

Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Health Management from Guangdong Food and Drug Vocational College

Context and scope

Guangdong Food and Drug Vocational College commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in Health Management, which was completed in May 2023.

The Diploma in Health Management is one of many programmes offered by the College, some of which are: Medicine Marketing and Management, Nursing, Medical Software Engineering and Food Safety.

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 Health Management seeks to develop students' knowledge in nutrition and health, health education and promotion, stepp cell products, geriatric psychology, and immune 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 2894 hours' guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with practical-based simulated learning which prepares students for the progression into industry.

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

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

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 awards.

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

- The Diploma in Health Management has many entry routes. This means that a range of students from academic and non-academic backgrounds can enrol.
- Students experience a cohesive programme where skills and knowledge are mapped to suitable healthcare vocations.
- In the modules explicitly referring to integrated care, the programme includes content at the forefront of the subject area.
- The college has comprehensive campus facilities and students have access to a large resource bank of relevant academic theory and reference works.
- The College has established links with international education institutions, making for an outward looking programme that encourages cross-border cooperation.

In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Health 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 Food and Drug Vocational College 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
- 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.
- Developing a unified internal quality assurance 'handbook' for the College.
- 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.