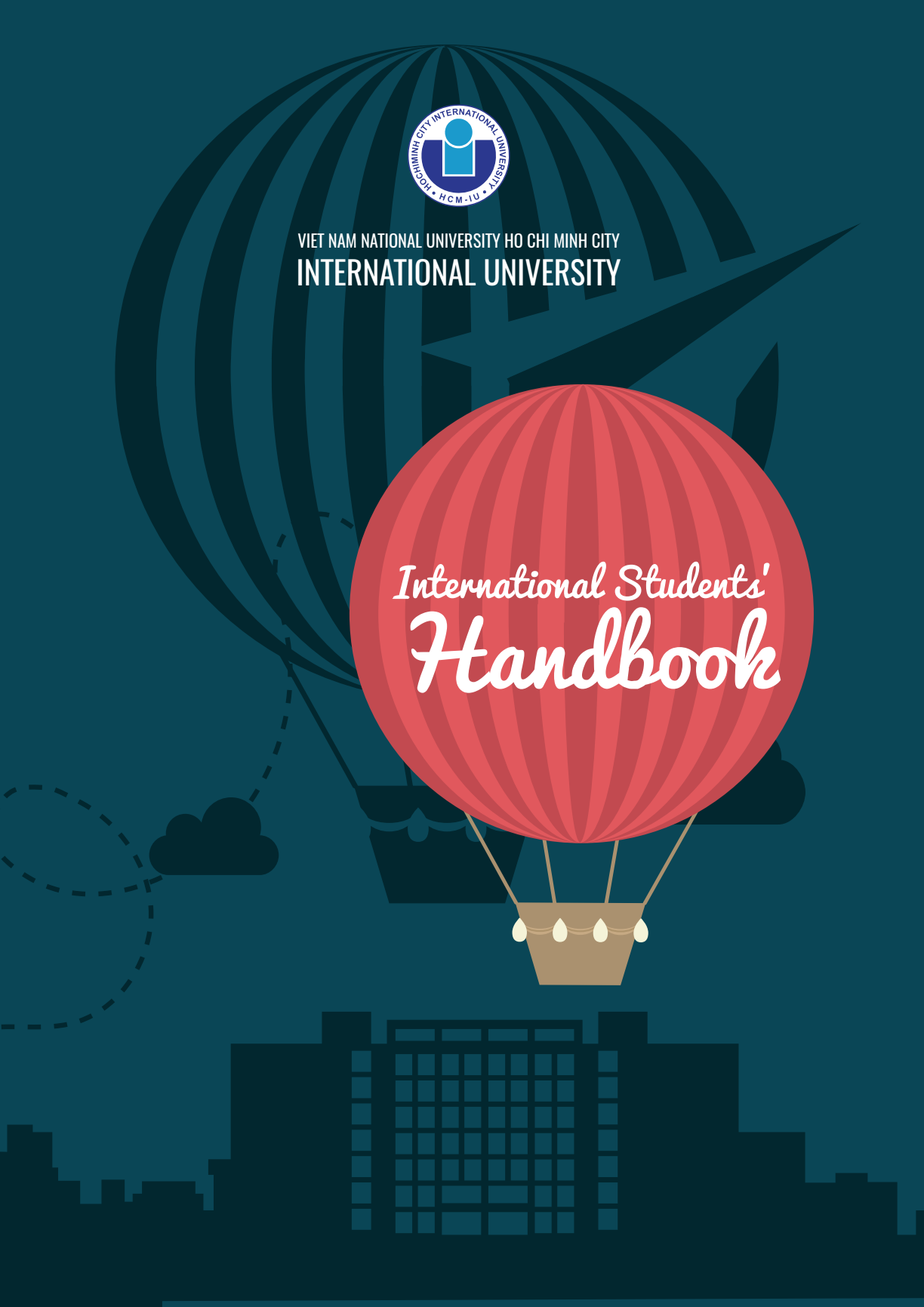




VIET NAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HO CHI MINH CITY  
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY






*International Students'*  
**Handbook**



# CONTACT

## OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICE CENTER (ISSC)



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Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 700 000
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VIET NAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HO CHI MINH CITY  
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

A photograph of two students, a man and a woman, sitting at a desk and smiling while reading a book together. The man is wearing glasses and a striped shirt, and the woman is wearing a dark polka-dot top. The background shows a desk with papers and a bookshelf. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' HANDBOOK

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# INTRODUCTION

## WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## WELCOME FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Students,

On behalf of International University (IU), thank you for choosing IU, the first public English speaking university in Vietnam, as the host institution for your next semester(s).

You are joining a unique and vibrant campus community located in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's largest metropolis, with more than 7,500 students. It is where academic and research excellence and students satisfaction constantly drive our every activity and decision.

As a student at IU, may your experiences be memorable and your studies challenging and enjoyable. You will also have the opportunity to explore Vietnamese culture and expand your network of contacts.

The IU's staff is committed to give you the opportunity to improve your career prospects and provide the support you need to achieve your academic goals at IU.

For these reasons, I believe you will find our university a wonderful, professional, and academic atmosphere.

We look forward to getting to know you and supporting you in your academic studies as well as your new life in Vietnam.

Dr. Tran Tien Khoa

# VIETNAM

## HO CHI MINH CITY

RAINY (MAY TO NOVEMBER)	: 24°C – 32°C ~ (75°F – 89°F)
DRY (DECEMBER TO APRIL)	: 26°C – 33°C ~ (79°F – 91°F)



### RAINY SEASON:

During this period, it rains heavily almost every afternoon, however the rain is rather short.

There will be flood in some places in Ho Chi Minh City, so be well-prepared with wellington boots and water-proof backpack.

Remember to have raincoat and umbrella during this time in case it rains.



### DRY SEASON:

During this period, the weather should be hot and dry, with little to no rain.

Remember to bring long hats, sunglasses, and apply sunscreen to avoid the burn, when you are out in the sun.

Hot weather can cause dehydration, so be sure to drink plenty of water.

It is recommended to stay hydrated and well rested when the weather is too hot.



# ABOUT VIETNAM – HO CHI MINH CITY

Among one of the fastest growing economies in Asia, Vietnam has been considered as 'a Rising Dragon' of the region. In addition to the long history, rich culture and customs of 54 ethnic races, Vietnam is the choice of destination for many international travelers.

Located in the South of Vietnam, with a pleasant climate, Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon, is a national leading center in terms of culture, commerce, technology renovation and professional services. Though just accounting for 0.6% of the land area, it contributes the largest proportion to Vietnam's economy.

Passing through over 300 historical years, Ho Chi Minh City has been developing and preserving a characteristic cultural treasure. Students living in Ho Chi Minh City have many opportunities to discover great historical and cultural tourist attractions such as Cu Chi tunnel, pagodas, temples, museums, beautifully architectural buildings with the combination of Vietnamese, Eastern, and Western styles, as well as experience decent services and entertainment. Furthermore, as a leading dynamic metropolitan city, Ho Chi Minh City provides many favorable environments to students to start a career path in different areas or create their own businesses.

City life reflects the weather: a blend of harmony and chaos. Traffic is heavy and dense and can seem never-ending, but you can always see locals lounging at street side coffee vendors, content to admire the passing free-for-all<sup>1</sup>.

## CLIMATE

Ho Chi Minh City has a tropical climate, with an average humidity of 75%. The year is divided into two seasons: rainy and dry season. Be prepared for downpours during the wet season from May to November.

<sup>1</sup> CityPass – 2014 Hanoi | Ho Chi Minh City Guide 12th Ed.

Established  
**2003**

**THE FIRST**  
public English-speaking  
university in Vietnam

Schools and  
Departments

**11**

Total number of  
students enrolled

**7,500+**

**180+**  
Faculty members

Campus location  
**HO CHI MINH CITY  
VIETNAM**

## Academic Programs

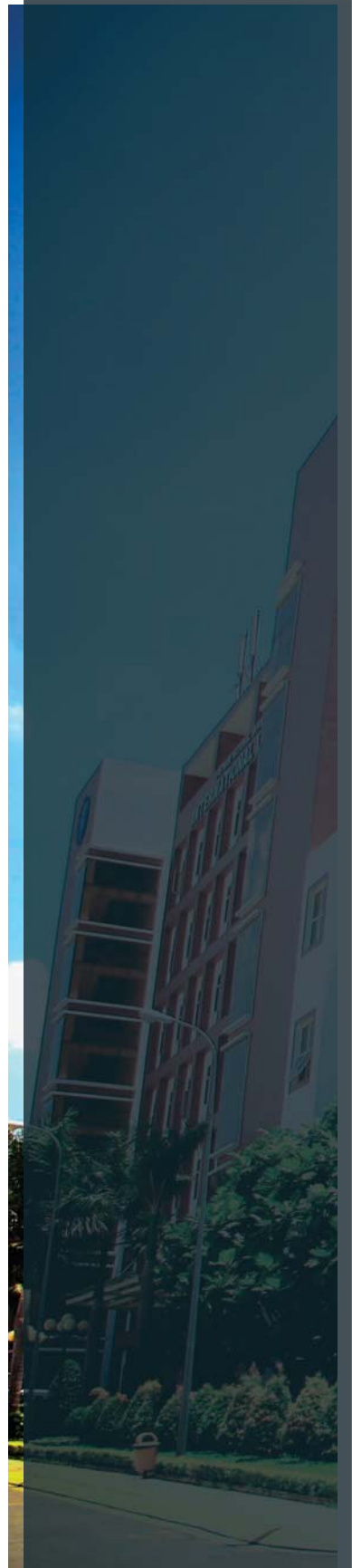
**20**  
Bachelor Level

**08**  
Master Level

**02**  
PhD. Level

### ASEAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK QUALITY ASSURANCE ACCREDITATION

- BA. Business Administration
- BSc. Biotechnology
- BSc. Computer Science
- BEng. Electrical Engineering
- BEng. Industrial & Systems Engineering
- BEng. Biomedical Engineering
- BEng. Food Technology
- MSc. Biotechnology
- MSc. Industrial & Systems Engineering



## ABOUT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

International University (IU) is one of the six universities members of Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City. As an interdisciplinary university, it is the first public university in Vietnam that uses English as the teaching medium. With highly devoted staffs and lecturers, IU commits to bring the best learning environment to both Vietnam and international students.

# EXCHANGE & STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM AT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## EXCHANGE PROGRAM

### INCOMING STUDENTS

The Exchange Program is a tuition fee waiving program for students whose institutions have a Student Exchange Agreement with IU. This program offers international students an opportunity to explore their academic interests and cross-cultural understanding by studying for one or two semesters at IU to earn credit toward their home university degrees.

Students enrolled in this program will not be awarded a degree from IU, but they can transfer credits to their home university upon completion of their studies in Vietnam.

### OUTGOING STUDENTS

IU students have a chance to study overseas from one to two semesters at IU's partner institutions and earn credits toward their IU degrees.

Students enrolled in these programs will not be awarded with a degree from the partner university; However, they can transfer credits back home upon completion of their exchange semester(s) overseas.

### STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

(1) If you are a student from a university who is not a partner of IU, or (2) if you are a student being nominated by an IU's university partner but unfortunately your placement exceeds the number of annual exchange slots mutually agreed between the two universities: you are still able to apply for a semester Studying Abroad with IU.

This program is a regular, full tuition fee program.

# EXCHANGE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY																			
BUSINESS					SCIENCES				ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY							LANG-UAGE			
Administration & Management	International Business	Marketing	Hospitality	Banking & Finance	Biotechnology	Aquascience	Food Technology	Biochemistry	Applied Mathematics	BioMedical Engineering	Civil Engineering	Electrical Engineering	Computer Science	Computer Engineering	Industrial & Systems Engineering	Logistic and Supply Chain Management	Space Engineering	Environmental Engineering	English Linguistics

## AMERICA

USA	Marquette University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	University of Massachusetts Darmouth	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Canada	Thompson Rivers University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	York University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## EUROPE

Austria	MCI Management Center Innsbruck	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Denmark	University of Southern Denmark (Faculty of Engineering)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ireland	University College Dublin	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sweden	Jonkoping University (School of Engineering)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
France	Ecole de Management de Normandie	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	EPMI	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Germany	Reutlingen University (ESB Business School)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Munich University of Applied Sciences	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Hochschule Bremen City University of Applied Sciences	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Liechtenstein	University of Liechtenstein	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Spain	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	The University of Alicante	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Miguel Hernández University of Elche	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
United Kingdom	University of Portsmouth	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	London South Bank University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## OCEANIA

Australia	The University of NewCastle	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	University of South Australia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Deakin University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Swinburn University of Technology	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## ASIA

Korea	University Of Seoul	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Konkuk University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Daejon University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Pusan National University (College of BA & Engineering)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Chung Nam National University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Sungkyungkwan University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Hankuk University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Japan	Korea National University of Transportation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Otaru University Of Commerce	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Chiba University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Toyohashi University of Technology	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	University of Fukui	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Yamaguchi University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Kobe University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Thailand	Osaka Univeristy (International Center of Biotechnology , Graduate school of Engineering)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Hokkaido University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Thammasat University (Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	National Institute of Development Administration	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Malaysia	Suratthani Rajabhat University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Taiwan	National Chi Nan University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	National Taiwan University of Science and Technology	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	National Tsing Hua University	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Israel	Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Hongkong	City University of Hong Kong	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

## WORLDWIDE

ISEP	International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) Over 300 universities around the world	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
ACTS	ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

### Notes:

- : Undergraduate Courses
- : Graduate Courses
- : Both Undergraduate & Graduate Courses

# BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

## HOW TO APPLY

### ELIGIBILITY

- Complete at least one year of full-time study at the home university
- Achieve GPA at least of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent

### APPLICATION PACKAGE

- Application Form
- 01 Official Transcript in English
- Nomination letter or Student Status Verification from the home university  
(if you apply for the study abroad program)
- 01 Notarized copy of your English Fluency Certificate  
(if English is not your native language)
- 01 Copy of your passport

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Fall semester (September – January): 1st May
- Spring semester (February- June): 1st October



### Contact

**International Student Service Center  
Office of External and Public Relations**

Email: [issc@hcmiu.edu.vn](mailto:issc@hcmiu.edu.vn)

Tel: (028) 3724 4270 - Ext: 3617

# ACADEMIC MATTERS

## PROGRAMS OFFERED BY IU

BACHELOR LEVEL	MASTER LEVEL
BUSINESS	
Business Administration	Business Administration
Banking & Finance	
ENGINEERING	
Food Technology	
BioMedical Engineering	BioMedical Engineering
Electrical Engineering	Electrical Engineering
Financial Engineering & Risk Management	Applied Mathematics
Information Technology	Information Technology Management
Industrial & Systems Engineering	Industrial & Systems Engineering
Logistics & Supply Chain Management	
Civil Engineering	
Space Engineering	
Environmental Engineering	
Automation & Control Systems	
SCIENCE	
Aquatic Resources Management	
Biochemistry	
Biotechnology	Biotechnology
English Linguistics	
<b>DOCTORAL LEVEL</b>	<b>GOOD TO KNOW</b> Both undergraduate and graduate students should arrive to IU at least 1 week before the semester starting date.
Business Administration	
Biotechnology	



## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic calendar may vary each year. Below is the 2018-2019 academic calendar for your reference:

	UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS (2018-2019)	GRADUATE PROGRAMS (2018-2019)
	SEMESTER 1 (20 WEEKS)	
Start of courses	10 September, 2018	10 September, 2018
End of courses	26 January, 2019	26 January, 2019
Midterm Exam	05 - 17 November, 2018	Including examination period. The examination schedule may vary depending on each schools/ departments.
Reserved week	07 - 12 January, 2019	
Final Exams	14 - 26 January, 2019	
	SEMESTER 2 (20 WEEKS)	
Start of courses	11 February, 2019	11 February, 2019
End of courses	29 June, 2019	29 June, 2019
Midterm Exam	08 - 20 April, 2019	Including examination period. The examination schedule may vary depending on each schools/ departments.
Reserved week	10 - 15 June 2019	
Final Exams	17 - 29 June 2019	
	SUMMER SEMESTER (08 WEEKS)	
Start of courses	01 July, 2019	01 July, 2019
End of courses	24 August 2019	24 August 2019
Final Exams	19 - 24 August 2019	Including examination period. The examination schedule may vary depending on each schools/ departments.

# IMMIGRATION REGULATION

## ENTRY VISA

International students who for the first time apply for Vietnamese visa for studying purposes, are required to obtain the "student visa" – coded "DH" for their stay in Vietnam.

Once you are accepted by IU, we will send you full instruction on how to apply for student visa in Vietnam.

When the visa get expired, IU will help you extend your visa as long as your study at IU is still validated.

## VISA EXTENSION

Visa extension is applied to full-time international students studying at IU when their visa expires during their stay. The extension for this visa is up to 12 months.

IU only assists the extension of student visa ("DH" visa code).

## APPLICATIONS FOR VISA EXTENSION

- Application Form NA5 (available at ISSC office)
- Passport with more than 6 month validity
- Student Status Verification (provided by IU)
- ID Photo (size of 4 x 6 cm)
- Certified copy of the Certificate of temporary residence in Vietnam.

These documents must be submitted to ISSC at least 2 weeks before the visa expiry date. **ISSC office only handles visa extension on Monday every 2nd & 4th week of the month.**

## FEES FOR VISA EXTENSION

Payment shall be made in Vietnam Dong. The exchange rate depends on the regulation of Vietnam Immigration Department in HCMC then (VID-HCMC).

	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	7-12 MONTHS
SINGLE ENTRY	USD 10			
MULTIPLE ENTRY	USD 60	USD 60	USD 105	USD 145

## GOOD TO KNOW

Penalty for late visa extension: according to Vietnam Immigration Law, penalty fee is calculated based on the number of exceeding days started from the expiry date of your visa.

IU shall not take any responsibilities for visa matters, especially visa extension or new visa application when international students completed their studies at IU.

## PASSPORT

When moving in any kind of accommodation, you need to hand over your passport to the landlord for the purpose of registering with the local police.

Upon the completion of registration, ensure that your passport is returned to you and keep it in a safe place. It is advisable to always carry with you a photocopy of the information page of your passport.

In case your passport is stolen or lost, please contact the nearest police station and Embassy or Consulate General ASAP and follow their instructions for passport replacement. (See Appendix Page 61 for the list of Consulate Generals in Ho Chi Minh City)

## CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICE CENTER (ISSC)

Office of External and Public Relations

Location	Room A2. 604
Tel	(028) 37244270 – Ext: 3617
Working hours	Morning: 09:00 AM - 11:30 AM Afternoon: 01:00 PM - 04:00 PM
Email	issc@hcmiu.edu.vn

# ACCIDENTS

Please consider that accidents of any kind are the most common cause of death or injuries, especially when you are not a local. The following are your safety notes:

- Take precautions with all types of travel
- Always use safety belts and helmets
- Avoid drugs and being cautious with alcohol
- **Do not ride motorbike or scooter in Vietnam's traffic conditions**
- Stay alert with burglary and robbery when being outside or on the street
- Avoid driving at night
- Avoid overcrowded vehicles
- Avoid high-risk activities

# INSURANCE

Medical insurance is important to protect students from expensive treatments in case of diseases, accidents during their time in Vietnam.

Students are responsible for purchasing medical insurance which covers medical and health services the whole time you stay in Vietnam.

In addition, please consider purchasing travel insurance to avoid lost or damages of your personal property/luggage if you plan to travel domestically or internationally, to and from Vietnam. For travelling abroad, please contact the insurance agency to switch your insurance from basic to international, and to ensure it will be valid while you are overseas.

# HEALTH MATTERS

Before leaving for Vietnam, make sure that you have received the appropriate vaccination (especially against typhoid and hepatitis A).

While most clinics and hospitals in Vietnam provide adequate health care, the quality for those in rural areas might vary.

Also, be aware of food from street side vendors, where food hygiene cannot be guaranteed. If you suffer from diarrhea during your stay in Vietnam, please seek immediate medical attention.

**AVIAN INFLUENZA/ INFLUENZA**

Vaccine's status in Vietnam:

- Available

Preventative Measures:

- Avoid contacting with live poultry and poultry markets
- Exercise regularly
- Wash hands with soap
- Flu shots, which last about 4 to 6 months, are recommended

Treatment:

- Drink plenty of waters
- Eat fruit and vegetables everyday
- Use of disposable tissues

**HEPATITIS B AND HEPATITIS C**

Vaccine's status in Vietnam:

- Hepatitis B: Available
- Hepatitis C: Non existence

Preventative Measures:

- Avoid unprotected sex
- Do not share your own needles, razors, toothbrushes to someone
- Hepatitis B: can be prevented by vaccination and requires a series of three booster shots

Treatment:

- Seek medical care

**MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESSES**

Vaccine's status in Vietnam:

- Dengue Fever: Non existence
- Malaria: Medicine available
- Japanese Encephalitis: Available

Preventative Measures:

- Dengue Fever & Malaria:  
There is no specific treatment or vaccination for dengue, so preventing mosquito bites using mosquito repellent is the best prevention, especially when in rural areas.

Always use a mosquito netting when sleeping

Avoid outdoor activities where many insects are most active

- Japanese Encephalitis: can be prevented by vaccination

Treatment:

- Seek medical care

**MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA**

Vaccine's status in Vietnam:

- Available
- Preventative Measures:  
• Can be prevented by vaccination

Treatment:

- Seek medical care

**WATER & FOOD BORNE ILLNESSES**

Vaccine's status in Vietnam:

- Typhoid: Available
- Hepatitis A: Available
- Travel Diarrhea: Medicine available

Preventative Measures:

- Typhoid & Hepatitis A: can be prevented by vaccination
- Clean hands with soap before meals
- Be careful with drinking water (bottled or boiled is recommended)
- Avoid the habit of drinking tap water
- Ice should be safe in restaurants, but if you are not sure, do not use it
- Be careful with uncooked foods, including vegetables and sashimi
- Always eat at busy restaurants or street stalls. It means that the food is fresh and has not been sitting for hours without customers

Always eat at busy restaurants or street stalls. It means that the food is fresh and has not been sitting for hours without customers

Treatment:

- Seek medical care

For Travel Diarrhea:

- Prevent dehydration by drinking clean water & using oral rehydration salts (to replenish lost fluids and electrolytes)
- If it lasts more than 24 hours, or does not get better after taking anti-diarrhea medication, or is accompanied by nausea, fever, cramps, or blood, you must see doctor immediately.

# ACCOMMODATION

Students are responsible for arranging your own accommodation.

However, IU will assist incoming students to find appropriate accommodation. As soon as you receive the Acceptance Letter from IU, ISSC will send you a list of housing options for your choice. Please remain in close contact with IU Coordinator to find an available lodging that most suits you. IU will not be responsible for the failure in securing an apartment if you fail to pay the rental deposit on time.

Location	Accommodation	No. of student per room	Facilities	Cost per month per person
Off - Campus	Serviced Room	1	Wifi Air-conditioner, TV, refrigerator Desk Public kitchen Some will have common laundry areas	Approx. USD 250 to 400
Off - Campus	Serviced Apartment	3	Wifi Air-conditioner, TV, refrigerator Sofa, Desk Common or private kitchen Some will have common laundry area	Approx. USD 200 to 400
Off - Campus	Home-stay	1	Wifi, Air-conditioner Private bathroom Common kitchen, laundry areas 2 daily meals	Approx. USD 450
On - Campus	HCMC-VNU Dormitory	4	Fan Bunk bed	Approx. USD 20
			Air-conditioner Bunk bed	Approx. USD 40
On - Campus	HCMC-VNU Guest House	2	Wireless Air-conditioner Private bathroom	Approx. USD 150
		1		Approx. USD 250

Accommodation	Advantages	Disadvantages
Serviced Apartment	<p>Fully furnished.</p> <p>More privacy, personal space with less noise.</p> <p>Easier to have visiting guests, and to explore the night life in the city center.</p> <p>Near convenience stores and restaurants.</p>	<p>May be far (approx. 25-35km) from IU Campus (I.e. public transportation is required)</p> <p>Students must sign their own rental contract.</p> <p>Students will need to pay at least 2 months security deposit directly to the landlords.</p> <p>Exclude additional fee: electricity, water, gas or Internet, etc.</p> <p>Cooking is not allowed in the serviced room.</p>
Serviced Room		
Home-stay	<p>Affordable option: house charge is already included meals, laundry facilities and light cleaning services .</p> <p>Chance to learn Vietnamese culture from the locals.</p>	<p>Living in a home-stay, you must respect the rules and expectations set by your hosts. This can include a curfew, rules about visiting guests, etc.</p>
HCMC-VNU Dormitory	<p>On-campus housing is near IU campus, it takes about 5 to 8 minutes to IU campus and within a 5-minute walk to the bus station.</p> <p>Utilities like water and electricity are included in housing charge.</p>	<p>Number of room are limited and competitive to get. 25-35km away from the city center and IU city campus.</p> <p>Cooking is not allowed in the room</p> <p>The laundry facilities are not available, thus you need to use the laundry serviced outside the dorm.</p> <p>Early closing of nearby stores, restaurants (09:00 pm) and of dormitory (11:00 pm)</p>
HCMC-VNU Guest House		

# WHAT TO PACK – CHECK LIST



## IDENTIFICATION

Don't forget to bring your passport and University Acceptance Letter.



## LAPTOP COMPUTER AND MOBILE DEVICES

Remember to bring your laptop to do homework, assignments and presentations. Also, a mobile device to keep in touch with family and friends is recommended.



## USB MEMORY STICK

To easily save slides and material provided in class.



## MONEY

As many bank services are available everywhere in Ho Chi Minh City, just bring enough cash on hand for your first month.



## ELECTRICITY

In Vietnam, the electrical power is 220V, 50Hz; Standard socket accepts a two round pins plug without a ground pin (Type A). Therefore please remember to bring the appropriate adapter for your electrical appliances.





# ON YOUR ARRIVAL

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

## BUDDY PROGRAM

For international students who are unfamiliar with the lifestyle and culture of Vietnam, studying at International University - VNU (IU) can be a daunting experience. That is why we offer the Buddy Program, in which new international students will be paired up with current IU students (Buddy) who will provide a helping hand to the newcomers at IU.

A Buddy will be a cultural ambassador representing IU and Vietnam to all incoming international & exchange students. By providing linguistic support, cultural guidance, and information about life at IU, Buddy Mentor will have opportunities to develop interpersonal skills, expand networking and experience working across cultures.

For further questions on this program, please don't hesitate to contact our office ISSC:

**ISSC@HCMIU.EDU.VN**

# AIRPORT PICK-UP SERVICE

IU offers airport pick up service for new incoming international students.

## STEP 1:

Complete the Airport Pick-Up Request Form (IU Coordinator will send you instruction in details) and send back to us at least 7 working-days before your arrival. A Buddy will pick you up at the airport thanks to their volunteerism.

## STEP 2:

The buddy, holding a sign with your name for your recognition, will pick you up at the airport and support you on how to transfer to your accommodation destination.

You are responsible for the fee of this trip. Otherwise, you could also get to your place easily on your own by taking a taxi at the airport.

There are two highly creditable taxi brand names in Ho Chi Minh City:

- **Mai Linh Taxi** : (+84) 28 3838 3838
- **Vinasun Taxi** : (+84) 28 3827 2727

### NOTE:

There will be a lot of taxis waiting for customers in front of the international airport's arrival hall. However, remember to choose the creditable one, as suggested above, to avoid unfortunate incidents. You should always remember these rules when taking a taxi by yourself:

- Keep track on the fare watch of the taxi to make sure that they do not cheat
- Never ask the taxi driver to suggest some places to buy your necessary stuffs
- Do not buy taxi coupon due to their low creditability.

## CURRENCY MATTERS

The official currency in Vietnam is Vietnam Dong; all payments are made in Vietnam Dong. Hence, please make sure you have some money exchanged before leaving the airport. However, do not exchange too much since exchange rate at the airport is not as competitive as at local banks.

Most of our stores and shops prefer cash rather than cards, although some restaurants, shopping malls and taxis do accept cards.

1 USD is approx. 23,000 VND. The largest denomination is 500,000 VND (Approx. 23 USD) and the smallest is 500 VND.

Recommended exchange places:

### **HUNG LONG MONEY EXCHANGE**

Address: 88 Mac Thi Bui

Tel: 028 3829 7887

Working hour: 7AM to 10PM

### **TABLE OF EXCHANGING 59**

Address: 161 Dong Khoi

Tel: 028 3823 1316

Working hour: 7AM to 10PM

### **BANKS IN HO CHI MINH CITY**

## SIM CARD

It is not difficult to buy SIM cards in Vietnam, you could always buy a SIM card at the airport, phone stores or any official retail stores. All types of SIM are available from a single card, just push out the micro or nano size as needed, or ask the sellers for help.

The common price for one SIM Card varies between 80,000 VND and 220,000 VND, which may include 3G/4G internet, mobile credit. For top-up, you could buy a top-up card provided by the mobile network provider you are using. For example, if you buy Mobifone SIM Card, then you should buy top-up card with the same brand "Mobifone". Some reliable mobile network providers in Vietnam are: Mobifone, VinaPhone and Viettel.

If your SIM has not had cellular connection yet, or if you need more information, please ask the seller/your buddy for further supports.

## MOVE IN YOUR NEW HOUSE

On the day you move in your new house, remember to sign a contract with the landlord, then pay the deposit (if any). Please check the information in the contract carefully (Name, contract expiry date, services included, amount of deposit, etc.)



# DURING YOUR STAY IN HO CHI MINH

## ABOUT ISSC

Need to apply for a visa, apply for visa extension, find more suitable housing, or support on your academic matters? For the right answers or the right solution, please turn to our International Student Service Center (ISSC).

### WE ARE HERE TO ASSIST YOU IN THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

- Visa matters
- Medical insurance
- Academic support and consulting
- IU policies and procedures
- Accommodation issues
- Day-to-day challenges (personal and social matters)
- Cultural adjustment
- Other concerns or problems you may have

## ISSC CONTACT INFORMATION

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICE CENTER (ISSC)

Office of External and Public Relations

Room	: A2. 604 (Thu Duc Campus)
Tel	: (028) 37244270 – Ext: 3617
Working hours	: Morning: 08:00 AM - 11:30 AM Afternoon: 01:00 PM - 04:00 PM
Email	: <a href="mailto:issc@hcmiu.edu.vn">issc@hcmiu.edu.vn</a>

# ORIENTATION WEEK & OUR EVENTS

## ORIENTATION WEEK

We strongly recommend you to join our Orientation Week, a very important event since IU and all academic-related issues will be introduced to you, including IU regulation, your university accounts, your registered courses as well as useful tips when living in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

There are possibilities for incoming students to register for outing trips such as Mekong Delta Tour, City Tour in the Orientation Week.

## CAMPUS TOUR

A campus tour will be scheduled after the end of the Orientation Session to warmly introduce international students to IU, our Schools, our Departments and the associated facilities. It is also an opportunity to know more about Clubs and other services in our campus.

## STUDENT ID CARD

New students will receive Student ID Card in the Orientation Week; You will be assisted to take a portrait for your IU's Student Identity Card (This process takes about 5 minutes).

Please remember to keep your IU Student ID card all the time because it is your gateway to many services at IU. It is required for access into many buildings on campus and will serve as your library card. Always show it to the bus's driver so that you pay 2,000 VND only for every bus route.

### **Lost, stolen or damaged cards**

If your card is lost, stolen or damaged, you may want to visit ISSC to request a new card. All replacement cards must be ordered and purchased.







## CITY TOUR, OUTGOING TRIP

### CITY TOUR

A great way to get to know Ho Chi Minh City is exploring the city with us via our City Tour, right in your first week at IU. This trip will deliver a profound understanding of our city in terms of main architectural projects, sightseeing venues, and restaurants in the city centre and near your place.

Estimated cost per student: approx. 15 USD.

### OUTGOING TRIP – MEKONG DELTA TOUR

The Mekong River, known as Song Cuu Long in Vietnamese (“Nine Dragons River” for its nine major branches), is the longest river in South East Asia. We will stop by at a local house where we can see how they make coconut candy, rice-paper, and rice wine. You will have a chance to spend time with local farmers, enjoying traditional music and tropical fruits, having a traditional lunch at a local home, including the popular dish of ‘Elephant Ear Fish’.

Estimated cost per student: approx. 32 USD.

## EVENTS

### WELCOME PARTY

With an expectation to bring all international students together, our welcoming party is a unique opportunity to build cross-cultural relationship through experience sharing. There are numerous exciting activities for participants to explore. We will organize party differently each year.

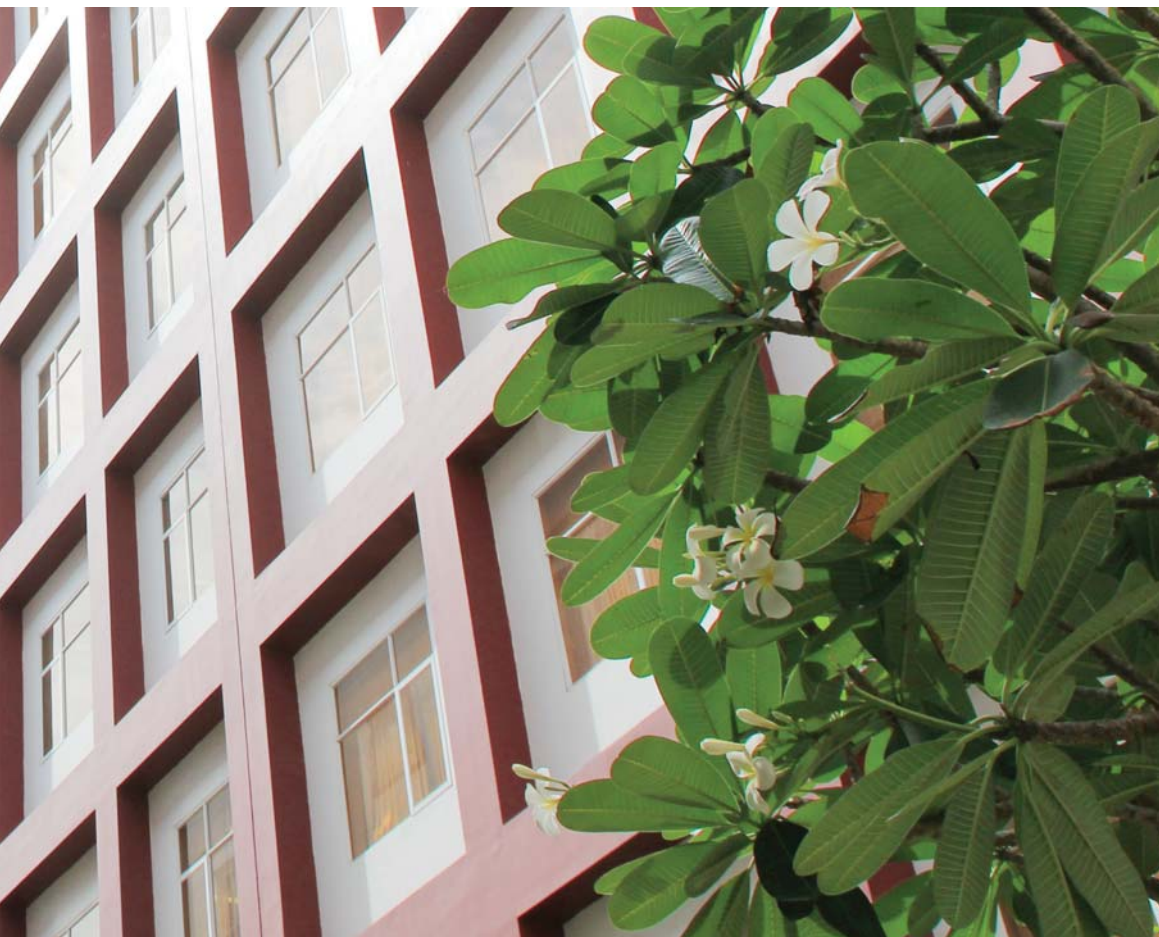
### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Although the predominant religion in Vietnam is Buddhism, and Lunar New Year is our main celebration, Christmas and New Year still remain the two popular holidays in Vietnam with a lot of activities. Therefore, during this event’s week, ISSC will hold a cozy dinner with small talks, mini games, and gift exchange among participants.

### FAREWELL PARTY

A Farewell Party is usually organized after the end of the final examination. It will be a good time to look back at the exchange semester, sharing our best and worst memories, and saying goodbye to each other.





## OUR CAMPUS – SERVICES & FACILITIES

# MAIN CAMPUS

Quarter 6, Linh Trung Ward, Thu Duc District, HCMC.

### INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

**Thu Duc Campus** (Main campus) located in Thu Duc District

**Pasteur Campus** (Downtown campus) located in District 3

**L-building in Central Library** - VNU HCMC (for classes only)





## LIBRARY

Library is located on the 1st floor's hallway connecting the 2 buildings at the main campus, which contains more than 2,000 books of various categories. At the library, users can access well-known academic databases such as InfoTrac, Springer Link, Taylor & Francis, ProQuest, IEEE, ACS, and Wiley, etc.

## SELF-STUDY HALL

The hall is located on the 2nd floor's hallway connecting the 2 buildings A1 and A2 at the main campus. There are three specific areas for: individual study, group-work and meeting room with writing boards and LCDs for presentation. The meeting room (for group of 5 people minimum) can be booked at the receptionist for a maximum duration of 3 hours.



## FOOD COURT

IU has built up a 920m<sup>2</sup> canteen located on the ground floor with 5 stalls serving breakfast, lunch and refreshment.

At our canteen, a variety of cuisines, from Vietnamese traditional dishes to Western and Asian cuisine are of your choice.

## COFFEE SHOPS

These following shops in IU campus provide mainly drinks and snacks:

Foresta Coffee: 2nd floor of A1 building

Coffee story: 4th floor of A2 building

The Zero: next to IU canteen

## UNIMART

Location: 3rd Floor, block A1, International University

### Convenience Store

The convenience store provides products for students' spontaneous demands while learning at university such as fast food, soft drinks, ice cream, instant noodles, and selective confectionery. In particular, there are several country-adapted product lines for international students.

### Stationery

Supplying stationery products which are currently sold outside the campus and stationery products associated with International University's brand identity.

### IU Brand Identity

Providing students and faculty with IU brand products such as: shirts, hats, backpacks, bags, clocks, graduation teddy bear, bracelets, cups, water bottles, pens, books, papers, rulers, erasers, glues, stickers, cards, wrapping papers, ...

### Photo & Printing

If you need to photocopy or print out (black/white/color) any of your documents, Unimart is an ideal place for you.





## BUS TO IU

We have our own bus routes (No. 52 and 30) running straight from central points in HCMC to the very front door of IU. The traveling time depends on where you take the bus. Besides the routes No. 52 and 30, the bus routes from downtown HCMC that stop near IU include the followings: 50, 53, 08, 19, and 10.

### BUS STOP 52'S MAIN STOPS

PARK 23/9  
BEN THANH  
YOUTH CULTURAL HOUSE  
TURTLE LAKE (HO CON RUA)  
NGUYEN THI MINH KHAI  
THU DUC CAMPUS

### BUS STOP 30'S MAIN STOPS

YOUTH CULTURAL HOUSE  
PHAM NGOC THACH  
TON DUC THANG  
3B CAMPUS  
THU DUC CAMPUS

Do not be worried too much about this matter, your buddy will support you and guide you on how to take the bus in your very first days.

## OTHER CAMPUS

### L-BUILDING

L-Building is located in Central Library of Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City.

### PASTEUR CAMPUS

Address: 234 Pasteur, Ward 6, District 3, HCMC.

This building, located in district 3, is mainly available for graduate students, however, some of classes for undergraduate can also be organized here.

# ACADEMIC MATTERS

## ATTENDANCE

In the event that absence occurs more than 20% of semester duration, the student will be prohibited from taking final examination, and the score of zero will be recorded.

Besides, in case absence occurs more than 50% of tests during the semester, the score of zero will be recorded.

## TUTOR

Each lecturer will have a tutorial session per week to solve course-related questions and problems for students. In case you need such session, you may send an email to your lecturer for an appointment.

Almost all lecturers have a teaching assistant (TA) to support academic problems; you can also ask your TA for assistance.

## EXAMINATION

While many tests could be organized along the course, the major ones will take place in the middle and at the end of the semester. No re-tests would be available in any circumstances.

### ID Requirement for Exam

You must present your current IU Student ID Card when attending examinations. If you do not have your ID Card with you, you will be refused for entry into the examination room and you may fail your course. In this case, you will be directed to the Office of Academic Affairs to obtain documentation certifying your identification, allowing you to enter the exam room. Extra exam time will not be given to students who do not have a current IU student ID card readily available.

### Lateness

On the examination date, the student with 15 minutes late (or above) will not be allowed to enter the test/examination room and the score of zero (0) will be recorded.

## ASSESSMENT \*

Assignment and class participation: 20-40%

Mid-term exam: 20-30%

Final exam: 40-60%

\* This is a guideline only. The assessment may vary between different courses.

## INFORMATION SYSTEM

In the orientation week, students will be provided with accounts of some online systems for their study at IU:

EDUSOFTWEB: To access timetable, examination schedule and marks.

- For undergraduate students: [www.hcmiu.edu.vn/edusoftweb](http://www.hcmiu.edu.vn/edusoftweb)
- For graduate students: [www.hcmiu.edu.vn/edusoftMaster](http://www.hcmiu.edu.vn/edusoftMaster)

BLACKBOARD: [www.blackboard.hcmiu.edu.vn](http://www.blackboard.hcmiu.edu.vn)

In some courses, lecturers will upload the homework, lecture's hand-out, and announcement on blackboard. Please access to this website for update information/downloading necessary documents.

## GRADING

Grading includes grades from the mid-semester test, experiment test and the final examination.

CLASSIFICATION	100 – POINT GRADING	LETTER GRADING	4-POINT GRADING
<b>PASSING</b>			
<b>EXCELLENT</b>	90 < GPA < 100	A+	4.0
<b>VERY GOOD</b>	80 < GPA < 90	A	3.5
<b>GOOD</b>	70 < GPA < 80	B+	3.0
<b>FAIR</b>	60 < GPA < 70	B	2.5
<b>AVERAGE</b>	50 < GPA < 60	C	2.0
<b>NO PASSING</b>			
<b>WEAK</b>	40 < GPA < 50	D+	1.5
<b>VERY WEAK</b>	30 < GPA < 40	D	1.0
	GPA < 30	F	0.0

# LIVING IN HO CHI MINH CITY

LIVING IN HO CHI MINH CITY



# TRANSPORTATION



## TAXI

Below are some reliable taxi companies for your reference:

Mai Linh Taxi: 028 3838 3838

VinaSun Taxi: 028 3827 2727

Uber/ Grab Apps: highly recommend to use these apps since it costs less and avoids waiting.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - BUSES

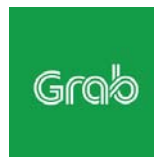
To save money and to be environmental friendly, you could take a bus for transporting. For further information about buses number and their routine, you could use the app BUSMAP.

Regular ticket: 6,000 VND/pax

Student ticket: 2,000 VND/pax (present your Student ID Card before buying ticket)

Be careful: Violent attacks against foreigner have been reported in urban areas, some reports involve tourists being attacked while on a xe om (motorcycle taxi) or during disputes about being overcharged. Use larger metered taxis to minimize the risk of robbery or overcharging.

## USEFUL APPS



## INTERNET

Internet access in Vietnam, especially in Ho Chi Minh City, is quite easy. Most of coffee shops, stores, shopping malls have free Wifi. Some of public places such as Ben Thanh Bus station also offer free Wifi without any special log-in requirement.

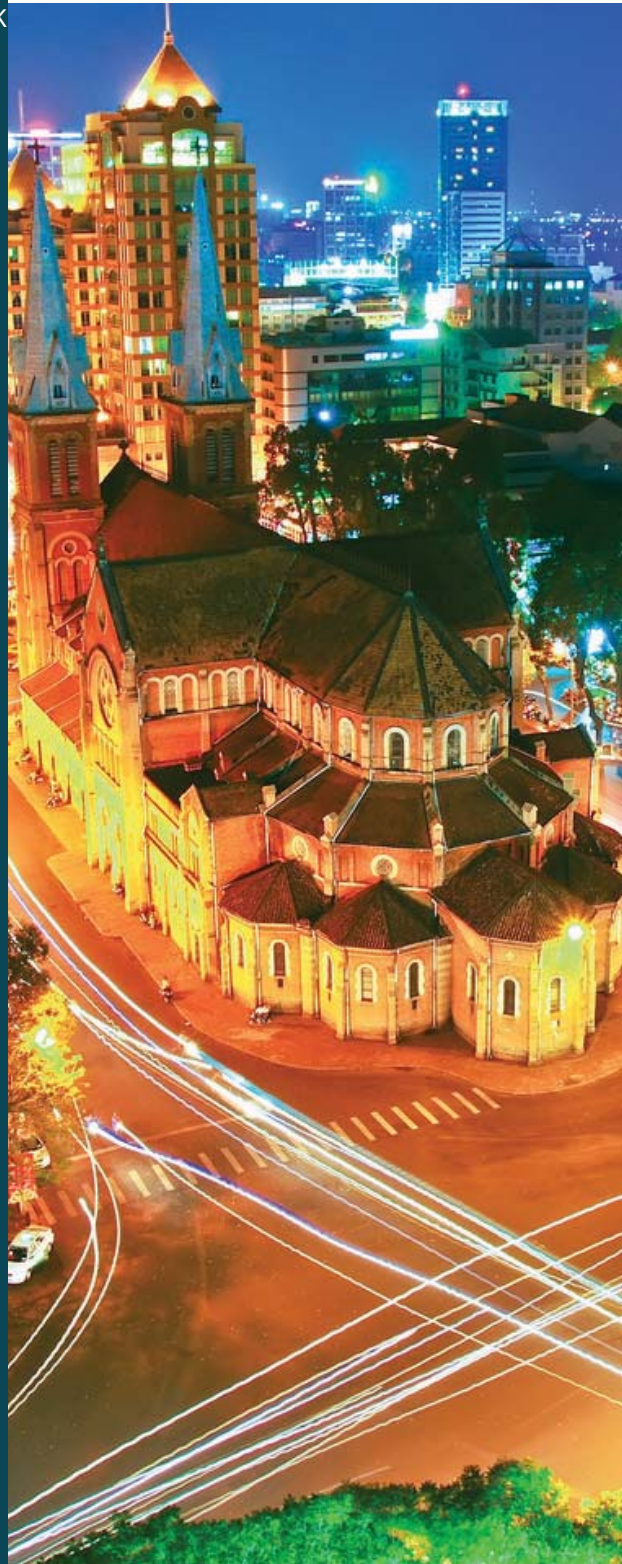
To get 3G or 4G Internet connection, you could ask your buddy to help registering a data plan, or come to mobile retails to buy 3G/4G SIM Card.

## WORKING IN VIETNAM

International students are allowed to apply for a job without time limit. However, please pay attention to the labor contract to protect your rights; you are supposed to sign the contract prior to the beginning of your work.

## LIVING COST

Based on our survey among previous exchange students, except for their accommodation renting fee, the monthly expense per student may vary as below:

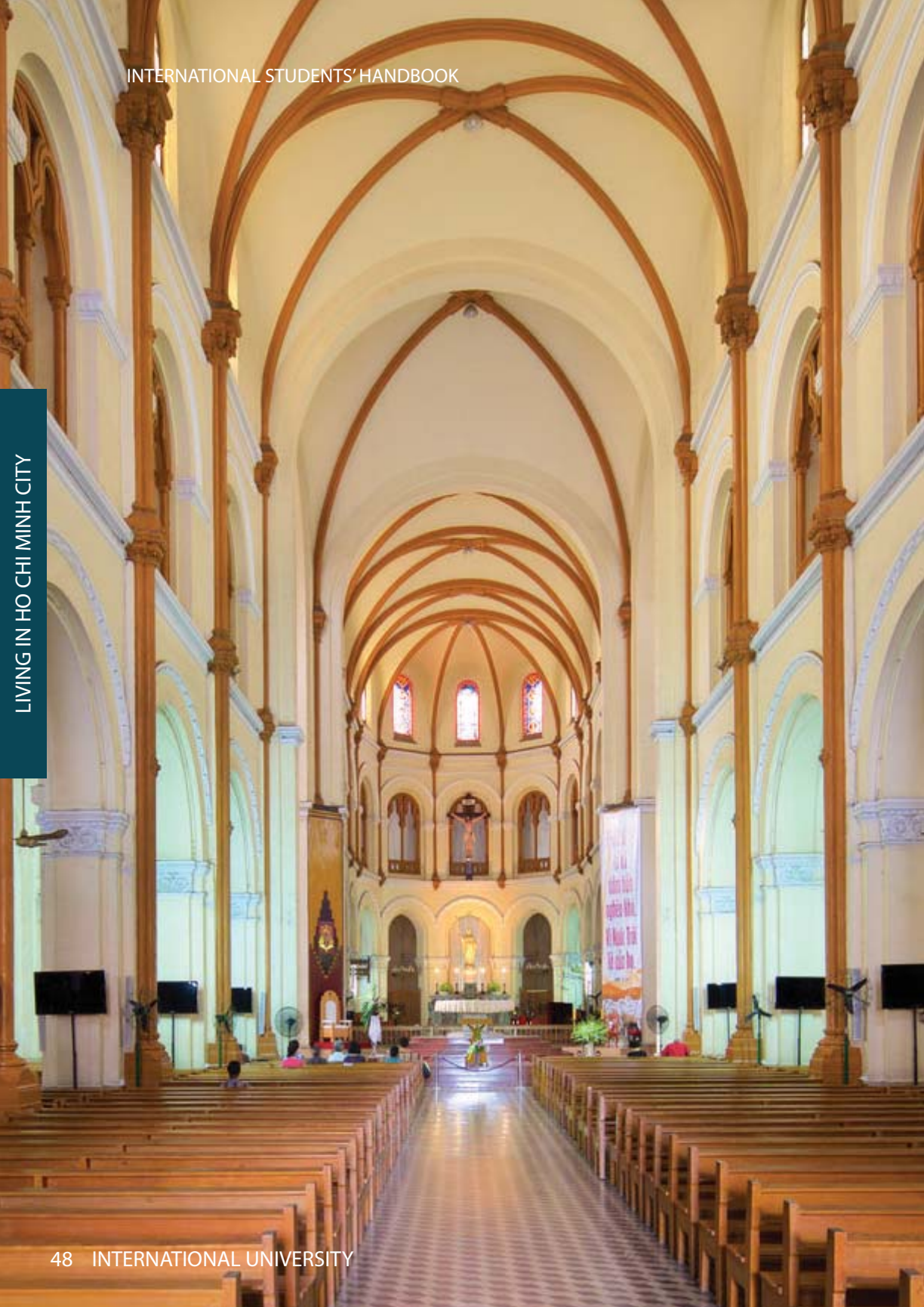


MARKETS	AVG.	RANGE	RESTAURANTS	AVG.	RANGE
Milk (regular), (1 liter)	1.46 \$	1.34-1.70	Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	1.57 \$	1.34-2.69
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	0.88 \$	0.75-0.90	Meal for 2 People, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	17.92 \$	11.20-26.88
Rice (white), (1kg)	0.89 \$	0.72-1.08	McMeal at McDonalds (or Equivalent Combo Meal)	4.03 \$	3.14-4.48
Eggs (12)	1.22 \$	1.08-1.34	Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)	0.72 \$	0.67-0.90
Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)	4.26 \$	2.69-6.72	Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	1.16 \$	0.81-1.79
Beef Round (1kg) (or Equivalent Back Leg Red Meat)	10.89 \$	8.96-12.10	Cappuccino (regular)	1.75 \$	1.34-2.24
Apples (1kg)	2.94 \$	2.24-3.58	Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	0.42 \$	0.34-0.54
Banana (1kg)	0.78 \$	0.54-1.12	Water (0.33 liter bottle)	0.26 \$	0.18-0.36
Oranges (1kg)	2.18 \$	1.34-3.58	TRANSPORTATION	AVG.	RANGE
Tomato (1kg)	0.70 \$	0.45-0.90	One-way Ticket (Local Transport)	0.27 \$	0.22-0.27
Potato (1kg)	0.89 \$	0.54-1.34	Monthly Pass (Regular Price)	5.82 \$	4.48-6.72
Onion (1kg)	0.94 \$	0.67-1.25	Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	0.54 \$	0.54-0.67
Lettuce (1 head)	0.44 \$	0.22-0.54	Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff)	0.65 \$	0.54-0.72
Water (1.5 liter bottle)	0.51 \$	0.40-0.67	Taxi 1hour Waiting (Normal Tariff)	0.90 \$	0.54-1.34
Bottle of Winez (Mid-Range)	12.32 \$	6.72-17.92	Gasoline (1 liter)	0.78 \$	0.72-0.85
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	1.63 \$	0.99-2.09	UTILITIES (MONTHLY)	AVG.	RANGE
SPORTS AND LEISURE	AVG.	RANGE	Basic (Electricity, Heating, Water, Garbage) for 85m2 Apartment	57.01 \$	35.84-89.60
Fitness Club, Monthly Fee for 1 Adult	25.83 \$	17.92-44.80	1 min. of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local (No Discounts or Plans)	0.07 \$	0.06-0.09
Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat	4.48 \$	3.58-6.72	Internet (10 Mbps, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL)	13.52 \$	9.86-20.16

SOURCE: These data are based on 1123 entries in the past 18 months from 126 different contributors.

Last update: August, 2016

[http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/city\\_result.jsp?country=Vietnam&city=Ho+Chi+Minh+City&displayCurrency=USD](http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/city_result.jsp?country=Vietnam&city=Ho+Chi+Minh+City&displayCurrency=USD)





# RELIGION

## BUDDHIST TEMPLES IN HO CHI MINH CITY

- The Jade Emperor Pagoda (Obama visited this pagoda in May 2016):  
73 Mai Thi Luu Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.
- Quan Âm Pagoda:  
12 Lao Tu Street, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City.
- Vĩnh Nghiêm Pagoda:  
339 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia Street, Ward 7, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City.
- Xá Lợi Pagoda:  
89B Ba Huyen Thanh Quan Street, Ward 7, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City.
- Giác Lâm Pagoda:  
118 Lac Long Quan Street, Ward 10, Tan Binh District, Ho Chi Minh City.

## CATHOLIC AND CHRISTIAN (SCHEDULE FOR MASS IN ENGLISH)

- Saigon Pastoral Center:  
6 Ton Duc Thang, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, HCMC  
Saturday (Sunday liturgy) at 6:00PM
- Dakao Martino Church:  
16A Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Da Kao Ward, District 1, HCMC  
Every second Sunday each month at 8:30AM (Bilingual English and Vietnamese)
- Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica of Saigon:  
1 Cong Xa Paris, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, HCMC  
Sunday at 9:30AM
- Ba Chuong Dominican Church:  
190 Le Van Sy, Ward 10, Phu Nhuan District, HCMC  
Sunday at 10:30AM



# FOOD

Downtown Saigon hosts an excellent selection of mid-range Western and Asian restaurants leaving visitors a myriad of choices - from Tom yum to Tapas, salad to sushi, main courses are generally 80,000 to 250,000 dong (\$5-\$15).

## VIETNAMESE CUISINE

- Quan Ngon - 138 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia Str, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1.
- Co Ba Vung Tau Vietnamese Pancake: 40B Tran Cao Van Str, Ward 6, District 3.
- Pho 24 - 5 Nguyen Thiep Str (and many more). T: (028) 821 7208. Daily 06:30-23:00
- Chi Hoa - 31A Le Thanh Ton Str, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1.
- Wrap & Roll - 62 Hai Ba Trung Str, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1. T: (028) 823 4030. Daily 07:30-22:30

## WESTERN CUISINE

- Al Frescos - 27 Dong Du Str. T: (028) 822 7317. Daily 08:30-23:00
- Black Cat - 13 Phan Van Dat Str. T: (028) 829 2055. Daily 07:30-24:00
- Cantina Central - 51 Ton That Thiep Str. T: 914 4697. Daily: 10:00-Midnight.
- Pacharan - 97 Hai Ba Trung Str. T: (028) 825 6024. Daily 07:00-24:00
- Santa Lucia - 14 Nguyen Hue Str. T : (028) 822 6562. Daily 09:30-22:30
- Skewers - 9A Thai Van Lung Str. T: (028) 822 4798. 11:30-14:00 Mon-Sat, 18:00-23:00 Mon-Sun.
- Taco Leo- 20 Cao Ba Nha Str, District 1. T: 093 799 73 26 . Daily 09:00-22:00
- La Fiesta - 33 Dang Thi Nhu Str, District 1. Daily 11:00-22:00

## JAPANESE CUISINE

- Sushi Bar - 2 Le Thanh Ton Str, District 1 - (028) 38238042 – (028) 38244491  
There are more stores' locations: <http://sushibar-vn.com/location/>
- Tokyo Deli - 240 Le Thanh Ton Str, District 1 – (028) 5404 2244  
There are more restaurant's locations of Tokyo Deli chain: <http://www.tokyodeli.com.vn/en-US>
- Sushi Tei Viet Nam- 200 Ly Tu Trong Str, District 1.
- Ichiba sushi - 204 Le Lai Str, District 1, Daily 10:00-23:00

## HALAH CUISINE

- Satay House Malaysia (Very Halal Food)  
35 Mac Dinh Chi Street, District 1. Hours: 7AM to 10PM. Phone: (028) 822 1727
- Taj Mahal  
241/265/1 Pham Ngu Lao Street, District 1. Cuisine: North Indian. Phone: (028) 246 1108
- Bon Mua Four Seasons  
2 Thi Sach Street, District 1. Cuisine: Malay. Hours: 10AM to 11PM. Phone: (028) 825 7186

LIVING IN HO CHI MINH CITY



# ENTERTAINMENT & NIGHTLIFE

## SHOPPING

Ho Chi Minh City is a paradise for shopping if you have a good bargaining skill (it could go down by 1/2 of the suggested price) and a good eye. Your bargaining skill will be useful except when it comes to major shopping centers. While there are fine shops, malls in District 1, there are several streets especially good for shopping, namely Dong Khoi and Le Thanh Ton behind Rex Hotel. Recommended shopping centers:

Takashimaya - Saigon Centre, 65 Le Loi, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, HCMC.

Parkson Center - 35-45 Le Thanh Ton, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, HCMC.

Diamond Palaza - 34 Le Duan, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, HCMC.

Vicom Center HCMC - 72 Le Thanh Ton, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, HCMC.

Ben Thanh Market

SaiGon Square - 7 Ton Duc Thang, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, HCMC. (Bargain is possible)

Taka Center - 102 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, HCMC. (Bargain is possible)

Vivo City - 1058 Nguyen Van Linh, District 7, HCMC

Vincom Megamall - 159 Hanoi Highway, Thao Dien Ward, District 2, HCMC

## CINEMAS IN HO CHI MINH CITY

BHD Star Cineplex ICON 68

At: 3rd & 4th Floor, ICON 68 Shopping Mall, 2 Hai Trieu Street, District 1

Tel: (028) 62670670

BHD Vincom Mega Mall

At: Thao Dien Ward, District 2

Tel: (028) 3744 6969

CGV Thao Dien Pearl

At: 2nd Floor, Thao Dien Mall, 12 Quoc Huong Street, Thao Dien Ward, District 2

Tel: (028) 1900 6017

Galaxy Nguyen Du Cinema

At: 116 Nguyen Du Street, District 1

Tel: (028) 38235235

Lotte Cinema Diamond Plaza

At: Diamond Plaza, 34 Le Duan Street, District 1

Tel: (028) 38227897

CGV Crescent Mall

At: 101 Nguyen Van Linh Street, Phu My Hung, Tan Phu Ward, District 7

Tel: (028) 54122222

## FITNESS CENTERS

There are many fitness centers in Ho Chi Minh city with a variety of services and classes available: from yoga to dancing, gym club with modern equipment, facilities:

- California fitness & yoga center <http://www.cfy.com.vn/>  
Address: Pearl Plaza, 561A Dien Bien Phu Street, Binh Thanh District, HCMC
- Getfit Gym & Yoga- <http://www.getfit.vn/>  
Address: 3rd floor, H3 Building, 384 Hoang Dieu Street, Ward 6, District 4, HCMC.

## OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Cooking Class

You could spend a one-day cooking class exploring Vietnamese cuisine. This cooking class is the best way to learn more about ingredients of our dishes from growing, harvesting, selling, cooking, and finally enjoying these dishes.

- Become a real Vietnamese farmer by harvesting your own food, all the required ingredients and vegetables.
- See cows, buffalo, chicken, duck, fish, mushrooms and many different types of herbs, spices, vegetables and understand how to use it for cooking and for other purposes such as medicine.
- Learn and enjoy cooking traditional Vietnamese dishes.

### Saigon Cooking Class

Learn traditional Vietnamese Cuisine at Saigon Cooking Class by preparing easy-to-make signature dishes with both great tastes and looks.

Address: 74/7 Hai Ba Trung, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

<https://www.cookly.me/do/half-day-gourmet-tour-in-saigon-market-tour/in/ho-chi-minh-city/>

### Vietnam Cookery Center

Fun and entertaining activities in Ho Chi Minh City for tourists, residents, corporate teams, amateur chefs and inexperienced cooks.

Address: 26 Ly Tu Trong, 4th floor, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

<https://www.cookly.me/do/hands-on-vietnamese-cooking-class/in/ho-chi-minh-city/>

## AO SHOW – SAIGON OPERA HOUSE

The show, with the combination of music and dance music, describe both the life of Vietnam in the past and now. Those dances lead you deep into motion and also get you familiar with local culture.

**Address:** SAIGON OPERA HOUSE, 7 LAM SON Square, District 1.

**Time working:** MON-FRI (8H30-19H30)

**Ticket:** (028 7300 7998)

- **AAH!** 630,000VND
- **OOH!** 1,050,000VND
- **WOW!** 1,470,000VND



# TESTIMONIAL

"IU is a good school! Most of the teachers talk good English and the standard of the courses is also good university in general.

The introduction activities for the international students are very good and you will meet many new friends from all over the world during your time at IU. IU try their best to gather all exchange students during the first week so I really recommend to try to be in Vietnam for the introduction week.

IU also provide a "Buddy"-service. You will get a Buddy (which is a student at IU) that will contact you before your arrival to Vietnam. The Buddy will help you when you arrive, show you around if you want and they will be happy to answer your questions, before coming but also during the whole exchange-period."



Exchange Student from University of Southern Denmark (Fall Semester 2016-2017)





# DANIELLA KÄLVELID

Exchange Student from Jonkoping University,  
Sweden (Fall Semester 2016-2017)

## SURDANSHAN V CHARI

"International University is a place filled with life. In other words, the campus is surrounded by students filled with enthusiasm and it feels like you are walking along a busy street, especially at the ground floor where they practice dancing. Besides, the areas around the cafeterias, and Unimart are equally lively.

The Professors, Staff and Students at IU are very friendly and helpful. On many occasions, I have always met them with a sweet smile, filled with positive energy, and always willing to help you on whatsoever your concern is, be it personal or professional. The staff at the International Student Service Center (ISSC) are the kind of people who go out of their way to serve the incoming students. ISSC is a sort of one stop solution for most of the problems an incoming student may come across in Vietnam."



# APPENDICES

# VIETNAM FACTS & FIGURES

President: Tran Dai Quang

Prime Minister: Nguyen Xuan Phuc

Land area: 125,622 sq mi (325,361 sq km); total area: 127,244 sq mi (329,560 sq km)

Population (2014 est.): 93,421,835 (growth rate: 1%); birth rate: 16.26/1000; infant mortality rate: 18.99/1000; life expectancy: 72.91; density per sq mi: 703

Capital (2013 est.): Hanoi, 7.1 million (metro. area), 2.955 million (city proper)

Largest cities: Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) 8,190,775; Haiphong 925,000; Danang 834,000

Monetary unit: Dong

## VIETNAM CALENDAR – PUBLIC HOLIDAY

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS			NO. OF DAY-OFF(S)
FALL SEMESTER	02 September	National Day	01
	Please note that, there is no holiday as well as day-off on Christmas Day		00
	01 January	New Year's Day	01
	Normally from late January to middle February	Vietnam Traditional Lunar New Year Festival (Tet Nguyen Dan)	02 weeks
SPRING SEMESTER	10th March of Lunar calendar	Anniversary of Hung King	01
	From 30 April to 01 May	Independence Day & Labour Day	02

# LIST OF HEALTHCARE CENTER

There are some international clinics and hospitals which can be communicated in English for foreigners.

NO.	HOSPITALS/CLINICS	ADDRESS
<b>HO CHI MINH CITY</b>		
01	American Chiropractic Clinic	161 Hai Ba Trung St., Ward 6, Dist.3
02	Columbia Asia (Vietnam Limited)	01 No Trang Long St., Binh Thanh Dist.
		8 Alexandre de Rhodes St., Dist. 1
03	Fortis Hoan My General Hospital	60-60A Phan Xich Long St., Ward 1, Phu Nhuan Dist.
		4A, Hoang Viet St., Ward 3, Tan Binh Dist.
04	Franco – Vietnamese Hospital (FV)	6 Nguyen Luong Bang St., Tan Phu Ward., Dist. 7
05	FV Saigon Clinic	2nd Floor, Citilight Tower, 45 Vo Thi Sau St., Dist.1
06	Family Medical Practice HCMC	34 Le Duan St., Dist. 1
		95 Thao Dien St., Thao Dien Ward, Dist. 2
07	Hanh Phuc Clinic	2nd Floor, Saigon Trade Center, 37 Ton Duc Thang St., Dist.1
08	International Medical Center	01 Han Thuyen St., Dist. 1
09	International SOS Clinic	167A Nam Ky Khoi Nghia St., Dist.1
10	Medical Care International	42, Street No. 6, Hung Phuoc 3, Phu My Hung, Tan Phong Ward, Dist.7
11	Quoc Anh Hospital	104-110 Street No. 54 (Highway 1A), Tan Tao Ward, Binh Tan Dist.
12	Saigon International OB/GYN Hospital	63 Bui Thi Xuan St., Dist.1
13	Trieu An General Hospital	425 Kinh Duong Vuong St., An Lac Ward, Binh Tan Dist.
		79 Dien Bien Phu St., Dist.1
14	Victoria Healthcare My My	135A Nguyen Van Troi St., Phu Nhuan Dist.
		700 Su Van Hanh St., Ward 12, Dist.10
15	Van Hanh General Hospital	90 Le Thi Hong Gam St., Dist. 1
		96 Ha Huy Tap St., Nam Thien 1 Ward, Phu My Hung, Dist.1
16	Sakura Dental Clinic	125 Le Loi St., Dist.1
17	Saigon Emergency Centre	201 Nguyen Chi Thanh St., Dist. 5
18	Cho Ray Hospital	
<b>HA NOI</b>		
19	Family Medical Practice Hanoi	Van Phuc Compound, 298 Kim Ma St., Ba Dinh Dist.
20	International SOS Clinic	01 Dang Thao Mai St., Tay Ho Dist.
<b>DA NANG</b>		
21	Family Medical Practice	50-52 Nguyen Van Linh St., Hai Chau Dist.
22	Hoan My General Hospital	161 Nguyen Van Linh St., Thanh Khe Dist.

# CONSULATE GENERALS' CONTACT LIST IN HO CHI MINH CITY

NO.	CONSULATE GENERAL	CONTACT INFORMATION
01	United States of America	04 Le Duan, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City Tel: (028) 3520-4610 Fax: (028) 3520-4622 Website: <a href="http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov">http://hochiminh.usconsulate.gov</a>
02	Canada	235 Dong Khoi, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City Tel: (028) 3827 9899 Website: <a href="http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca">http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca</a>
03	United Kingdom	25 Le Duan, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City Tel: (028) 38251 380
04	France	27 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City Website: <a href="https://ho-chi-minh-ville.consulfrance.org/-Francais-">https://ho-chi-minh-ville.consulfrance.org/-Francais-</a>
05	Spain	216/A11 Nguyen Van Huong, Thao Dien Ward, District 2, Ho Chi Minh City
06	Austria	Osid Building, 5th Floor, 8 Nguyen Hue, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City
07	German	126 Nguyen Dinh Chieu, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City Tel: (028) 3829 1967 Fax: (028) 3823 1919 Website: <a href="http://www.ho-chi-minh-stadt.diplo.de">http://www.ho-chi-minh-stadt.diplo.de</a>
08	Australia	F20, Vincom Center, 47 Ly Tu Trong, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City Tel: (028) 35218 100 Fax: (028) 35218 101 Website: <a href="http://www.hcmc.vietnam.embassy.gov.au">http://www.hcmc.vietnam.embassy.gov.au</a>
09	Korea	107 Nguyen Du, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City Tel: (028) 3822 5757 Email: <a href="mailto:hcm02@mofa.go.kr">hcm02@mofa.go.kr</a> Fax: (028) 3822 5750 Website: <a href="http://vnm-hochiminh.mofa.go.kr">http://vnm-hochiminh.mofa.go.kr</a>
10	Japan	261 Dien Bien Phu, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City Tel: (028)-3933-3510 Email: <a href="mailto:ryoujikan@hc.mofa.go.jp">ryoujikan@hc.mofa.go.jp</a> Fax: (028)-3933-3520 Website: <a href="http://www.hcmcgj.vn.emb-japan.go.jp">http://www.hcmcgj.vn.emb-japan.go.jp</a>

# TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Most travelers to Vietnam are attracted by the country's wonderful natural beauty: from the green rice fields in the North to the fascinating bustle of the Mekong Delta in the South. Vietnam is also a country with a long history and ancient traditions. Here are some "must-see" tourist attractions when you travel to Vietnam.

## HANOI THE BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL

Vietnam's capital is the frenetic heartbeat of the nation and a place that befuddles travelers as much as charms them. The motorbike frenzy, pollution, and constant clamor of street vendors can get too much for some travelers, but if you want to dive into Vietnamese city life, Hanoi is the place to do it. The Old Quarter attracts a lot of tourists every year with many small, meandering streets, each shows the name of the goods that were specifically traded there such as Hang Bac (Silver Product), Hang Ma (Paper Product), Thuoc Bac (Herb Product) and Hang Vai (Silk Product), just to name a few. Furthermore, almost all well-know destinations in Hanoi lay close to each other so you can walk or travel by cyclo to visit around there such as Hoan Kiem Lake, Temple of Literature, One Pillar Pagoda, Sword Lake, West Lake, History Museum, Flag Pole, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.





## SAPA

### THE MAGICAL HILLS

Sapa in Lao Cai Province, a modest and quiet destination with beautiful hills and mountains, hides the most wonderful magic of the natural scene. Sapa's natural landscape is a combination of human creativity and the topography of hills, green forests, much like a painting with harmonic arrangement and romantic scenes. From the city center you can see the panoramic view of untouched mountain peaks. Visiting Sapa, tourists will have chance to conquer Fansipan peak, a trip to the village hidden in the mist. Mountain scenery with blooming flowers and floating clouds certainly would delight travelers. Moreover, tourists can also travel to other well-known places in Sapa such as: Muong Hoa valley, Love market, Bac waterfall, Ban Ho.



## HOI AN ANCIENT TOWN

This fishing village turned tourist attraction is situated on the coastal plain of Quang Nam Province, about 30 km south of Danang City. Hoi An was an international port in the 16th century; however, the serious trading has long since moved to the city of Da Nang. The heart of the city is the Old Town, where is full of winding lanes and Chinese-styled shops. It is sometimes called the "Venice of Vietnam" because of narrow canals cutting through part of the town.



# HALONG BAY

## WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE

Halong Bay is one of most famous destinations in Vietnam, located in the Northeast of the nation.

Having thousands of magnificent islands with marvelous landscapes, Halong Bay is recognized by UNESCO as a World Natural Heritage Area. Halong attracts both domestic and international arrivals due to outstanding natural beauty. Tourists can travel by boat to explore series of limestone caves with majestic appearance around the bay. There are highlight places in Halong such as Kissing Rocks, Sung Sot Grotto (Cave of Surprises), Thien Cung grotto (Heavenly Cave), Bai Tho Mountain, Hon Trong Mai, and Cat Hai Island, etc. Furthermore, Halong is also voted as one of the 7 new world natural wonders.





## MUI NE

The formerly little-inhabited beach to the south of the fishing village of Mui Ne has seen some serious development in the last 15 years. Thanks to strong sea breezes, it is a popular destination in Vietnam for kiting and windsurfing. A trip to Mui Ne could not be complete without visiting famous sand dunes located within a short distance from the north of the town. The vast sandy expanse provides some great panoramic views especially during sunset.



# DA LAT

## A RHYTHMIC LAND OF FLOWERS AND ROMANCE

Located 300km northeast of Ho Chi Minh and at an altitude of 1,500 meters, Da Lat has the appearance of an old French city. It was founded in 1897 when Doctor Alexandre Yersin recommended that the area be developed as a resort.

Da Lat has many natural and artificial tourist attracting sights such as Xuan Huong Lake, Than Tho Lake, Thien Vien Truc Lam, which are surrounded by rows of pine trees, one of Da Lat's best-known features. A trip to Da Lat is not complete without a visit to the Flower Garden since the temperate climate is suitable for orchids, roses, lilies, camellias and a wide range of other flowers.





SON DOONG CAVE, QUANG BINH PROVINCE



## RECOMMENDED TOURIST AGENCIES

### SAIGONTOURIST

Address: 23 Le Loi Street, District 1, HCMC.

Phone: (028) 3829 2291 - 3822 5874

<http://www.saigon-tourist.com/about-us>

### VIETTRAVEL

Address: 190 Pasteur, Ward 6, District 3, HCMC.

Phone: (028) 38 22 8898

<https://www.vietravel.com/vn/gioi-thieu.aspx>

### BEN THANH TOURIST

Address: 82 Calmette, Nguyen Thai Binh Ward, District 1, HCMC.

Phone: (028) 3822 7788

<https://www.benthanhtourist.com>

### FIDITOUR

Address: 201 An Duong Vuong Street, Ward 8, District 5, HCMC.

Phone: ( 028) 38 567.871 - 38 562 771

<http://www.fiditour.com/>

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