



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

## **SUMMARY ACCREDITATION REPORT**

**PUI KIU COLLEGE AND  
NORTHERN CONSORTIUM UK LIMITED**

**INITIAL EVALUATION AND  
LEARNING PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION FOR  
DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION STUDIES**

**OCTOBER 2022**

## **1. Terms of Reference**

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: AA792), 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 Pui Kiu College and Northern Consortium UK Limited (jointly as the Operator) to conduct a combined exercise of Initial Evaluation and Learning Programme Accreditation with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the AAVQO to determine whether the Operator meets the stated objectives and is competent to operate learning programmes that meet the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) Level 3 standard, and can be granted an Initial Evaluation (IE) status at HKQF Level 3;
- (b) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the AAVQO to determine whether the Diploma in International Foundation Studies of the Operator meets the stated objectives and HKQF standard and can be offered as an accredited programme; and
- (c) To issue to the Operator an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) and (b) above by HKCAAVQ.

## **2. HKCAAVQ'S Determination**

### **Initial Evaluation**

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that the Operator meets the stated objectives and is competent to operate learning programmes that meet the HKQF Level 3 standard, and can be granted an Initial Evaluation (IE) status at HKQF Level 3.

### **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 of the IE status are specified as follows:

<b>Name of Local Operator</b>	Pui Kiu College 培僑書院
<b>Name of Non-local Operator</b>	Northern Consortium UK Limited 英國北方聯合會
<b>Address of Local Operator</b>	1 Tai Wai New Village Road, Tai Wai, New Territories
<b>Highest HKQF Level of programme(s) which the Operator can operate upon successful learning programme accreditation</b>	Level 3
<b>Start date of 2-year validity period of IE accreditation status</b>	1 September 2023
<b>Scope of IE accreditation status</b>	For accredited programme(s) operated by the Local Operator in partnership with the Non-local Operator in Hong Kong

### **Learning Programme Accreditation**

2.4 HKCAAVQ has determined that the Diploma in International Foundation Studies programme (the Programme) of the Operator meets the stated objectives and HKQF standard at Level 3, and can be offered as an accredited programme with a validity period of three years.

### **2.5 Validity Period**

2.5.1 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.

2.6 The determinations on the Programme are specified as follows:

<b>Name of Local Operator</b>	Pui Kiu College 培僑書院
<b>Name of Non-local Operator</b>	Northern Consortium UK Limited 英國北方聯合會

<b>Name of Award Granting Body</b>	Northern Consortium UK Limited 英國北方聯合會
<b>Title of Learning Programme</b>	Diploma in International Foundation Studies 國際基礎文憑課程
<b>Title of Qualification (Exit Award)</b>	Diploma in International Foundation Studies 國際基礎文憑
<b>Primary Area of Study and Training</b>	Humanities
<b>Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)</b>	Humanities
<b>Other Area of Study and Training</b>	Not applicable
<b>Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)</b>	Not applicable
<b>HKQF Level</b>	Level 3
<b>HKQF Credits</b>	120
<b>Mode of Delivery and Programme Length</b>	Full-time mode, 1 year
<b>Start Date of Validity Period</b>	1 September 2023
<b>End Date of Validity Period</b>	31 August 2026
<b>Number of Enrolment</b>	One enrolment per year
<b>Maximum Number of New Students</b>	48 new students per year
<b>Address of Teaching / Training Venue</b>	1 Tai Wai New Village Road, Tai Wai, New Territories

2.7 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 Pui Kiu College (the College) was established in 2005 by its founding and sponsoring body, i.e. Pui Kiu Education Foundation, which is a non-profit organisation with extensive experience in running secondary schools, primary schools, kindergartens and evening schools. The College has been registered under the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279) since 2007 and is a through-train school incorporating both primary and secondary school sections under the Direct Subsidy Scheme of the Education Bureau (EDB).
- 3.2 The Northern Consortium, registered as a charity in England and Wales, was founded in 1987 by a group of UK universities (the Founding Universities) to facilitate access to higher education for international students. The Founding Universities of the Northern Consortium are all public universities approved by the Privy Council of the UK and are overseen by the Office for Students of the UK. In 2003, Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK) was established by the Northern Consortium to create opportunities internationally that improve access to higher education for students globally. NCUK's qualifications are designed to prepare international students for university study and get access to NCUK's partner universities as well as other universities which recognise NCUK qualifications. NCUK's qualifications are operated in its Study Centres all over the world, which include Mainland China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam. The College is the only Study Centre in Hong Kong for NCUK's Diploma in International Foundation Studies programme.
- 3.3 The College has collaborated with NCUK to operate the International Foundation Year programme since the 2017-18 academic year. The EDB granted a special approval to the College for the operation of the programme for a three-year period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 academic years. In 2019, the approval period for the operation of the programme was extended until the 2022-23 academic year, and in 2021, the approval period was further extended until the 2023-24 academic year. In order to align with the Award Titles Scheme under the HKQF, the International Foundation Year programme has been retitled as the Diploma in International Foundation Studies programme for seeking accreditation from HKCAAVQ.

3.4 HKCAAVQ formed an expert panel (the Panel) and engaged a financial expert for this accreditation exercise. Due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the site visit was conducted via video-conference on 11-12 August 2022 to reduce social contact. HKCAAVQ's *Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework* was the guiding document for the Operator and the Panel in conducting this exercise.

#### 4. Programmes Details

The following programme information is provided by the Operator.

##### 4.1 Programme Objectives

PO 1	Acquire knowledge, understanding, skills and competencies for the application of theory in subject-specific areas, at a level required for progression to bachelor's degree programmes at English language universities
PO 2	Develop general and subject-specific English Language proficiency, vocabulary and terminology at the level required to study and learn effectively in an English language university
PO 3	Further develop, apply and practise critical thinking, problem solving, investigation and ICT skills to the level required for university study
PO 4	Develop competence and confidence as effective learners in order to take responsibility for their own learning

##### 4.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

PILO 1	Use English Language confidently and demonstrate a proficiency in English language to a standard of at least NCUK EAP 'C' grade
PILO 2	Learn effectively and conform to *accepted academic practice *accepted academic practice means: -completing academic work independently -drawing conclusions upon research with sources effectively

	-paraphrasing and using the Harvard referencing system -discussing and evaluating existing concepts and theories
PILO 3	Make effective use of a range of generic and subject specific study skills
PILO 4	Demonstrate knowledge in specific subject areas at a level comparable to, although not necessarily the same as, that of 'home' students at the time of entry to undergraduate study
PILO 5	Demonstrate their module knowledge through a range of learning assessment methods, such as examinations, reports and essays

### 4.3 Programme Structure

4.3.1 Students are required to study three subject modules and a compulsory English for Academic Purposes (EAP) module in the Programme. Students can choose from the subject modules in the table below and will receive advice from the College on the best combination of modules to study based on their progression aspirations.

Art & Design	Chemistry	Maths Business*
Biology	Economics	Maths Engineering*
Business Studies	Physics	Maths Science*

\*Students are allowed to take only one Maths module.

4.3.2 There are three main module combinations to facilitate students' university applications to meet their progression aspirations. In response to the Panel's comments, the Operator informed the Panel that students would be advised to enroll in one of the three main module combinations, however, students would be allowed to choose different module combinations if they have achieved satisfactory results in related subjects and wish to broaden their education pathways.

<u>Combination</u>	<u>Subject Modules</u>
Business	Business Studies, Economics, Maths Business
Engineering	Chemistry, Physics, Maths Engineering
Science	Biology, Chemistry, Maths Science

#### 4.4 Graduation Requirements

To obtain the award of this qualification pitched at HKQF Level 3, students are required to pass three subject modules totalling 72 NCUK points, plus a grade D in the EAP module.

#### 4.5 Admission Requirements

<b>Admission requirements for students who completed Grade 11 of the HKDSE curriculum at the College</b>	
Study in the respective electives (as applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Biology</li> <li>▪ Chemistry</li> <li>▪ Economics</li> <li>▪ Physics</li> </ul>
Performance in the College's internal assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grade 11 yearly average mark at 45 marks or above</li> <li>▪ a pass in English Language</li> <li>▪ a pass in Mathematics</li> </ul>
Performance in NCUK's Entry Test	a pass in English
Admission interview	satisfactory performance

<b>Admission requirements for external students who completed Secondary 5 of the HKDSE curriculum at other schools</b>	
Study in the respective electives (as applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Biology</li> <li>▪ Chemistry</li> <li>▪ Economics</li> <li>▪ Physics</li> </ul>
Performance in internal assessment of other schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secondary 5 yearly average mark at 45 marks or above</li> </ul>
Performance in the College's Entry Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ satisfactory performance in English Language</li> <li>▪ satisfactory performance in Mathematics</li> </ul>
Performance in NCUK's Entry Test	a pass in English
Admission interview	satisfactory performance

<b>Admission requirements for students with HKDSE results at the College</b>	
Performance in HKDSE Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a minimum of Level 3 in English Language</li> <li>▪ a minimum of Level 3 in Mathematics</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a minimum of Level 3 in the respective electives if they will be studied as part of the Diploma in International Foundation Studies programme: Biology, Chemistry, Economics and Physics</li> </ul>
Performance in NCUK’s Entry Test	a pass in English
Admission interview	satisfactory performance

#### 4.6 Teaching and Learning Activities

The teaching and learning activities of the Programme include lectures, tutorials, seminars and laboratory practicals.

### 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 HKQF 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 HKQF. 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 HKQF.

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