

# Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in River Regulation and Waterway Engineering Technology from Yellow River Conservancy Technical Institute

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## Context and scope

Yellow River Conservancy Technical Institute commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in River Regulation and Waterway Engineering Technology, which was completed in March 2025.

The Diploma in River Regulation and Waterway Engineering Technology is one of the College alongside programmes covering water conservancy, surveying, robotics, big data, and cross-border e-commerce.

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)<sup>1</sup>
- Assess the extent to which the College's underpinning quality assurance meets a set of international standards.

## Key findings

The Diploma in River Regulation and Waterway Engineering Technology seeks to develop students' knowledge in hydraulic engineering drawing, geotechnical technology, hydraulic structures, and restoration and protection of protection of water ecology. 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 2759 hours' guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with practical-based simulated learning and a 27-week internship that allows students to gain hands-on practical experience within a real-world environment.

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<sup>1</sup> To date, a total of 36 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 HNDs, Diplomas of Higher Education and other UK Level 5 awards.

The study revealed several strengths of the Diploma in River Regulation and Waterway Engineering Technology, namely it demonstrated that:

- Students can readily access a range of training rooms, within which they can practice skills on a wide range of industrial equipment
- Digital simulation facilities are available for students to visualise engineering challenges and to use VR, a beneficial feature not commonly seen in the UK.
- The curriculum is comprehensive, covering a breadth of study applicable to the industry, preparing students well for their future education and careers
- There is a focus on developing theoretical, practical, and professional understanding, with a clear progression in LOs through the three years of study
- 'On-the-job Internships' are available through a wide variety of industry partners
- The combination of learning resources, teaching and assessment methods, together with experience in practical settings provides an industry-relevant education.

**In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in River Regulation and Waterway 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

Yellow River Conservancy Technical Institute 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 all RQF Level 5 descriptors.
- Developing new programme assessment frameworks/plans that link the MLOs to assessment that is able to test the skills and knowledge required.
- Ensuring that there is a clear policy on programme assessment plans. Assessments should be developed so that they are clearly linked to MLOs.
- Maintaining and ensuring adoption by all staff of the unified quality assurance handbook.

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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.