



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 (THEI),  
VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC)**

**LEARNING PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION FOR  
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN  
TURFGRASS SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**FEBRUARY 2018**

This accreditation report is issued by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) in its capacity as the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap. 592) (AAVQO). This report outlines the HKCAAVQ's determination, the validity period of the determination as well as any conditions or restrictions on the determination.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 THEi, established in 2011, is a member institution of the VTC. It was granted Institutional Review status by HKCAAVQ in September 2012. It mainly offers vocationally-oriented self-financed degree programmes. As at November 2017, THEi offers 21 accredited bachelor degree programmes and three professional diploma (PD) programmes covering a wide range of academic and professional disciplines.
- 1.2 HKCAAVQ was commissioned by the THEi to conduct a learning programme accreditation exercise with the following Terms of Reference:
  - (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap. 592) (AAVQO) to determine whether the Professional Certificate in Turfgrass Science and Management (PC-TSM) Programme of the Operator meets the stated objectives and QF standard and can be offered as an accredited programme from the 2018/19 academic year; and
  - (b) To issue to the Operator an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) by HKCAAVQ.
- 1.3 The accreditation exercise was conducted according to the relevant accreditation guidelines referred to in the Service Agreement and the Terms of Reference stated therein. A site visit took place 10-11 January 2018.

## **2. HKCAAVQ's Accreditation Determination**

Having due consideration of the accreditation panel's observations and comments as presented in this Report, HKCAAVQ makes the following accreditation determination:

## 2.1 Learning Programme Accreditation

Approval

<b>Name of Operator</b>	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
<b>Name of Award Granting Body</b>	Vocational Training Council 職業訓練局
<b>Title of Learning Programme</b>	Professional Certificate in Turfgrass Science and Management 草坪科學與管理專業證書
<b>Title of Qualification (Exit Award)</b>	Professional Certificate in Turfgrass Science and Management 草坪科學與管理專業證書
<b>Primary Area of Study and Training</b>	Architecture and Town Planning
<b>Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)</b>	Architecture, Construction and Town Planning
<b>Other Area of Study and Training</b>	Services
<b>Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)</b>	Gardening and Horticulture
<b>Industry</b>	Arboriculture and Horticulture
<b>Branch</b>	Arboriculture and Horticulture
<b>QF Level</b>	Level 4
<b>QF Credits</b>	48
<b>Mode of Delivery and Programme Length</b>	Part-time, 12 months to 24 months
<b>Intermediate Exit Award</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Start date of Validity Period</b>	1 September 2018
<b>End date of Validity Period</b>	31 August 2021
<b>Number of Enrolments</b>	One enrolment per year

<b>Maximum Number of New Students</b>	60 students per year
<b>Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Address of Teaching Venues</b>	Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (Chai Wan Campus) 133 Shing Tai Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

### 2.1.1 Recommendations

THEi should (a) further enhance specific topics in the programme modules to facilitate a more holistic coverage of theoretical and practical aspects in turfgrass science and management, and (b) ensure the currency of reference materials by making use of online resources, such as websites of international professional associations.

## 3. Programme Details

The following programme information is provided by the operator.

### 3.1 Programme Objectives

- The PC-TSM Programme is hosted by the Faculty of Design and Environment of THEi. The Programme aims to equip students with a solid understanding and foundation in both theoretical and practical knowledge of turfgrass science and management for workplace application in the greening and landscaping industry of Hong Kong. In addition, the Programme reflects shifting values in the turfgrass management. These include a greater emphasis on the notion of sustainable development and the multi-disciplinary nature of the greening and landscaping industry. Furthermore, the Programme will prepare students to pursue lifelong professional development.

- Specifically, the Programme Objectives (PO) are to:

PO1	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;
PO2	enhance students with technical skills of maintaining high

	quality lawns/turfgrass fields to meet the demand and support the rapid increase of turfgrass areas;
PO3	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
PO4	strengthen students' ability to keep abreast of technical and current issues in turfgrass management and professional development needs.

### 3.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

- Upon successful completion of the PC-TSM Programme, graduates will be able to:

PLO1	apply knowledge and understanding of principles, concepts and skills in turfgrass management and maintenance;
PLO2	suggest methods to promote turfgrass growth in good conditions limiting the effects of diseases, pests and weeds;
PLO3	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
PLO4	reflect on issues relating to turfgrass management and maintenance for further study and development.

### 3.3 Programme Structure

- The PC-TSM Programme is offered in part-time mode with a minimum duration of 12 months and a maximum duration of 24 months. Students enroll in four modules, which are all core modules, for a total of 48 QF credits. All modules are pitched at QF Level 4. The structure of the PC-TSM Programme is as follows:

<b>Module Title (All Modules are Core Modules)</b>	<b>QF Level</b>	<b>QF Credit</b>	<b>Institute Credit Point (CP)</b>
Plant Physiology and Turfgrass Identification	4	12	3
Soil Science for Turfgrass Management	4	12	3
Identification and Control of Turfgrass Diseases and Pests	4	12	3
Practical Skills on Turfgrass Management	4	12	3
<b>Total:</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>12</b>

### 3.4 Graduation Requirements

- Students have to complete four modules and 48 QF Credits to obtain the award.

### 3.5 Admission Requirements

- The minimum admission requirements for the PC-TSM Programme are as follows:

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. Substantial Change

- 4.1 HKCAAVQ may vary or withdraw the 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. The accreditation status of the Operator and/or Programme will lapse immediately upon the expiry of the validity period or upon the issuance of a notice of withdrawal of the Accreditation Report.

## 5. Qualifications Register

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

- 5.2 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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