



Summer Internships in Vietnam - Call to First-Year Students

Vietnam has come a long way since the launch of market-oriented reforms in the 1980s. Once one of the poorest countries in the world, Vietnam is now classified as a middle income country by the World Bank. The country has achieved some notable gains in poverty reduction, child and maternal health, rural electrification and access to clean water. It is also one of the most open economies in the region and a leading exporter of agricultural commodities, garments, shoes and electronics. Urbanization, rising education levels, declining economic dependence on the state and deeper international links have contributed to profound social and cultural change. Vietnam records levels of Internet access that are among the highest in the region. However, political and governance reforms have not kept pace with economic and social change, creating opportunities for individuals and groups to profit financially from access to state power. Rampant credit growth led to a property boom and the inevitable bust, leaving the financial system and corporations mired in bad debt. The next few years could be critical as Vietnam attempts to impose discipline on the state sector and the banking system while managing complex challenges in international relations.



The Vietnam Program at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation has contributed to the study of Vietnam's economic development for over twenty years. Its flagship initiative has been a Ho Chi Minh City-based center for public policy research, teaching, and policy dialogue. In 2017, the center, formally known as the Fulbright Economics Teaching Program, will become the Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management and the founding nucleus of a new independent university, Fulbright University Vietnam (FUV).

Drawing on the center's many linkages with national and local government, think tanks and universities in Vietnam and abroad, the School's scholars and practitioners are engaged in innovative policy-relevant research on the many challenges confronting Vietnam. The School's unique, autonomous structure enables it to provide an independent, constructively critical perspective to the policy debate. Its research is used to engage in a dialogue with the government and the donor community, and to infuse FETP's teaching programs with a relevance to practice modeled on the Kennedy School's public policy programs.

The Vietnam Program is inviting one or two first-year MPP, MPA, or MPA/ID students to intern at the Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management in Vietnam for eight weeks during the summer of 2017. The internships will support the research of faculty associated with the program on land policy, rural poverty, environmental issues, industrial policy, infrastructure, urbanization, and other macroeconomics/trade issues affecting Vietnam. During their stay in Vietnam, interns will work under the auspices of the School with the guidance of faculty affiliated with the Program.

Each internship comes with a \$4,000 travel grant to help defray travel costs. (Please note that while funding for the FETP internships comes from a federal grant, the positions are open to US and non-US students alike.) Students are strongly encouraged to apply for the Center for International Development's HIDIF grants if they wish to receive additional support.

Application deadline: Please submit a letter of interest and CV to Anne Doyle, anne_doyle@harvard.edu. Applications will be accepted through **February 5, 2017** and decisions will be announced by March 18. Please note that selection by the Vietnam Program is independent from and does not guarantee selection by HIDIF.

For more information about the School's current research, teaching and policy dialogue activities, please visit www.fetp.edu.vn/en/. Information about HIDIF grant opportunities is available at <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidstudents/hidif.html>.