XIN CHÀO

Hello,


Vietnam is none of these things. And chances are, neither are you.

Leave ordinary behind and come to Loyola’s Vietnam Center in Ho Chi Minh City, where you can explore all of the beauty and excitement of Southeast Asia—where you can see firsthand an emerging region full of life and adventure. And where you’ll know right away: This is not your average study abroad program.
Our program provides you with an amazing opportunity to experience and learn about the social, cultural, political, and economic dynamics shaping contemporary Vietnam and Southeast Asia, both in the classroom and while immersed in the local community. You will choose from a range of courses offered in English taught by leading Vietnamese scholars. Courses are taught seminar-style and meet once per week. We offer Vietnamese language studies for beginner students and heritage speakers. While language study is not required, it is a great option if you want to truly engage with locals. Beginner students have the option to take 3 or 6 credits of language during the semester, and all students enrolled in a Vietnamese course will be paired with a language tutor.

The most exciting and unique experiences of our academic program come from our service-learning placements. As a part of our required sociology course, SOCL 280: Contemporary Vietnam, you will commit 4–6 hours a week to working with a nonprofit or humanitarian organization in Ho Chi Minh City. Through our service-learning placements, you can:

- Volunteer with a local free clinic and gain valuable experience in physiotherapy and other aspects of patient care
- Take action for better housing rights through advocacy work with an international NGO
- Design and teach English curricula for Vietnamese living with disabilities
- Work in a local Vietnamese orphanage

By participating in our service-learning program you will become part of the community in Ho Chi Minh City—not just a visitor. Learning from and with the Vietnamese people will help you better understand your new home and your place in it.

We offer courses in the following subject areas:

- Environmental Studies
- Finance
- History
- Literature
- Marketing
- Management
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Theology
- Vietnamese language

Our faculty are leading Vietnamese scholars who come from universities throughout Ho Chi Minh City. They are fluent in English and are familiar with Western teaching styles and perspectives. Our faculty teach our students at Open University in District 3, which is a short bus ride from the residence halls in District 10.
You will live in a Vietnamese dormitory in District 10, a bustling area filled with restaurants and coffee shops. Rooms have air conditioning and include a private bathroom, a small refrigerator, desks, and dressers. Wi-Fi is available throughout the dormitory, and the building also has a gym, library, and cafeteria for you to use. You will room with another student in the program but share the building with other international and Vietnamese students.

Wondering what a typical day will look like when you study at the Vietnam Center? We’ve got you covered:

7:30 AM Wake up, check your email, Skype a friend or family member, and get ready for the day.
8:30 AM Jump on the elevator, stopping to fill your water bottle on the way. Find your favorite street vendor outside the front gate to pick up a to-go bag for breakfast with an energizing ca phe sua da (iced Vietnamese coffee).
9:00 AM Learn about contemporary Vietnam and discuss what you’re experiencing in your required sociology course with all of your fellow Vietnam Center students.
11:30 AM Make lunch plans with your classmates or Vietnamese partner at one of the many great restaurants in the area. Try cha gio (fried spring rolls), banh beo (rice cakes with crunchy onions and sauce), or mi xao (stir fried noodles).
1:00 PM Head back to Open University for your second class of the day.
4:00 PM Return to the dorm for a little R&R, grabbing a street-side smoothie or banh mi (Vietnamese sandwich) to snack on while doing some homework.
5:45 PM Make your way to your service-learning site. You’ll be partnering with an organization that works with people with disabilities, supports orphaned children, operates a free medical clinic, or one of the several other opportunities available depending on your interests.
7:30 PM Grab dinner downtown or head back to District 10, where the residence hall is located, for some pho (classic Vietnamese soup) at the cafeteria and a relaxing evening.

As a student at the Vietnam Center, you will live like a local, moving through different districts in Ho Chi Minh. Most of your time will be spent in Districts 10, 3, and 1—vibrant neighborhoods with great food options, markets, nightlife, and attractions. Getting around is easy to do. You can walk, take a bus, grab a taxi, or catch a ride with your Vietnamese partner.

Vietnamese food is world renowned for its fresh flavors and aromatic dishes balancing sweet, sour, and salty tastes. While you will not have a traditional meal plan, there are plenty of delicious—and extremely affordable—food options nearby. Student-oriented cafeterias on campus and family-run restaurants near the university serve fresh meals for groups or individuals.

Seeing yourself in Vietnam

Can you picture yourself there?
Experience Southeast Asia’s geographical beauty and cultural diversity on the following program-sponsored excursions.

**CENTRAL & NORTHERN REGION**

- Visit temples and tombs from the ancient Cham society at My Son.
- Explore Vietnam’s last imperial dynasty on a tour of the former capital of Hue.
- Learn about Vietnamese nationalism at Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum in Hanoi.
- Enjoy other sites, including the ancient town of Hoi An and Ha Long Bay.

**MEKONG DELTA**

- Visit a temple and hear from leaders of Cao Dai, a religion created in Vietnam.
- Tour the area and see a floating market, a brick kiln, and a handicraft village. You also can stay with a local family or ride a bike around the islet under the shade of lush fruit trees.
- Spend an evening eating food and listening to folk music unique to the Mekong Delta.

**CU CHI**

- Explore the tunnels and see how many Vietnamese in this area experienced the war with the United States.
- Learn how this 155-mile “underground village”—the most complicated tunnel system in Vietnam—was constructed.

**CAMBODIA**

- Compare Vietnam with its neighbor to the west during this four-day excursion.
- Visit the Royal Palace and Angkor Archaeological Park, two of Cambodia’s national treasures.

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**ABOUT THE IMAGES**

All of the photos in this brochure were taken by Will Thomas, an international studies major at Loyola who studied at the Vietnam Center. “Going to Vietnam was among the best experiences of my life,” he said. “I think these images show what a fantastic place it is and give people a taste of what a semester in Vietnam looks like.”
Studying and living in Vietnam isn’t as expensive as you may think. In fact, a semester at the Vietnam Center is often comparable to staying at your home campus—and scholarships are available to help you defray the costs of studying abroad.

MAKING THE EXTRAORDINARY A REALITY

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Vietnam Center has scholarships available to students who can demonstrate documented financial need. Awards range from $500–$2,500 and are applied toward tuition. For application details and deadlines, visit our website.

HOW TO APPLY

Applying to the Vietnam Center is easy and quick—the application takes less than ten minutes to complete! Visit our website and look for the APPLY NOW button.

WHAT’S COVERED IN THE COST

• 12–18 credit hours
• Furnished housing in a Vietnamese dormitory
• Weekly group outings in Ho Chi Minh City
• Orientation program before departure and upon arrival in Vietnam
• On-site program support
• Academic excursions in Vietnam and Cambodia
• Emergency medical insurance

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