

Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Wind Power Generation Engineering Technology from Jiuquan Vocational and Technical College

Context and scope

Jiuquan Vocational and Technical College commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in Wind Power Generation Engineering Technology which was completed in January 2025.

The Diploma in Wind Power Generation Engineering Technology is one of more than 60 qualifications delivered by Jiuquan Vocational and Technical College, including areas such as agriculture, forestry, civil engineering and construction, and tourism.

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 Wind Power Generation Engineering Technology aims to develop students' knowledge and skills in mechanical and computer aided drawing, electrical technology, as well as the manufacturing, operation, installation, commissioning and maintenance of wind turbines. 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. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with project-based learning and assessed professional practice in the form of an internship.

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

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 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 Wind Power Generation Engineering Technology, namely that it demonstrated:

- The high number of contact hours ensures that students experience significant levels of instruction and feedback.
- Students can tailor their learning through optional modules in specialist areas such as microcontroller technology, 3D modelling, and power plant equipment operation.
- A diverse range of facilities related to wind turbine installation, disassembly, and maintenance allows students to gain hands-on experience in realistic facilities.
- Enterprise instructors and College teachers jointly assess students during the internship, providing a diverse perspective on students' practical engineering skills alongside appraising soft skills such as communication, teamworking, and adaptability.
- Policies for the admission of international students signal the College's internationalisation commitments to prospective students, with access to scholarships ensuring equal opportunities with domestic students.

In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Wind Power Generation Engineering 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

Jiuquan Vocational and Technical College 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 the processes for each stage of programme development are clearly defined and linear in approach.
- 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.
- 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 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.