

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# Evaluation and Benchmarking of the Diploma in Food Inspection and Testing Technology from Harbin University of Vocational Technology

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## Context and scope

Harbin University of Vocational Technology commissioned Ecctis for an independent evaluation and benchmarking of its Diploma in Food Inspection and Testing Technology which was completed in May 2026.

The Diploma in Food Inspection and Testing Technology is one of 50 different diplomas delivered by Harbin University of Vocational Technology, covering subject areas such as engineering, economics, management, art and medicine across 16 teaching departments. It aims to prepare students for roles in food inspection and testing, laboratory management, quality certification, food quality control and safety management.

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 University's underpinning quality assurance meets a set of international standards.

## Key findings

The Diploma in Food Inspection and Testing Technology aims to develop the knowledge and skills food chemistry, microbiology, analysis, inspection, rapid detection technologies, nutrition, food processing and quality and safety management. In line with national requirements, the Diploma also encompasses “public basic modules” 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 the University's own independent enrolment examination.

The Diploma is a three-year full-time programme. Reflecting its vocational focus, the Diploma combines classroom-based study with project- and laboratory-based learning and assessed

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<sup>1</sup> To date, a total of 37 countries have now referenced their national education systems to the EQF.

professional practice in the form of a 312-hour internship.

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 Food Inspection and Testing Technology, namely that it demonstrated:

- Broad content coverage, with food chemistry, microbiology, rapid detection technologies and food safety regulations building a strong foundation for employment in technical roles.
- The inclusion of a diverse range of facilities, simulation software and laboratory practice, allowing students to gain hands on experience in realistic settings.
- A high number of contact hours during which students are able to receive more instruction and feedback from teachers and industry instructors.

**In terms of international comparability, the Diploma in Food Inspection and Testing 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

Harbin University of Vocational Technology has committed to further development and engagement encompassing:

- Rewriting the learning outcomes at programme and modular level to make them more specific and measurable, thereby ensuring the learning outcomes link appropriately to the assessment methods of the Diploma.
- Revising the qualification specifications so that assessment strategies to be used and their link to module learning outcomes are clearly set out, and learning outcomes form the basis of the design.
- 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 25-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 and universities.