INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION VIETNAM

SUMMER SCHOOL AND STUDY TOUR

Vietnam of the Past

A Rendez-vous with Hue

A six-week exploration of Vietnamese language, culture, heritage and contemporary life.

Seminars, field visits and everyday encounters connect academic learning with the people and places of Vietnam.

An invitation to university partners from IIE Vietnam



Thien Mu Pagoda, Hue

Hue is the program base. The proposed route also includes Da Nang, Hoi An, My Son, Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Vinh Moc and Phong Nha, with the final itinerary tailored to the partner university.

DURATION	ACADEMIC FOCUS	FORMAT
Six-week framework	Vietnamese Studies	University group study
Summer dates by agreement	Language and cultural learning	Seminars and field visits

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Draft for partner discussion. Dates, teaching arrangements and services will be confirmed jointly.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Study Vietnam through Hue

IIE Vietnam invites university partners to develop a Summer School that connects Vietnamese language learning with cultural and historical study. Hue provides the main setting, while selected visits elsewhere in Vietnam offer opportunities to compare regional histories, landscapes and ways of life.





Imperial heritage and culinary traditions are central themes in the program.

Learning themes

THEME	SEMINARS AND EXPERIENCES
Language and everyday life	Vietnamese classes, conversations with local peers, family and food traditions, and intercultural reflection.
History and cultural heritage	Culture seminar at IIE; royal life, traditional music, architectural layers of Hue, Champa history and heritage visits.
Vietnam in a wider context	US-Vietnam relations, Vietnam-China relations, economic perspectives and introductory research methods.
Environment and livelihoods	Environment and climate change, Bach Ma National Park and learning around Tam Giang Lagoon.

Who can participate

College and university students interested in Vietnam, Asian studies, history, anthropology, international relations, language, heritage or environmental studies. Academic discussions are proposed in English, alongside Vietnamese language learning; entry requirements will be agreed with the partner university.

Learning and assessment

Students would develop a reflective journal, complete agreed project tasks and share their learning through presentations or roundtable discussions. Readings, assignment length, teaching hours and assessment would be set with the partner university. Academic credit and transcripts require a separate arrangement with an authorized academic institution.

The following six-week itinerary is indicative. Shorter or more focused versions may be developed by agreement.

Photo: Tuấn Vũ / Pexels
Photo: Lylah To / Pexels

ACADEMIC SEMINARS

Lectures that connect with field learning

The proposed lecture series brings together themes from Vietnamese language and culture programs in Hue. Sessions combine academic input, discussion and preparation for field visits. Lecturers, readings and session lengths will be agreed with the partner university.

PROPOSED LECTURE	FOCUS AND CONNECTION TO THE PROGRAM
Understanding Vietnamese Culture and Hue	History, cultural traditions and contemporary change in Central Vietnam and Hue; everyday customs and intercultural dialogue. Dedicated session at IIE in Week 1.
The Architectural Layers of Hue	Royal, vernacular, colonial and contemporary architecture as a way to read Vietnamese history; preparation for guided observation in Hue. Week 3.
Vietnam and International Relations	Vietnam in its regional and international context, including US-Vietnam relations; discussion of historical perspectives and contemporary connections. Week 3.
Vietnamese Economy and Development	An introduction to economic change and development in Vietnam, connecting national themes with observations of local livelihoods and businesses. Week 2.
Environment and Climate Change	Environmental change, climate risks and local responses in Central Vietnam; connections with Bach Ma and community or landscape observations. Week 3.
History of the Champa Kingdom	Champa history, cultural exchange and material heritage; links to the Museum of Cham Sculpture and My Son field visits. Week 2.
The Tam Giang Lagoon Ecosystem	Lagoon and mangrove ecosystems, livelihoods and environmental change; field learning at Thanh Toan, Ru Cha and Chuon Lagoon. Week 6.

A culture session at IIE

Week 1 Wednesday, 14:00-17:00
IIE Hue office, 102 Nguyen Phuc Nguyen, Kim Long, Hue

TIME	SESSION PLAN
14:00-15:00	Lecture on the history, culture and contemporary development of Central Vietnam and Hue.
15:00-15:15	Break.
15:15-16:15	Facilitated discussion of everyday customs, cultural perspectives and life in Hue with Vietnamese peers.
16:15-17:00	Questions, group reflection and preparation for cultural and heritage visits.

Additional sessions on cuisine, royal life and research methods remain in the itinerary. Seminar speakers and field arrangements are subject to confirmation.

INDICATIVE ITINERARY

Weeks 1 and 2



Hoi An offers a setting for studying cultural exchange and the life of a historic trading town.

Week 1 Arrival and discovering Hue

DAY	PROPOSED LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Mon and Tue	Arrival and settling in; welcome meeting; program orientation, health and safety briefing; introductions to local peers.
Wednesday	Morning Vietnamese class. 14:00-17:00 at IIE: Understanding Vietnamese Culture and Hue; lecture, facilitated peer discussion and reflection.
Thursday	Vietnamese class; Truc Chi art visit; cultural learning activity and an introduction to Ca Hue music on the Huong River.
Friday	Guided visits to the Imperial City and Royal Antiquities Museum; a river-based heritage route may include Thien Mu, Hon Chen and Minh Mang Tomb.
Weekend	Time for rest, reflection and local exploration; shared meals or activities with local hosts where arranged.

Week 2 Food traditions and cultural exchange

DAY	PROPOSED LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Monday	Vietnamese class; seminar on Hue cuisine and the relationship between food, family and local culture.
Tuesday	Vietnamese class; seminar on the Vietnamese economy and development; discussion of local livelihoods and businesses.
Wednesday	Vietnamese class; seminar on royal life in Hue and guided reflection on imperial heritage.
Thursday	Vietnamese class; seminar on Champa history in preparation for the field visit.
Fri and Sat	Proposed visit via Hai Van Pass to Da Nang, the Museum of Cham Sculpture, Hoi An and My Son; reflection and rest on return.

Photo: Ba Uoc Phung / Pexels

INDICATIVE ITINERARY

Weeks 3 and 4



Ha Long Bay is included in the proposed northern Vietnam learning module.

Week 3 Architecture and the environment

DAY	PROPOSED LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Monday	Vietnamese class; supervised field learning or project work connected to the agreed course theme.
Tuesday	Vietnamese class; seminar on diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam.
Wednesday	Vietnamese class; seminar on the architectural layers of Hue and their historical context.
Thu and Fri	Proposed Bach Ma National Park study visit; cooking workshop; seminar on environment and climate change.
Weekend	Travel to Hanoi if the northern Vietnam module is included in the agreed program.

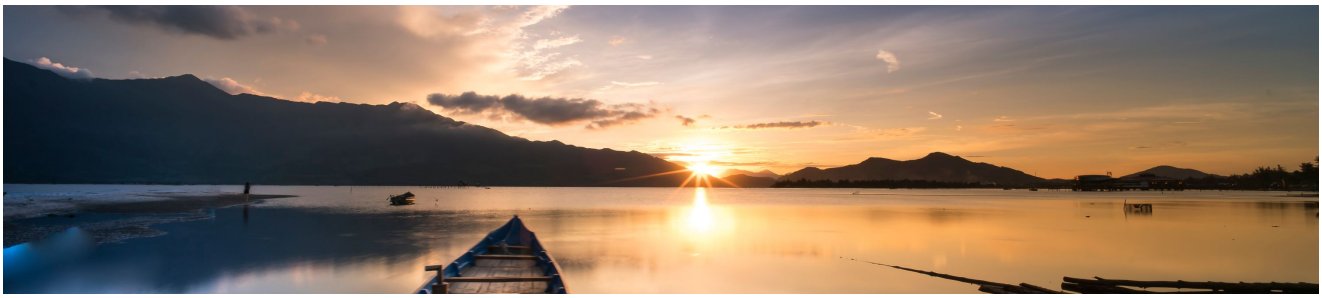
Week 4 Hanoi and northern Vietnam

DAY	PROPOSED LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Monday	Thang Long Imperial Citadel and the Presidential Palace area; discussion of historical memory and public space.
Tuesday	Hanoi Old Quarter; Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum complex, museum and surrounding heritage sites, subject to access.
Wednesday	Proposed Ha Long Bay visit, followed by reflection on landscape, heritage and tourism.
Thursday	Seminar on Hanoi residents and cultural traditions; visit to the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology.
Fri and weekend	Visits to Van Phuc Silk Village and Bat Trang Ceramic Village; return to Hue and time for rest.

Photo: Haneul Trac / Pexels

INDICATIVE ITINERARY

Weeks 5 and 6



Hue's lagoon landscapes connect the study of local livelihoods, ecosystems and cultural landscapes.

Week 5 Regional relations and field learning

DAY	PROPOSED LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Monday	Vietnamese class; seminar on Vietnam-China relations during the Cold War.
Tue and Wed	Vietnamese classes; introductory economics and analytical methods sessions, tailored to the academic background of the group.
Thursday	Vietnamese class; peer exchange, project development and independent reflection.
Fri and Sat	Proposed study visit to Vinh Moc Tunnels and Phong Nha Cave, connecting historical memory with landscape and heritage.
Sunday	Rest, reflective writing and preparation for the final learning activities.

Week 6 Research skills and final reflection

DAY	PROPOSED LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Monday	Vietnamese class; introductory qualitative research methods and ethical preparation for field conversations.
Tuesday	Vietnamese class; seminar and guided learning around Tam Giang Lagoon.
Wednesday	Vietnamese class; methods workshop and support for final projects and reflective writing.
Thursday	Final language assessment where agreed; student presentations or roundtable discussion; feedback and program evaluation.
Friday	Closing activities and departure.

Optional supervised placements may be explored separately with confirmed host organizations, learning objectives and appropriate arrangements.

Photo: Quang Nguyen Vinh / Pexels

PITZER COLLEGE · CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Connecting through martial arts

Vietnam Summer Program 2022 · Vovinam demonstrations and exchange.



International students meet the Vovinam club



A Vovinam demonstration: teamwork, skill and tradition

PITZER COLLEGE · HERITAGE AND DIALOGUE

Culture through shared encounters

Photographs from Pitzer cohorts: heritage learning and local connections.



Hue royal culture seminar · May 2023



Exploring heritage in traditional dress



Connecting with a Vovinam instructor · 2022

Personal encounters create opportunities to talk, take part and learn more about Vietnamese culture.

PITZER COLLEGE · EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Learning by taking part

From classroom discussion to hands-on craft and food activities.



Classroom learning and discussion



Enjoying a traditional food activity



Making traditional sweets together



Experiencing Sinh Village folk painting

Making, talking and creating together in a shared cultural setting.

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY · VIETNAM 2025

Academic visits and exchange

Visits, academic meetings and exchange during the program in Vietnam.



Utah Valley University at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam



Academic meetings and dialogue

Meetings with institutions and experts help students connect academic learning with perspectives from Vietnam.



Exchange at the American Center



A visit to the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi

Photographs of Utah Valley University group activities in 2025.

SIT Study Abroad - School for International Training | 2026

From seminars to field learning

Learning at IIE and exploring history through museum visits in Hue.



A seminar on Hue heritage and monuments at IIE



Exploring history through exhibits and documents



Observation and discussion during a museum visit

Connecting expert-led sessions, direct observation and discussion in Summer School design.

SIT Study Abroad - School for International Training | 2026

Learning and connecting together

Heritage visits, student exchange and recognition of participation.



Exploring Thien Mu Pagoda, Hue



Presentation of participation certificates at IIE



International and Vietnamese student exchange at IIE



A group photograph at the IIE premises in Hue

Plan your program with IIE Vietnam

About IIE Vietnam

The Institute for International Education Vietnam is a Vietnamese non-profit organization promoting educational opportunities and international academic collaboration. Through its Hue office, IIE Vietnam works with partners on cultural learning, academic exchange and educational activities.

Academic and local coordination

The partner university would guide the academic aims, faculty leadership, student preparation and assessment. IIE Vietnam would coordinate the agreed local program, speakers, hosts and services. Teaching venues and any academic co-hosts would be confirmed before recruitment.

Accommodation and student support

Accommodation may combine hotel stays with a homestay component where suitable. Host selection, student needs and supervision would be agreed in advance. Orientation would cover cultural expectations, health and safety, emergency contacts and practical information. Field activities would be coordinated with appropriate local providers.

Program fees

A tailored quotation will be prepared after agreement on dates, duration, group size and itinerary. The final quotation will specify the minimum group size, payment schedule, cancellation terms and the services included.

ITEMS TO BE PRICED IN THE PACKAGE	ITEMS NORMALLY QUOTED SEPARATELY OR EXCLUDED
In-country transport; accommodation; specified meals; teaching and seminar fees; workshops; agreed field visits; IIE coordination.	International flights; visa fees; travel and medical insurance; unspecified meals; personal expenses and optional activities.

Assessment and recognition

Attendance, reflective journals, group presentations and projects form the proposed assessment framework. Weightings and academic credit will be determined with the partner university. Any transcript or credit award must be agreed with an authorized academic institution; IIE participation documentation is separate from university credit.

Contact the Hue office

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Please share your preferred summer term, academic focus, group size and duration. We would welcome a short introductory meeting.

Draft program for partner discussion. Visits and services remain subject to agreement and local conditions.