

# Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Water Conservancy and Hydropower Engineering 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 Water Conservancy and Hydropower Engineering Technology, which was completed in December 2024.

The Diploma in Water Conservancy and Hydropower Engineering Technology is one of over 60 programmes delivered by 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 Water Conservancy and Hydropower Engineering Technology seeks to develop students’ knowledge in engineering drawing, geotechnics, water conservancy projects, data processing, and concrete structure design. 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 2655 hours’ guided learning time. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with practical-based simulated learning and a 19-28week practical internship in which students

Upon completion, many students enter the workforce; however, some students will be eligible

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<sup>1</sup> To date, a total of 36 countries have now referenced their national education systems to the EQF.

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 Water Conservancy and Hydropower Engineering Technology, namely it demonstrated that:

- Transparent alignment between assessments and learning outcomes at both programme- and module-level.
- Comprehensive assessment across various modules, including theoretical and practical components.
- The smart campus platform provides an excellent system to capture and report on data to support teaching and learning.
- The admission policy is clearly defined and is readily available to all stakeholders.
- The process and schedule for monitoring and tracking teacher performance is very thorough, allowing for accurate developments at all stages of teaching.

**In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Water Conservancy and Hydropower Engineering 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.
- 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.