GIS) technology, surveying, digital mapping, and remote sensing technology. 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 2776 hours' guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with practical-based simulated learning and a 23-week practical internship in which students develop their skills within a real-world environment.

Upon completion, many students enter the workforce; however, some students will be eligible to apply for top-up Benke (本科) / Bachelor degree programmes. These require a minimum of

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

two years of further study, which shows that the Diploma has similar academic progression routes to that of HNDs, Diplomas of Higher Education and other UK Level 5 awards.

The study revealed several strengths of the Diploma in Engineering Surveying Technology, namely it demonstrated that:

- Within the Diploma, students experience an increased number of contact hours with tutors, arguably leading to more instruction and feedback.
- The Diploma includes content on UAV surveying that allow students to experience contemporary and increasingly relevant engineering surveying techniques.
- The College has high quality and extensive facilities including total stations for the development of students' surveying skills.
- The College has strong links with related enterprises such as CHCNAV. Therefore, the College and enterprises cooperate to develop students' skills in line with international industry requirements.
- Linked enterprises are involved in the development and evaluation of the Diploma ensuring that the targeted skills and knowledge meet the requirements of real-world employers.

**In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Engineering Surveying Technology 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

Jiangxi College of Applied Technology has committed to further development and engagement encompassing:

- Writing new learning outcomes at programme and module level, ensuring these are specific, measurable, and feasible. Ensure that learning outcomes explicitly target higher level of knowledge and critical thinking skills, in line with RQF Level 5 descriptors.
- Developing a programme assessment framework/plan.
- Adopting assessment and marking approaches that sufficiently test critical thinking skills such as analysis and evaluation.
- Ensuring that there is a clear policy on programme assessment plans. Assessments should be developed so that they are clearly linked to intended learning outcomes. There should be clear limits on the use and weighting of attendance as part of the assessment.
- Developing a unified internal quality assurance 'handbook' for the College to bring together all existing written policies and processes, and formalise any unwritten policies or processes.
- Maintaining and ensuring adoption by all staff of the unified quality assurance handbook.

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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, 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.