



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 ACCREDITATION
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE**

DECEMBER 2021

1. Terms of Reference

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: AA710 (revised)), 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 (Cap. 592), was commissioned by Technological and Higher Education Institute (THEi), Vocational Training Council (VTC) to conduct a learning programme accreditation (LPA) exercise with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the AAVQO (Cap. 592) to determine whether the Professional Diploma in Landscape Architecture (PD-LA) programme of THEi, VTC meets the stated objectives and QF standards and can be offered as an accredited programme; and
- (b) To issue to THEi, VTC an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) by HKCAAVQ.

2. HKCAAVQ'S Determination

Learning Programme Accreditation

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that the PD-LA programme meets the stated objectives and QF standard at Level 5 and can 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 PD-LA programme are specified as follows:

Name of Operator	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 Diploma in Landscape Architecture 園境建築專業文憑
Title of Qualification [Exit Award]	Professional Diploma in Landscape Architecture 園境建築專業文憑
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	Arts, Design and Performing Arts
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Design and Other Creative Industries
QF Level	Level 5
QF Credits	138
Mode of Delivery and Programme Length	Part-time, 24 months
Intermediate Exit Award	Not applicable
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2022
End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2025
Number of Enrolment	One enrolment per year
Maximum Number of New Students	30 per year
Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Address of Teaching Venue	<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>
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2.4 Recommendations

HKCAAVQ offers the following recommendations for continuous improvement of the PD-LA programme.

- 2.4.1 THEi should ensure that the Programme Team would (a) monitor the standard/quality of students to be admitted to the PD-LA programme, and (b) facilitate the learning progress of students from diverse backgrounds through appropriate teaching pedagogy.
- 2.4.2 THEi should ensure that effective integration of technological knowledge and real-life applications, as well as facilitation of students' learning progress, are achieved through the two Studio projects in the PD-LA programme.
- 2.4.3 THEi should review the content of the technology-related modules of the PD-LA programme, and make refinements where necessary, to ensure that the content of these modules remain current and accurate.
- 2.4.4 THEi should reflect on and enhance the specificity of assessment rubrics in different modules, so that students would have a better understanding of how the assessment activities relate to the module content and measure their achievement of module outcomes.
- 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 THEi, established in 2012, is a member institution of VTC. It was granted Institutional Review status by HKCAAVQ in September 2012. Currently, THEi offers mainly vocationally-oriented self-financed bachelor's degree programmes pitched at QF Level 5, and some professional diploma/professional certificate programmes pitched at QF Level 4/5 in various disciplines. In the 2020/21 academic year, THEi offers 21 bachelor's degree programmes and a number of professional diploma/professional certificate programmes, which are accredited by HKCAAVQ.
- 3.2 THEi commissioned HKCAAVQ to conduct an LPA exercise for the PD-LA programme. For this LPA exercise, HKCAAVQ formed an expert Panel, and the Panel visited THEi's campus in Chai Wan on 12 October 2021 to meet with key stakeholders and have a tour of specialised facilities. The HKCAAVQ's Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (Version 1.2, November 2020) was the guiding document for THEi and the Panel in conducting this exercise.

4. Programmes Details

The following programme information is provided by the operator.

4.1 Programme Objectives

PO1	Cultivate creative and innovative practitioners with knowledge and skills to perform the tasks of a landscape professional;
PO2	Equip students with ability to formulate planning and design strategy, and identify methodology for research and critical judgement to consolidate landscape and planning solutions in open spaces with urban contexts;
PO3	Reinforce students' skills in visualisation, communication and presentation for professional advancement at both strategic and operational levels;
PO4	Strengthen students' awareness for sustainable development and environmental conservation, including cultural, social, historical and ecological considerations in the practice and study of landscape architecture;

PO5	Prepare students with theoretical and practical knowledge for both professional progression and further studies in landscape architecture.
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4.2 Programme Learning Outcomes

PLO1	Identify and analyse constraints and opportunities, and generate design research by assessing the environmental, ecological, social, cultural, and ethical factors;
PLO2	Formulate design strategy and methodology for creative and thoughtful design solutions, which integrate innovative conceptual skills and applications of technological and theoretical knowledge of landscape architecture;
PLO3	Develop knowledge, understanding and skills in the technical, theoretical and practical concerns of the discipline;
PLO4	Contribute to formulating solutions in landscape projects as team members with professional skills, knowledge, and attitudes for the achievement of successful outcomes;
PLO5	Demonstrate social responsibility and professional ethics for sustainable development as landscape architectural practitioners;
PLO6	Communicate and negotiate effectively with fellow professionals and identified stakeholders using various technical skills and presentation methods to facilitate achievement of common goals;
PLO7	Identify a clear individual objective for professional development, and/or further studies.

4.3 Programme Structure

Name of Module	QF Level	QF Credits	Contact Hrs	Independent Learning Hrs	Total NLH
Studio: Parks Design	5	25.2	60	192	252
Technology: Ecology & Plants	4	12.6	24	102	126
Visualisation: Fundamentals of Landscape Architecture	5	12.6	42	84	126
Theory: Western Landscape Architecture	5	12.6	24	102	126

Technology: Site Engineering	4	12.6	27	99	126
Theory: Eastern Landscape Architecture	5	12.6	24	102	126
Practice: Law & Management	5	12.6	36	90	126
Technology: Horticulture Practice in Construction	4	12.6	27	99	126
Studio: Landscapes in Urban Contexts	5	25.2	60	192	252
		138.6*			1386

* Total QF credits of the programme rounded to whole digit of **138**.

4.4 Graduation Requirements

- To qualify for the award, students must complete nine modules within a normal study period of 24 months (four semesters) to obtain 138 QF credits.

4.5 Admission Requirements

- Possession of a Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline; OR
- A non-related Bachelor's degree with minimum one-year relevant working experience in landscape architecture or related field; OR
- A Higher Diploma or Associate Degree in a relevant discipline with minimum two years of relevant working experience in landscape architecture or related field.

4.6 Teaching and Learning Activities

The PD-LA programme adopts a variety of learning and teaching activities to fit the nature and learning outcomes of individual modules and facilitate students' effective learning. These activities include, for example, lectures, tutorials, field trips, studio learning, workshop/practical training, web-based learning, and project-based learning.

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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