



Hobart & William Smith Colleges/Union College Fall 2012 Off-Campus Program to Vietnam

Jack D. Harris, Ph.D.,
Program Director
Hobart & William Smith
Colleges

Why Should You Study, and Study in, Vietnam?

1. Vietnam is an ancient and sophisticated society and culture;
2. Vietnam is the 12th most populous nation in the world, with over 85 million people;
3. Vietnam has been historically important geographically, at the crossroads of many other cultures. It is again important geographically and politically because of its location in southeast Asia, especially its proximity to China;
4. Vietnam will expand its importance as a global trading partner based on its rich natural and human resources;
5. Americans should study Vietnam to better understand our involvement in a failed war;
6. Of all of the Asian nations, Vietnam best bridges east and west given their almost 100 years of French influence;
7. Vietnam remains Communist-led, providing opportunities to see tensions between communism and the market-economy;
8. The effects of the global economy in Vietnam are much more apparent than in the United States.

Framing the Subject

- An enthusiasm for the subject and the country;
- Shared knowledge from the inside-out;
- Personalized knowledge based on relationship-building;
- A sense of inquiry that places Vietnam in a relevant relation to contemporary issues.



Vietnam Study Abroad Program

- **Survey course with presentations provided by Vietnam National University faculty and specialists** in respective fields of the arts and sciences. about Vietnamese history, culture, and current social, political, and environmental issues;
- **Continue Vietnamese language instruction;**
- **Directors course** in the director's field of expertise.

Internships or Independent Field Projects

- **Student and Director implement an **internship**.**

Internships have included:

- Working as an intern at the American Embassy in the Foreign and Commercial Services area
- Working with NGOs studying Vietnamese street children and the social service and educational resources available to them;
- Working with The Gioi Publishers on translations;
- Working in a hospital;
- Working with a Vietnamese farm family;
- Working for an English-speaking newspaper.

- **Student and a Faculty Advisor design and implement an**

independent field project. Independent projects are diverse:

- Vietnamese traditional medicine
- Vietnamese gender relations
- Vietnamese politics
- Vietnamese religion
- The Vietnam (American) War
- Post-war results of Agent Orange use

Understanding a Society: 360°



- Reader's College Spring 2012 pre-trip;
- Three week intensive language immersion program in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam;
- Coursework on the society, culture and history. Credit available in multiple disciplines;
- Internship provides immersion experience;
- Vietnamese buddies connect you to the culture;
- Extensive field trips and travel in-country;
- Self-instructional language study and Asian Studies courses post program.

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Getting to Know Geography and Culture

- Students participate in **Field Trips** (in and around Ha Noi, to Ha Long Bay, the border region near China, in and around Ho Chi Minh City, the Mekong Delta, Hue, Da Nang, and Hoi An) organized by the HWS faculty director of the program.



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