

## **Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)**

### **Consultancy to map mobility opportunities for Australian students in Vietnam**

The Australian Embassy in Hanoi seeks proposals from suitably qualified Vietnam-based consultants to map mobility opportunities for Australian undergraduate students in Vietnam.

The objectives of the project are:

- To identify Vietnamese universities with capacity and study opportunities to host Australian undergraduate students in Vietnam from 2015
- To generate interest in Vietnam as a study destination, and
- To engage with Vietnamese universities and increase understanding of Australian government objectives for student mobility.

Consultants are required to have proficiency in written and spoken English. An understanding of both the Vietnamese and Australian Higher Education systems is preferred.

A written expression of interest addressing the attached terms of reference, with quote and the contact details for two referees, in English should be e-mailed to:

[le-ha.tran@dfat.gov.au](mailto:le-ha.tran@dfat.gov.au)

**Contact:**

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**Submission deadline:**

17.00 hrs, 31 July 2014

# Terms of Reference

## Consultancy to map mobility opportunities for Australian students in Vietnam

### Background

The Australian Government is aiming to increase the number of Australian students who study in an Asian country, including Vietnam, through mobility programs.

A signature initiative of the Australian Government is the New Colombo Plan (NCP) designed to increase the number of Australians studying in the region, through supporting study and internship opportunities, thereby generating greater two-way flow of students between Australia and the Indo Pacific. The NCP is intended to be transformational, deepening relationships with the region, both at the individual level and through expanding university, business and other links.

In 2014, the NCP is being piloted in four countries, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan and Singapore. The Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, has recently written to all ASEAN countries, including Vietnam, inviting participation in the NCP from 2015.

The NCP will support a range of study opportunities for Australian undergraduate students through:

- prestigious scholarships for periods of study between one semester and a year
- an innovative mobility grants scheme that will support Australian undergraduates to undertake study in the region, ranging from short courses to semester study of up to one year
- an internship or mentorship experience as an integral component of the NCP, ensuring Australian students are work ready and have professional connections in the region.

Note: any study option must be for academic credit or otherwise be a mandatory component of the student's course.

Australian universities are responsible for making partnership arrangements with host institutions in relation to courses, credit transfer and student welfare. The Australian Embassy in Hanoi will support and facilitate Australian Government mobility programs such as the NCP and wishes to select an individual to conduct a mapping exercise to provide Australian institutions and students with accurate information about Vietnam as a destination for mobility opportunities.

### Objective

The objectives of the project are to:

- identify Vietnamese universities with capacity to deliver and/or tailor quality programs and student support to ensure Australian students receive credit and a positive study experience
- generate interest in Vietnam as a study destination
- engage with Vietnamese universities and increase understanding of Australian Government objectives for student mobility.

### Scope

The local consultant is to map mobility opportunities in Vietnam according to certain criteria with a view to developing a quality publication for Australian universities and Australian students.

The scope of the mapping is limited by the following general criteria to identify the most promising opportunities:

- Undergraduate courses taught in English
- at institutions where students will be able to obtain credit for study undertaken in Vietnam
- in locations which have good access to services and accommodation (generally urban or major regional centres)
- niche areas likely to be attractive to Australian universities and students (e.g. tropical medicine, public health, agriculture and forestry, environmental studies, water management, cultural studies)
- where there are existing partnerships with Australian institutions or institutions from other English speaking countries
- at institutions which have experience with mobility programs or hosting foreign students

The report would cover the following main elements:

- type of mobility opportunity i.e. short- term, semester or full year, in class or field trip, individual or group
- undergraduate courses taught in English by field of study
- cultural offerings (if any)
- student support services
- facilities (including accommodation if available)
- internship opportunities
- costs
- Australian alumni involvement
- contact information
- existing Australian/foreign partners

### **Key Deliverables**

- Consultation with the Ministry of Education and Training, Embassy and other relevant stakeholders for baseline information.
- Short-listing of universities for an initial survey
- Information collection and analysis
- follow up site visit up to 20 universities or faculties to verify and augment information
- Prepare a document which provides overview information about Vietnam higher education and Quality Assurance as well as summary information profiling each university.
- Final editing.

Note: the local consultant will work closely with the Embassy during the project.

### **Selection criteria**

Selection of the local consultant will be based on the following considerations:

- value for money
- understanding of both the Vietnamese and Australian Higher Education systems

- ability to engage appropriately with the Vietnamese university executive and Vietnamese Ministry for Education and Training
- proficiency in spoken and written English language
- references

**Proposed costing should cover**

- estimated number of consultancy days for the project
- Consultancy fee by daily rate
- Travel costs including flight and accommodation will be covered by the embassy

**Timeline**

- 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014: Call for EOI including proposal with quotes
- 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014: Deadline for EOI submission
- 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014: Selection
- 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014: The Embassy meets with the selected consultant
- Mid-consultancy review mid-August 2014
- End-August 2014: Submission of findings and a draft report
- Mid-September 2014: Submission of the final report