

Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Construction Engineering Management from Guangdong Construction Polytechnic

Context and scope

Guangdong Construction Polytechnic commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in Construction Engineering Management, which was completed in October 2023.

The Diploma in Construction Engineering Management is one of 40 programmes delivered by the College in areas such as civil engineering, architecture, and construction.

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 Construction Engineering Management seeks to develop students’ knowledge in Computer Aided Design (CAD), engineering drawing, and construction management. 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 2818 hours’ guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with practical-based simulated learning and a compulsory internship in which students have 468 hours to develop their practical skills.

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

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

² The employment rate of graduates is typically 98%.

progression routes to that of HND, Diploma of Higher Education and other UK Level 5 awards.

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

- The use of contemporary building and accounting simulation software to support students' knowledge and understanding of construction management processes.
- The use of online learning resources such as the 'Vocational education cloud', 'WeChat mini apps', and 'micro-lectures' in which students can consolidate their classroom-based learning and identify areas for development.
- A clear academic progression available to graduates as they can progress on to undergraduate programmes in construction engineering management and civil engineering at several institutes.
- A high employment rate with 98% of graduates entering employment after graduation. This is testament to the relevance of the programme to local construction management and engineering industry needs.
- A design and development stage that is built on the strength of gaining input from teaching staff, a range of employers, in addition to other external and internal input. This process includes an in-depth analysis of local industry needs, therefore ensuring that the Diploma meets the needs of related industries.

In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Construction Engineering Management 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

Guangdong Construction Polytechnic has committed to further development and engagement encompassing:

- Writing new learning outcomes at programme and module level, ensuring these are specific; measurable; and that an indicative 60% of the programme targets a higher level of knowledge and critical thinking skills.
- Developing a programme assessment framework/plan and 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.

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.