



VIETNAM STARTER PACK *for* **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

2025 Edition



Excellence
**THROUGH
KNOWLEDGE**

<https://vnu.edu.vn>

I choose
VNU



VIETNAM
STARTER PACK
FOR
**INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS**

WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to Vietnam and to VNU – Vietnam National University, Hanoi! We are delighted that you have chosen to begin your academic journey here, where you will not only gain knowledge but also experience the rich and vibrant culture of Vietnam.

This handbook, the Vietnam Starter Pack, is designed to help you navigate your new life with ease. Inside, you will find essential information about living, studying, and exploring Vietnam – from transportation tips and cultural insights to must-visit places and useful contacts.

Studying abroad is an exciting opportunity but can also be challenging at first. Stay open-minded, embrace differences, and don't be afraid to ask questions or seek help. Remember to show respect for local customs, be patient with language barriers, and take time to build friendships with both Vietnamese and international peers.

We hope this guide will serve as your trusted companion, making your transition smoother and your experience more meaningful. Wishing you a successful, safe, and unforgettable journey at VNU and in Vietnam!

INTRODUCTION

VNU operates under a high degree of autonomy and accountability, working directly with ministries, ministerial-level agencies, government agencies, and provincial or municipal People's Committees on matters related to its activities and development.

Member universities and research institutes under VNU are autonomous institutions with legal status equivalent to other universities and scientific research institutes as stipulated by the Law on Education, the Law on Higher Education, the Law on Amendments and Supplements to a Number of Articles of the Law on Higher Education, and the Law on Science and Technology.

In 2006, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of Indochina – the predecessor of VNU, the university was honored to receive the Gold Star Order, the highest decoration awarded by the Party and the State, recognizing its significant contributions to the cause of national construction and defense.

VNU possesses the largest and most prominent team of scientists within Vietnam's higher education system. Currently, it has nearly 5,500 staff members and lecturers, including many leading scientists with prestigious reputations domestically and internationally, covering fields such as natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, foreign languages, technology, economics, law, education, and more.

With a long-standing tradition and strong reputation in high-quality and advanced training, as well as nurturing talents, VNU currently has more than 78,000 learners across various education levels.

Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNU) is a multidisciplinary and multi-field center for education, scientific research, knowledge, and technology transfer. It is a leading institution in Vietnam, aiming to reach regional and gradually international standards, meeting the development requirements of the country and aligning with the trends of advanced higher education.

MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

♦ Mission:

To train high-quality human resources and foster talents; to conduct scientific research, develop technology, and transfer multidisciplinary knowledge; to contribute to the building, development, and defense of the nation; and to serve as a pillar and leader in Vietnam's higher education system.

♦ Vision for 2045:

To become a multidisciplinary and innovative research university, ranked among the top universities in Asia and the world.

♦ Core Values:

Innovation and Creativity
National Responsibility
Sustainable Development

♦ Member Universities and Units

9 member universities
2 training and research centers
3 affiliated schools
14 support, service, and other units
02 development funds

♦ Laboratories:

213 laboratories, including:
1 national key laboratory
10 VNU-level key laboratories
2 VNU-level key research centers
200 specialized, thematic, and basic practice laboratories

♦ Training Programs:

Total: 506 programs
190 undergraduate programs
198 master's programs
118 doctoral programs



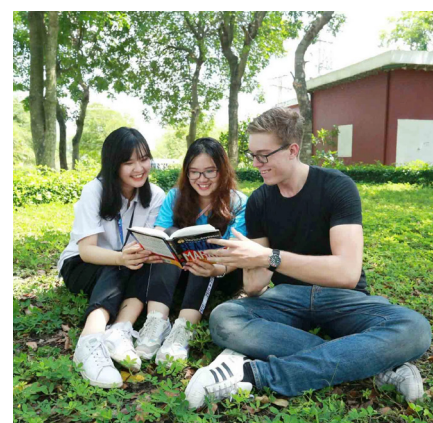
ACTION MOTTO:

Excellence
THROUGH
KNOWLEDGE

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT VNU



VNU is committed to supporting international students throughout your study, research, and daily life in Vietnam.



1. Cooperation and Development Department

- Serves as the main contact point for international student programs.
- Organizes exchange programs, internships, cultural activities, and academic promotion.
- Supports procedures related to scholarships, visas, admission, and accommodation.

2. Academic and Student Affairs Department

- Works with faculties and schools to admit and manage international students.
- Provides information and guidance on study procedures, assessments, and academic recognition.

3. Finance and Investment Department

- Manages scholarships, financial support, and service fees.
- Ensures all financial policies for international students are implemented correctly and transparently.

4. Science and Innovation Department

- Supports international students participating in research projects, internships, and innovation initiatives.

5. Organization and Inspection Department

- Ensures fairness, transparency, and protection of the rights and responsibilities of international students.



6. VNU Center for Student Services

- Provides dormitory services and support for daily living needs.
- Organizes social, cultural, and community engagement activities to help you adapt to life in Vietnam.
- Monitors and ensures that support services are effective and student-friendly.

7. Communication and Brand Management Center, VNU Office

- Provides information and materials related to international student programs.
- Promotes the image of VNU and highlights contributions of international students to the community.

8. Youth Union & Student Association

- Supports international students in integrating into campus life.
- Organizes volunteer activities, cultural exchange events, and soft-skills training.

9. VNU Library and Digital Knowledge Centre

- Offers access to learning resources, research materials, and friendly study spaces.
- Guides international students in effectively using library and digital resources.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACADEMIC UNITS TOWARD INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

◆ Admissions & Academic Programs

Attract and admit international students; organize study programs; issue degrees/certificates; and ensure academic quality.

◆ Visa & Immigration Support

Assist students with visa application, entry, extension, and exit procedures in accordance with Vietnamese regulations.

◆ Student Support & Guidance

Provide academic and daily-life support, including study guidance, research and internship arrangements, and help with administrative or housing matters when needed.

◆ Vietnamese Language Training

Offer Vietnamese language courses and certificates for students who require them.

◆ Academic Management & Quality Assurance

Officially enroll students into training programs; arrange classes, academic advisors, and supervisors; and issue degrees and certificates according to regulations.

◆ Program Coordination & Adjustment

Coordinate with the Ministry of Education and Training to recognize and adjust study programs where needed, ensuring students' rights and academic quality.

TIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- ◆ Stay in touch with your academic advisor.
- ◆ Check your VNU email regularly.
- ◆ Keep your visa and residence documents updated.
- ◆ Ask for help when you need it. Student Support Centers, teachers, and classmates are happy to assist — you are not alone.
- ◆ Join campus clubs and student activities.

DOCUMENTS TO KEEP IN MIND FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COMING TO VIETNAM:



Integrated document No. 30/VBHN-VPQH of The National Assembly, dated August 02, 2023 Law on Entry, Exit, Transit and Residence of Foreigners in Vietnam

Guiding circulars: Circular No. 04/2015/TT-BCA and Circular No. 57/2020/TT-BCA, issued by the Ministry of Public Security (on application forms, residence documents, visas, and temporary residence).

BENEFITS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT VNU

- ◆ Study the program you are admitted to and enjoy the same academic rights as all VNU students.
- ◆ Receive guidance and support regarding academic procedures, daily life, and campus services.
- ◆ Access campus facilities, including libraries, study spaces, sports areas, and student services.
- ◆ Join cultural, artistic, sports activities and student clubs organized by VNU and its member universities.
- ◆ Take part in research projects, workshops, seminars, and academic events. Enjoy official holidays and personal leave in accordance with Vietnamese regulations; family visits are allowed according to visa rules.
- ◆ Students under scholarship or exchange programs may receive additional benefits depending on program agreements.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- ◆ Respect Vietnamese laws, university rules, local culture, and community norms.
- ◆ Follow all academic regulations regarding study, examination, attendance, and conduct.
- ◆ Comply with immigration regulations, including visa, residence registration, and travel reporting.
- ◆ Take care of campus property and contribute to a positive, friendly, and respectful learning environment.
- ◆ Complete required health insurance, residence registration, and fulfill financial obligations as required by the program.
- ◆ When traveling or going away during holidays, inform your academic unit and take responsibility for your own safety and well-being.

I choose
VIETNAM



VIETNAM'S WEATHER AND CLIMATE GUIDE

Vietnam has a tropical monsoon climate, which means it is generally hot, humid, and rainy. However, because the country stretches from north to south, the weather in each region is quite different.

In the North, there are four distinct seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Summers are hot and humid with a lot of rain, while winters can be cold and dry, especially in the mountains, where temperatures may drop below 10°C.

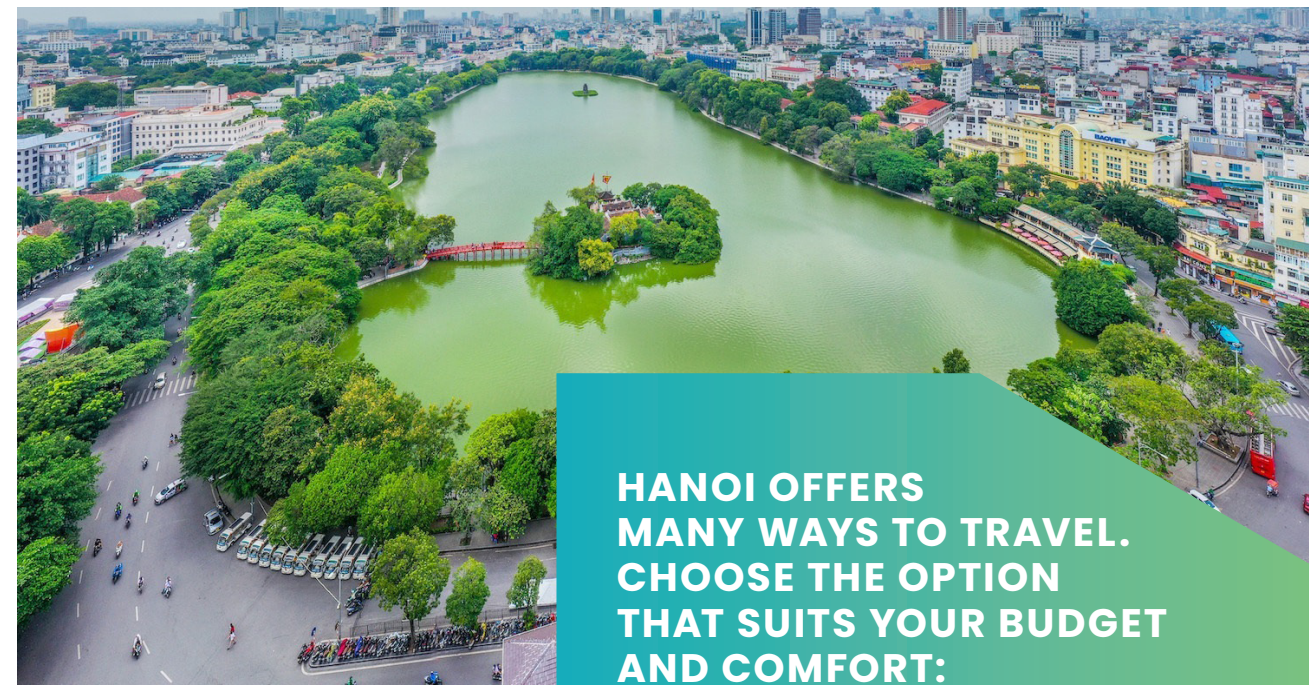
The Central region has a harsher climate. The northern part of Central Vietnam has a cool winter like the North, while the southern part is hot all year round. From September to November, this area often experiences heavy rains and storms, sometimes causing floods.

The South has a typical tropical climate with two main seasons: the rainy season (May to November) and the dry season (December to April). The temperature stays warm year-round, usually between 25–35°C.



Tips for Students

- ✦ Bring warm clothes if visiting the North in winter
- ✦ Umbrella or raincoat for rainy season
- ✦ Sunscreen and light clothes for hot weather



HANOI OFFERS MANY WAYS TO TRAVEL. CHOOSE THE OPTION THAT SUITS YOUR BUDGET AND COMFORT:

GETTING AROUND HANOI

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- ♦ Take your time and look both ways when crossing.
- ♦ Use Google Maps to help you find the best route.
- ♦ Carry small cash for bus and metro fares.
- ♦ Only drive a motorbike if you're confident and have a valid license.

1. Public Buses

Cheap and reliable for longer distances. Use the BusMap app for routes and schedules.
Ticket: 7,000 – 12,000 VND per ride
Monthly pass available (from 100,000 VND)

2. Metro

New, clean, and easy to use Line 2A (Cát Linh – Hà Đông is currently operating)
Ticket: 8,000–15,000 VND
Monthly pass available (from 100,000 VND)

3. Motorbike Taxis (Grab, Be, Xanh SM)

Fast and convenient for short trips. Always check the fare in the app before booking.

4. Taxi

Safer but more expensive than bikes. Recommended companies: Mai Linh, Vinasun, G7
Ask drivers to turn on the meter.

5. Walking & Biking

Great for exploring the Old Quarter. Be cautious: sidewalks may be crowded, and traffic is busy.

BANKING & PAYMENTS



1. Opening a Bank Account

Easy for international students with passport, visa, and student ID.
Popular banks: Vietcombank, BIDV, Techcombank, VPBank, MB Bank,...
Useful for receiving money and paying tuition/rent.

2. Cash & ATMs

Vietnam is still cash-based, so keep small bills for daily expenses.
ATMs are everywhere; check withdrawal fees before using.

3. E-wallets

Convenient for cashless payments in stores, cafes, and online shopping. You need a Vietnamese bank account to fully activate most e-wallets.

Most common apps:

- ♦ **Momo:** e-wallet for bills, food delivery, tickets, phone top-ups,...
- ♦ **ZaloPay:** linked to Zalo (popular chat app in Vietnam).
- ♦ **VNPay:** QR payments in many shops.
- ♦ **Apple Pay:** works with international bank cards, accepted at some cafés, supermarkets, and retail stores.
- ♦ **GrabPay:** integrated with Grab for rides and food.
- ♦ **ShopeePay:** integrated with Grab for rides and food.

Tips for Students

- ♦ Always check your receipt before paying.
- ♦ Be careful when sharing card or account details.
- ♦ Keep some cash as backup, especially in local markets or street food stalls.

HEALTH CARE AND SAFETY

1. Healthcare Services

- ◆ **Hospitals & Clinics:**
Vietnam offers public, private, and international hospitals with English-speaking support.
- ◆ Student health insurance is strongly recommended.
- ◆ Bring personal medicines and prescriptions when you first arrive.

2. Staying Healthy

- ◆ **Drink bottled or boiled water.**
Wash hands often, especially before eating.
- ◆ Be cautious with street food – choose clean, busy stalls.
- ◆ Wear masks during flu season or when air quality is poor.
- ◆ Stay hydrated in hot weather and wear sunscreen.

3. Personal Safety

- ◆ Keep valuables in a safe place; avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- ◆ Watch out for pickpockets, especially in crowded areas.
- ◆ Cross the street carefully – traffic can be unpredictable.
- ◆ Use Grab or reliable taxis at night.



**SAVE
EMERGENCY
NUMBERS:**



VIETNAMESE CUISINE

For breakfast, there are many options such as bún (vermicelli noodles), phở, sticky rice, or bread. International students usually adapt quickly to Vietnamese food.

Meals are available at the university canteen for around 35,000 VND per meal, or at local eateries (cơm bình dân) for 30,000 – 60,000 VND on average.

Must-try Vietnamese specialties: nem (spring rolls), bún chả (grilled pork with vermicelli), bánh chưng (sticky rice cake), and phở (Vietnamese noodle soup).



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Vietnam is known for its diverse cuisine, made with a variety of ingredients such as meat, seafood, and a balance of fresh vegetables and fruits depending on the season. Even Muslims and vegetarians can easily find suitable dishes.

HANOI CUISINE

HANOI IS A **FOOD
LOVER'S PARADISE**
WITH FLAVORFUL
DISHERS AND A
VIBRANT STREET
FOOD CULTURE.



MUST-TRY HANOIAN FOODS



Phở gà
Chicken noodle soup



Phở bò
Beef noodle soup



Bún ốc
Snail noodle soup



Cafe trứng
Vietnamese egg coffee



Chè truyền thống
Traditional Hanoi sweet soup



Chả cá Hà Nội
Hanoi grilled fish



Bún đậu
Vermicelli with fried tofu



Bún chả Hà Nội
Hanoi kebab rice noodles



Bún bò Huế
Hue beef noodle soup

HOLIDAYS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS

Tips for Students

- Public transport and tourist spots are very crowded during major holidays like Tết and National Day.
- Book tickets and accommodation early if you plan to travel.
- Join local friends to experience traditions, but be respectful of cultural customs, or street food stalls.

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FUN FACTS ABOUT LIFE IN VIETNAM

Living in Vietnam is full of unique and memorable experiences!



Celebrations with Flags:

On national holidays or when the Vietnamese football team wins, streets come alive with flags, cheers, and motorbike parades – a truly unforgettable sight!



Café Culture:

From traditional egg coffee to modern specialty brews, Vietnam has countless cozy and Instagram/TikTok-worthy cafés perfect for studying or hanging out



Motorbike Nation:

Motorbikes are everywhere! Riding one can be exciting, but always wear a helmet and follow traffic rules.



Street Food Heaven:

Taste authentic Vietnamese dishes right on the sidewalk – from pho to banh mi. Street food is affordable, delicious, and part of daily life.



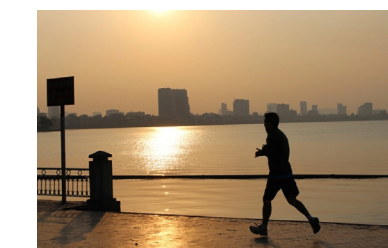
Warm & Welcoming People:

Vietnamese are friendly and curious. A simple "Xin chào" (Hello) or "Cảm ơn" (Thank you) will make locals smile.



Night Market Vibes:

Explore bustling night markets where you can shop for souvenirs, taste local snacks, and experience vibrant nightlife.



Early Morning Lifestyle:

Many locals wake up early to exercise, drink coffee, or eat breakfast outdoors. Visiting parks at sunrise is a great way to see the local rhythm of life.

**1. VNU Homepage**

<https://www.vnu.edu.vn/home/>

**2. Vietnam National University, Hanoi – VNU**

<https://www.facebook.com/VNU.DHQQ>

**3. VNU Academic Affairs Portal**

<https://daotao.vnu.edu.vn/>

**4. VNU Course Registration Portal**

<http://dangkyhoc.vnu.edu.vn/dang-nhap>

**5. VNU Document Repository**

<https://tailieu.vnu.com>

**6. VNU YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/@VNUDHQGHN>

**7. VNU TikTok Channel**

<https://www.tiktok.com/@vnu.dhqghn>

**9. VNU Youth (Facebook)**

<https://www.facebook.com/TuoitreDHQGHN>

**10. VNU Youth (Instagram)**

<https://www.instagram.com/tuoitredhqghn/>

**11. VNU Youth (YouTube)**

<https://www.youtube.com/@TuoitredaihocQuocgia>

**12. VNU Student Community in Hoa Lac**

<https://www.facebook.com/CongdongsinhvienDHQG>

**13. VNU Student Community**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/congdongsinhvien>

**14. VNU Connect**

<https://www.facebook.com/vnu.connect>

**15. VNU Confessions**

<https://www.facebook.com/VNUfanpage>

**16. Student Health Support Team – Hoa Lac Campus**

<https://zalo.me/g/esuddo285>

**17. VNU Marketplace Group**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2696403832940>

**18. Hoa Lac VNU Confessions**

<https://www.facebook.com/Hoalcfss.vn>





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