

Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Garment Design and Craft from Chengdu Textile College

Context and scope

Chengdu Textile College commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in Garment Design and Craft, which was completed in March 2023.

Chengdu Textile College is a public full-time higher education college sponsored by the Sichuan Provincial Government and directly under the Sichuan Provincial Department of Education. The College delivers engineering programmes related to the textile and garment industry. It has eleven schools, and the Garment Design and Craft Major is offered by the School of Fashion Design and Engineering.

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 Garment Design is to equip students with the relevant professional knowledge and technical skills to enable them to work in the textile and garment industry after graduation. 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 2704 hours' guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based with practice-based teaching, with an overall balance of approximately 50/50.

Upon completion, many students enter the workforce; however, some students will be eligible to apply for top-up Benke (本科) / Bachelor degree programmes. For example, the Major has

¹ To date, a total of 35 countries have now referenced their national education systems to the EQF.

a top-up scheme with Jiangnan University by which students can obtain an undergraduate degree after 2.5 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 Chengdu Textile College, namely that it demonstrated:

- Students gain industrial experience throughout the programme which provides the opportunity to put theory into practice.
- The progressive nature of the programme where modules build on student's knowledge and understanding and develop their application of practical employment skills.
- The use of electronic platforms in blended or hybrid teaching to enhance student learning.
- There are clear, standardised entry qualifications for all students to gain entry to the programme.

The College has established systems in place for programme development, approval monitoring and review, which can respond to changes in industry and ensure that programmes continue to meet the needs of students and employers.

In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Garment Design and Craft 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

Chengdu Textile College has committed to further development and engagement encompassing:

- Revision of programme level learning outcomes to consolidate the programme level objectives into a smaller group of learning outcomes and a revision of all programme and module level learning outcomes to ensure they are specific, measurable and feasible.
- Review of the overall assessment framework and marking criteria, to ensure consistency between modules and ensure that students' ongoing progress is adequately monitored.
- Design programme specifications (Teaching Plans) that detail the assessment strategies to be used and their link to module learning outcomes through a clear mapping of learning, teaching and assessment strategies assigned to module level learning outcomes.
- 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 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.