



### Overview

MINIMUM AGE: 18  
DEPARTS: Feb / Sept  
LENGTH: 3 to 4 months  
ROLE AVAILABLE: English Teacher

### Why Vietnam?

Vietnam forms the western rim of the South China Sea. It is some 1600km from top to bottom, and few places are more than 150km from the sea. The broader areas are the deltas of the Red River in the north and the Mekong River in the south. It is a varied and lush country.

### Where are the placements?

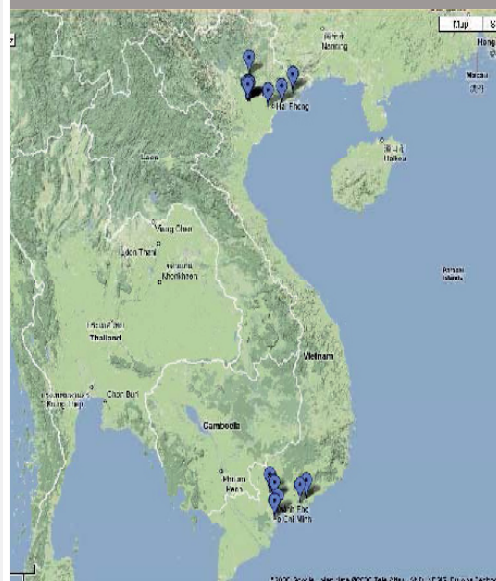
Placements are mostly within Hanoi, the capital in the North, and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), the business capital in the South. There are also placements in Hai Phong, Hai Duong and Thai Nguyen in the North and Can Tho, in the Mekong delta in the South.

### Is it for me?

Placements in Vietnam involve working as teaching assistants, mainly in colleges and universities. There are a few placements at primary and secondary schools. You may be asked to teach the teachers in order to give them greater confidence in English conversation.

In all cases the main focus of the teaching is organising linguistic activities which will allow students to practice English, and leading activities such as conversation, role playing, singing and debate. Much of the value and enjoyment of a placement will be in such extracurricular activities as conversation groups, visiting students' homes and playing games.

### Placement Locations



Teachers in Vietnam are held in high esteem. Diligence, enthusiasm and imagination will be expected. Good communication skills are essential. Skills in sport, drama or art will be highly valued. In all cases, volunteers must have patience, perseverance, flexibility and humour.

The formal program consists of 20 hours classroom work per week. Volunteers will be given pocket money of not less than 400,000 dong (\$1 = approx 10,000 dong) per month. There may be initial moving-in costs for things such as a fan or a bicycle, though these are very reasonably priced.

### Accommodation and Food

Volunteers are placed in pairs. Accommodation is either on campus at the host institution, or in a nearby flat rented by the host. Food will usually be provided, but if not, an adequate allowance will be given. Whilst good local food is plentiful, varied and cheap, such things as canned drinks are expensive. The climate in Vietnam is tropical and sub-tropical. Winters in the North can be chilly, but in the South are mild. The middle calendar months are hot and sticky.

### Travel

Holidays include two days (including Sunday) per week, one weekend per month and a one-week break during the placement. A bicycle is almost indispensable and costs \$100; if it is necessary for work it will be provided free. Visas are valid for six months, allowing for independent travel.

### Need to know

- Pre departure briefing: All volunteers will be invited to a group briefing prior to departure.
- Language: No previous knowledge of Vietnamese is required
- On arrival: Volunteers will undertake a five day combined teaching skills and orientation course in Ho Chi Minh City. Volunteers will also register at the Australian Embassy in Hanoi or the Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City.

### What's included

- Interview (face to face or by phone)
- Pre-departure briefing
- Airport pickup
- Accom, food & pocket money
- in-country orientation & support
- Teaching skills course
- 24/7 emergency support

### Costs

The costs shown are for Lattitude placements departing in 2011. (Please note that these prices may change for placements departing in 2012.)

#### Lattitude Fees (these are exact costs)

Lattitude application fee	\$125
Lattitude contribution fee	\$2900
Lattitude Teaching Skills Course	\$300
Lattitude In-country Orientation	\$200

You will also need to budget for the following (these are approx costs)

Travel Insurance (6 months)	\$470
Return Airfares (approx cost of group flight)	\$2000
VISA	\$200
Police Check	\$43
<b>Total Cost (approx)</b>	<b>\$6238</b>



"A hand reaches over and plucks some chips from the packet I just opened. No "please" or "may I?" uttered, just a common understanding that here in Vietnam people share things equally, westerner or not. The weather has become progressively hot and I am chastised by the teachers (both the ones who can speak English and the ones who can't!) for spending too much time in the sun and ruining my beautiful 'white' complexion."

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