

Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Power Plants and Power Systems from Wuhan Electric Power Vocational and Technical College

Context and scope

Wuhan Electric Power Vocational and Technical College commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in Power Plants and Power Systems, which was completed in November 2023.

The Diploma in Power Plants and Power Systems is one of 27 programmes delivered by the College, including programmes in areas such as electrical and mechanical engineering, power engineering, and construction and management.

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 Power Plants and Power Systems seeks to develop students' knowledge in areas such as the wind power industry and clean energy. 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 2658 hours' guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with practical-based simulated learning and a 420-hour internship within the third year where students develop practical skills and work experience, replicating real-life industry scenarios.

Upon completion, many students enter the workforce; however, some students will be eligible

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

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 awards.

The study revealed several strengths of the Diploma in Power Plant and Power Systems, namely it demonstrated that:

- A range of high-quality physical and digital technology supports student learning.
- Additional support mechanisms are put in place for students who struggle or fall behind in more complex aspects of the programme, such as advanced mathematics.
- The materials delivered in the final stages of the programme are highly topical, giving students scope for future progression and development.
- A Validation Group appropriately challenges the rationale for a new or revised programme.
- The practice of researching and keeping up to date with current developments in industry ensures that programme content is relevant for students and the new workforce.
- The College supports staff to keep their practical skills and knowledge of industry up to date, which makes teaching as current and meaningful as possible for students.
- The broadening of teachers' academic qualifications and learning help motivate and raise expertise, increasing the knowledge passed on to students.

In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Power Plants and Power Systems 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

Wuhan Electric Power Technical College has committed to further development and engagement encompassing:

- Writing new learning outcomes at programme and module level, ensuring these are specific and measurable, and target higher 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.
- The development of a programme review process, stipulating a maximum review period before a programme is given large-scale review, providing documentation outlining this process.
- 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 an Assessment Strategy for the programme that provides a consistent assessment framework. It should be made clear in supporting documentation that an Assessment Strategy is developed when the programme is developed and reviewed when the programme, or the modules within the programme, are reviewed.
- 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.