



## 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 since 2010 is 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 all 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 in the 2000s 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- five 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, becomes the Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM) and the founding nucleus of a new independent university, Fulbright University Vietnam (FUV).

The Vietnam Program is inviting one or two first-year MPP, MPA, or MPA/ID students to intern at the Fulbright University Vietnam's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) in Vietnam for eight weeks during the summer of 2020. The primary objective of CEI's research is to contribute to the development and flourishing of Vietnam's entrepreneurship ecosystem. Vietnam's entrepreneurship ecosystem is fairly- early stage and much public knowledge that is available in other countries is not yet available here. In addition, the research will also inform CEI's own priorities, in terms of how the CEI can bring value to the ecosystem (e.g., what types of education and training the CEI might offer).

We envision that the graduate summer research intern will work in partnership with the CEI team as well as local ecosystem players such as Endeavor Vietnam and the organizers of Vietnam Venture Summit, to conduct interviews and surveys, as well as leverage existing data and literature to build a better understanding of various aspects of the ecosystem (e.g., current state for startups, current state for investors, sector deep-dives, most salient needs).

Each internship comes with a \$5,000 travel grant to help defray travel costs. HKS students selected for Vietnam Program internships in the past have applied 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 Hien Le, [hien\\_le@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:hien_le@hks.harvard.edu). Applications will be accepted through **February 15, 2020** and decisions will be announced by **March 18, 2020**.

For more information about the Fulbright University Vietnam and the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, please visit <https://fulbright.edu.vn/cei/>. Information about HIDIF grant opportunities is available at <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidstudents/hidif.html>.