



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

SUMMARY ACCREDITATION REPORT

**TECHNOLOGICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE
OF HONG KONG,
VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL**

LEARNING PROGRAMME RE-ACCREDITATION

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN
TURFGRASS SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT**

MARCH 2021

1. Terms of Reference

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: AA677), the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), in the capacity of the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (AAVQO) (Cap. 592), was commissioned by Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, Vocational Training Council to conduct a learning programme re-accreditation exercise with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the AAVQO to determine whether the Professional Certificate in Turfgrass Science and Management Programme of Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, Vocational Training Council (the Institute) meets the stated objectives and QF standards and can continue to be offered as an accredited programme; and
- (b) To issue to the Institute an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) by HKCAAVQ.

2. HKCAAVQ'S Determination

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that the Programme meets the stated objectives and QF standard at Level 4 and can continue to be offered as an accredited programme with a validity period of three years.

2.2 Validity Period

2.2.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below. Operators may apply to HKCAAVQ to vary the commencement date of the validity period. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2.3 The determinations on the Programme are specified as follows:

Name of Operator(s)	Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, Vocational Training Council 職業訓練局 - 香港高等教育科技學院
Name of Award Granting Body	Vocational Training Council 職業訓練局
Title of Learning Programme	Professional Certificate in Turfgrass Science and Management 草坪科學與管理專業證書
Title of Qualification(s) [Exit Award(s)]	Professional Certificate in Turfgrass Science and Management 草坪科學與管理專業證書
Primary Area of Study and Training	Architecture and Town Planning
Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	Architecture, Construction and Town Planning
Other Area of Study and Training	Services
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Gardening and Horticulture
Industry	Arboriculture and Horticulture
Branch	Arboriculture and Horticulture
QF Level	Level 4
QF Credits	48
Mode(s) of Delivery and Programme Length	Part-time, 12 months
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2021
End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2024
Number of Enrolment(s)	One enrolment per year
Maximum Number of New Students	45 students per year

Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Address of Teaching/ Training Venue(s)	<p>(1) Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (Chai Wan Campus) 133 Shing Tai Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong</p> <p>(2) Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (Tsing Yi Campus) 20A Tsing Yi Road, Tsing Yi Island, New Territories, Hong Kong</p>

2.4 Recommendations

HKCAAVQ also offers the following recommendations for continuous improvement of the Programme.

- 2.4.1 The Institute should implement the promotion plan via various social media channels to attract more diversified sources of students, such as prospective students of younger generations and industry practitioners at different organisational levels.
- 2.4.2 The Institute should arrange more field trips covering diversified landscapes, locations and natural environment, such as complicated or heavily-used sites, or sites with competition between weeds and turfgrasses, to strengthen students' learning experience.
- 2.4.3 The Institute should review the utilisation of self-study hours to ensure their effective use.
- 2.4.4 The Institute should review the Student Feedback Questionnaire results on the *Identification and Control of Turfgrass Diseases and Pests* module to be conducted in subsequent academic years in order to gauge students' feedback on the effectiveness of improvement measures to ensure the students' feedback was addressed appropriately.
- 2.5 HKCAAVQ will subsequently satisfy itself whether the Operator remains competent to achieve the relevant objectives and the Programme continues to meet the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator by reference to, amongst other

things, the Operator's fulfilment of any conditions and compliance with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report. For the avoidance of doubt, maintenance of accreditation status is subject to fulfilment of any condition and compliance with any restriction stipulated in this Accreditation Report.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, established in 2012, is a member institution of the Vocational Training Council. It was granted Institutional Review status by HKCAAVQ in September 2012. It mainly offers vocationally-oriented self-financed degree programmes. Currently, it offers 21 accredited bachelor degree programmes, three professional diploma programmes and one professional certificate programme in various disciplines.
- 3.2 In consideration of the Institute's track record established from previous accreditation exercises, this re-accreditation exercise was conducted in paper-based review (i.e. without a site visit to the Institute).

4. Programmes Details

The following programme information is provided by the operator.

- 4.1 Programme Objectives
- equip students with a solid knowledge and understanding of the theories, methods and practices of turfgrass management in the areas of plant physiology, soil science, turfgrass disease and pest control, and practical management skills;
 - enhance students with technical skills of maintaining high quality lawns/turfgrass fields to meet the demand and support the rapid increase of turfgrass areas;
 - develop students' ability in professional practice, where a combination of turfgrass science, management, communication, teamwork and other skills are required for solving integrated turfgrass management problems in greening and landscaping works; and

- strengthen students' ability to keep abreast of technical and current issues in turfgrass management and professional development needs.

4.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

- apply knowledge and understanding of principles, concepts and skills in turfgrass management and maintenance;
- suggest methods to promote turfgrass growth in good conditions limiting the effects of diseases, pests and weeds;
- solve problems in turfgrass management by applying professional, theoretical and scientific approaches to meet the constraints of spatial design, the environment and maintenance of designed landscape facilities; and
- reflect on issues relating to turfgrass management and maintenance for further study and development.

4.3 Programme Structure

4.3.1 The Programme is delivered in part-time mode only and it comprises four core modules. The following table summarises the structure of the Programme:

Module Title	QF Level	Contact hours	Self-study hours	QF Credit
Plant Physiology and Turfgrass Identification	4	44	82	12
Soil Science for Turfgrass Management	4	44	82	12
Identification and Control of Turfgrass Diseases and Pests	4	44	82	12
Practical Skills on Turfgrass Management	4	42	84	12
Total:		174	330	48

4.4 Graduation Requirements

To graduate from the Programme, a student must complete all four modules with a total of 48 QF credits.

4.5 Admission Requirements

- 4.5.1 Five HKCEE/HKDSE subjects at Grade E/Level 2 or above, including English and Chinese Languages, or equivalent; and at least one year of working experience in the greening and landscaping industry or relevant industry.
- 4.5.2 The Institute will also consider following qualifications for admission on a case-by-case basis:
- (a) graduates of a QF Level 3 programme that is deemed acceptable to the Faculty Dean concerned; or
 - (b) relevant Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) qualification(s) at QF Level 3; or
 - (c) other relevant verifiable prior learning and/or working experience that is/are deemed appropriate by the Faculty Board; or
 - (d) Mature applicants at the age of 21 or above with at least one year of relevant experience.

4.6 Teaching and Learning Activities

The Programme employs a mix of teaching and learning activities, such as lectures, tutorials, field trips and laboratory sessions.

5. Important Information Regarding this Accreditation Report

5.1 Variation and withdrawal of this Accreditation Report

- 5.1.1 This Accreditation Report is issued pursuant to section 5 of the AAVQO, and contains HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding the accreditation, including the validity period as well as any conditions and restrictions subject to which the determination is to have effect.
- 5.1.2 HKCAAVQ may subsequently decide to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report if it is satisfied that any of the grounds set out in section 5 (2) of the AAVQO apply. This includes where HKCAAVQ is satisfied that the Operator is no longer competent to achieve the relevant objectives and/or the Programme no longer meets the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator (whether by reference to the Operator's failure to fulfil any conditions and/or comply with any restrictions stipulated in this

Accreditation Report or otherwise) or where at any time during the validity period there has/have been substantial change(s) introduced by the Operator after HKCAAVQ has issued the accreditation report(s) to the Operator and which has/have not been approved by HKCAAVQ. Please refer to the '*Guidance Notes on Substantial Change to Accreditation Status*' in seeking approval for proposed changes. These Guidance Notes can be downloaded from the HKCAAVQ website.

5.1.3 If HKCAAVQ decides to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, it will give the Operator notice of such variation or withdrawal pursuant to section 5(4) of the AAVQO.

5.1.4 The accreditation status of Operator and/or Programme will lapse immediately upon the expiry of the validity period or upon the issuance of a notice of withdrawal of this Accreditation Report.

5.2 Appeals

5.2.1 If the Operator is aggrieved by the determination made in this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of this Accreditation Report.

5.2.2 If the Operator is aggrieved by a decision to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of the Notice of Withdrawal.

5.2.3 The Operator should be aware that a notice of variation or withdrawal of this Accreditation Report is not itself an accreditation report and the right to appeal against HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding accreditation arises only from this Accreditation Report.

5.2.4 Please refer to Cap. 592A (<http://www.legislation.gov.hk>) for the appeal rules. Details of the appeal procedure are contained in section 13 of the AAVQO and can be accessed from the QF website at <http://www.hkqf.gov.hk>.

5.3 **Qualifications Register**

- 5.3.1 Qualifications accredited by HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the Qualifications Register ("QR") at <https://www.hkqr.gov.hk> for recognition under the QF. The Operator should apply separately to have their quality-assured qualifications entered into the QR.

- 5.3.2 Only learners who commence the study of the named accredited learning programme during the validity period and who have graduated with the named qualification listed in the QR will be considered to have acquired a qualification recognised under the QF.

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