

Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Automobile Inspection and Maintenance Technology from Guangxi Transport Vocational and Technical College

Context and scope

Guangxi Transport Vocational and Technical College commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in Automobile Inspection and Maintenance Technology, which was completed in May 2023.

The Diploma in Automobile Inspection and Maintenance Technology is one of 45 programmes delivered by the College, alongside programmes in the areas of road and bridge engineering, automotive engineering, economic management, and civil 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 Automobile Inspection and Maintenance Technology seeks to develop students' knowledge in automobile maintenance, motor vehicle insurance, maintenance of automobile electrical systems, and safety system maintenance. 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 2733 hours' guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with practical-based simulated learning and students undertake a skills based internship that prepares them for employment.

¹ To date, a total of 36 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 Automobile Inspection and Maintenance Technology, namely that it demonstrated that:

- The integration of online and offline learning allows for learners to study at their own pace and feel a sense of ownership over their work.
- The facilities students can access on the programme are cutting edge, allowing for the embedding of a wide range of practical skills.
- The programme is actively supported by world-leading manufacturers such as FAW-Volkswagen.
- Students are effectively prepared to obtain further certification allowing for specialisation in the automobile industry.
- The College has well detailed procedures for hiring, monitoring, reviewing, and developing teaching staff.
- The College ensures that teachers have up to date knowledge and skills by securing firm relationships with industry.
- The College has clear policies in place for the development and review of assessment materials.

In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Automobile Inspection and Maintenance 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

² The employment rate of graduates is typically 93%.

- **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

Guangxi Transport Vocational and Technical College has committed to further development and engagement encompassing:

- Rewriting the learning outcomes at programme and modular level. Learning outcomes should be rewritten to be more specific, measurable, and feasible.
- Consolidation of programme level objectives into a smaller group of overarching 'learning outcomes' that apply to a broader range of modules.
- Development of a mapping document, showing how each assessment links to the programme learning outcomes.
- Reviewing both assessments and approaches to marking in order to ensure they assess higher critical thinking skills expected at RQF Level 4 and 5.
- Designing programme specifications (Teaching Plans) that detail the assessment strategies to be used and their link to module 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.