

Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in New Energy Vehicle Technology from Zibo Vocational Institute

Context and scope

Zibo Vocational Institute commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in New Energy Vehicle Technology, which was completed in December 2022.

The Diploma in New Energy Vehicle Technology is one of 73 programmes currently offered by the College across subject areas such as Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, IT, Marketing, Accounting and Nursing.

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 New Energy Vehicle Technology seeks to develop students' knowledge in a range of specialist occupational modules in areas such as automobile inspection and maintenance technology, automobile intelligent technology, and automobile marketing and service. 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 2,700 hours' guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with practical-based simulated learning and assessed professional practice in the form of an internship in local industry.

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

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 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 New Energy Vehicle Technology, namely that it demonstrated:

- A clear focus on employability.
- State-of-the-art facilities, including virtual simulation training and professional training rooms, supported by varied pedagogical approaches. This is designed to facilitate effective teaching and learning and enable students to practise the skills they will need to deploy in the workplace.
- A clear system of teacher recruitment, monitoring, training and ongoing CPD.
- Clear policies and processes in place for programme review and development, designed to maintain the currency and relevance of the curriculum to labour market needs.
- Detailed information on the programme and the College, which is made easily available to students through a student handbook.

In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in New Energy Vehicle 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**

² The employment rate of graduates is typically over 97%.

The information available to prospective students, current students and other interested stakeholders is accurate, transparent and clear for the intended audience.

Engagement

Zibo Vocational Institute has committed to further development and engagement encompassing:

- Review of the Talent Training Programme document to centre programme design around the intended learning outcomes
- Revision of learning outcomes across all programme modules, to ensure they are specific, measurable and feasible, form a firmer basis for assessment design and marking, and demonstrate a stronger emphasis on critical thinking (analysis, evaluation and reflection) skills in second and third-year modules
- Development of an overarching assessment framework to strengthen overall validity and rigour of assessment to enable closer alignment with international standards and expectations at RQF Level 5
- Review of modular assessments to ensure there is sufficient scope to assess students' critical analysis and evaluation skills
- Review of assessment criteria across modules as appropriate to outline how students are expected to demonstrate higher-level cognitive and professional skills, and to ensure that mark schemes enable markers to consistently and reliably assess and differentiate levels of performance
- 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.