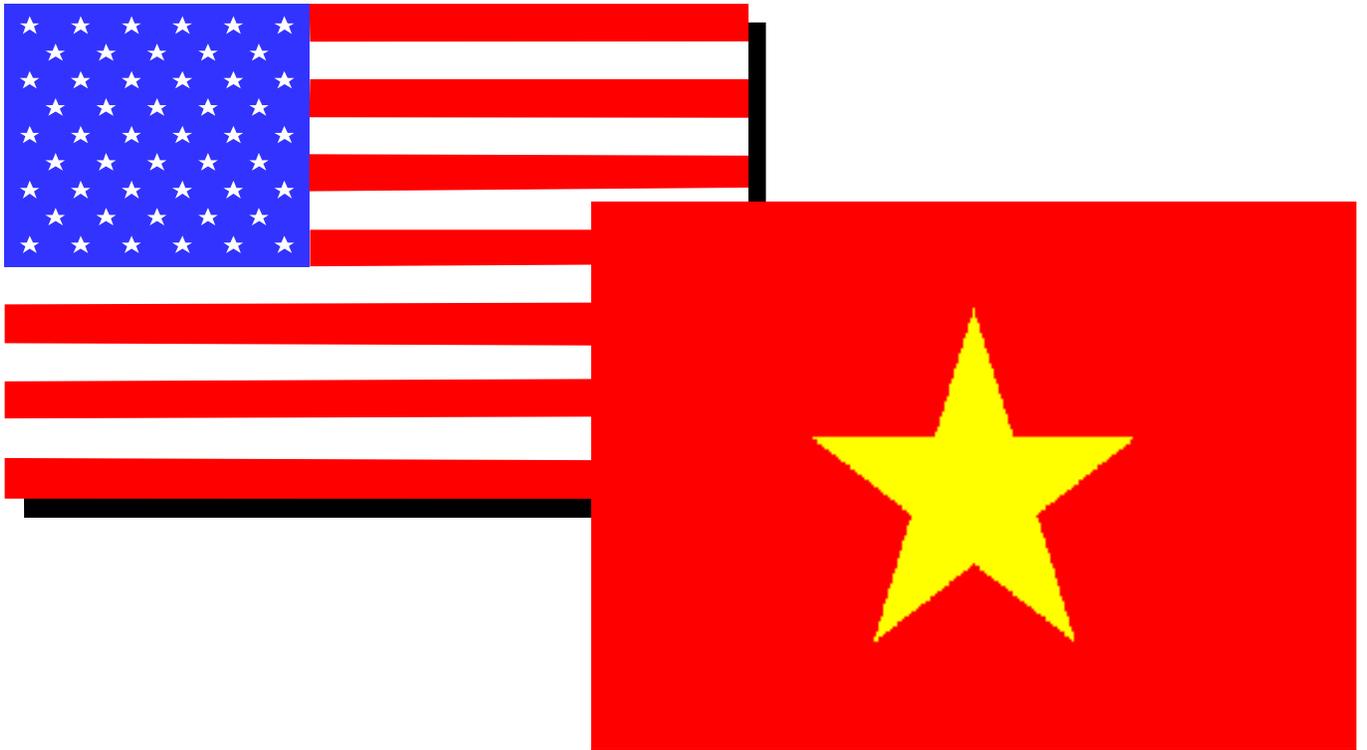


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THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT  
VIETNAM PROGRAM



**ORIENTATION HANDBOOK**

**WELCOME TO THE ONLY STUDY ABROAD  
PROGRAM OF ITS KIND:**

**THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT VIETNAM  
PROGRAM**

## **1. ACCEPTANCE FORM AND PROGRAM FEE**

As was indicated in the letter of admission to the The College at Brockport Vietnam Program, you are required to fill out, sign, and return your program acceptance form within ten days of receiving it. Since this Orientation Handbook is usually distributed only to those who have returned this acceptance form, if you are reading this, it is assumed that you have returned the acceptance form. If you have not done so, please do so immediately. The initial (and non-refundable) \$350 portion of your program fee should have accompanied the form. Checks or money orders (do not send cash) should have been made out to FSA-International Programs. Please be sure that your name, address, and social security number are on the check or money order, along with the program name (i.e., The College at Brockport Vietnam Program). Both the acceptance form and the check or money order for \$350 were to be sent to the Office of International Education at The College at Brockport. The part of the program fee assures your place in the program and is used to cover orientation and other program costs that are not contained elsewhere in the program budget. It does not apply in any way toward tuition costs at the home campus or abroad.

## 2. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (“The Green Forms”)

COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF ALL SIX OF THESE FORMS IS A CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION IN OVERSEAS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT.

The College at Brockport requires that all overseas program participants complete all six of the items listed below. The Office of International Education at The College at Brockport reserves the right to cancel a student’s participation in a program if any of these forms indicate a substantial reason to do so upon their return, or if all of the required forms are not on file at least ten days prior to the beginning of the program.

### A. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION:

This form is the means by which the participant gives the Office of International Education an assurance that he or she has read this Orientation Handbook and the Policies and Procedures Handbook, understands the program’s rules and the participant’s obligations, and agrees to abide by them. A parent’s (or guardian’s) signature is required on forms signed by a participant who is not 21 years old on the day the form is signed (even if the participant is “financially independent”—for financial aid [or other] reasons).

### B. MEDICAL REPORT FORM:

This form is the means by which a participant assures the Office of International Education that he or she is “fit” enough to participate. The home campus college health office may complete it, provided that the student has a basic health history on file. There is no need to have a major physical examination for it unless you wish to do so. This form is an assurance from your physician that you are in “good health.” Remember that a physical disability does not mean “ill health.” Disabled students are encouraged to participate in overseas programs; they should, however, discuss their participation with their campus Director of International Education and their physician. It is also very important that all allergies be noted on the form (food, insect bites, etc.).

### C. INSURANCE COVERAGE FORM:

SUNY policies require that all students participating in Brockport overseas academic programs **MUST** have adequate health insurance coverage.

Therefore, it is necessary for you to fill out this form and supply our office with verification of coverage for the following provisions:

- 1) treatment for accidents or illness which occur abroad for a minimum of \$75,000;
- 2) treatment for pre-existing conditions that need treatment while abroad;
- 3) medical evacuation in the event of catastrophic illness; and
- 4) repatriation of remains in the event of death.

There are no exceptions, waivers, or exemptions from the requirement that you have these coverages. If your policy does not cover all these provisions, insurance can be purchased from SUNY at a nominal fee.

#### D. RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION FORM

This form is the participant's means of assuring SUNY that s/he will follow the rules and policies of the State University of New York during the period of participation in an overseas academic program. A great deal of confusion results from the directions provided with this form. It should be signed by the parents and by the student who is over 21 years if he or she is not considered to be financially independent. If the student is "financially independent", a confirmation of this from the Office of Financial Aid must be attached to the Release and Indemnification Form, and in this case only, the student alone signs. In both cases, the form **MUST** be notarized.

#### E. PERMISSION FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT FORM

This form will enable the Program's Resident Director or Program Representative at the overseas academic program site to authorize medical treatment for you in the event of an emergency if you are not able to authorize treatment for yourself and/or in a situation where your next-of-kin cannot be reached to authorize the necessary treatment. This is the only purpose of this form.

While it is not absolutely necessary to have the student's blood type entered on this form since immediate typing can now be done (and physicians usually prefer to do this), those students intending to travel to Asia for The College at Brockport Vietnam Program MUST have their blood type entered on the form. All other items on this form (both top and bottom halves) should be completed. The name of the Program's Director or Representative should be entered on both halves. One copy should be returned to Brockport's Office of International Education where it will be kept with your file. The participant should keep the other half, with her/his passport.

#### F. MMR CERTIFICATE

All participants in The College at Brockport overseas academic programs who were born after 1957 (that is who are younger than 43 years of age) are required to file proof of inoculation against MEASLES with the Office of International Education at their HOME SUNY CAMPUS (remember that students who do not normally attend a SUNY College should consider The College at Brockport as their "HOME SUNY CAMPUS"). Therefore, the Office of International Education at Brockport must have a copy of your Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) certificate of inoculation on file and to prove that you have had those inoculations. This certificate must be obtained directly from your physician.

### **3. REGISTERING FOR STUDY ABROAD**

All students who participate in Brockport overseas programs must register at their home SUNY campus and pay tuition there for the period during which they will be abroad. Each student should register for study-abroad during pre-registration or prior to the end of the semester immediately before they are to go abroad. It is very important that they make the necessary arrangements for registration and the payment of tuition for their session abroad. For SUNY students, information on how to register for overseas study should be obtained from the Office of International Studies on their home campus. Non-SUNY students will be registered and must pay tuition at Brockport as “Visiting Students”. Students should also make sure that all their university accounts (e.g., library fines, telephone bills, book store accounts, etc.) are paid up before departing for overseas, so that no “holds” will be placed against their registration. Please remember also that the “College Fee” cannot be deferred against financial aid. It must be paid in order for you to be registered.

## 4. TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

### A. PASSPORT:

All international travelers are required to possess a valid passport. An application for a passport may be secured from any of the following places:

- a) a passport agency;
- b) a clerk of any Federal court or State court of record, or a judge or clerk of any probate court accepting applications; or
- c) a postal employee designated by the postmaster at a post office which has been selected to accept passport applications. Once you have obtained a passport application, read it very carefully. Everything you need to know concerning how to apply and what is required is printed on the application. (Please note that you sign it only in front of a witness at the place of application).

**Please also be aware that it will take between four and eight weeks (depending upon the season) to receive a passport once an application has been filed, so make sure you apply well in advance.**

**If you already have a current passport, make sure it does not expire during the semester you are in Vietnam.**

### B. IMMIGRATION LETTER:

With your invoice, you will receive an "Immigration Letter." This letter is to be shown if requested when you enter the country in order to show that you will be a student while in Vietnam.

### C. OBTAINING A VISA TO VIETNAM:

Vietnam requires that you have a visa in order to enter that country. **FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE CAREFULLY!**

- It is unusual for Vietnam to issue the multi-month visa you will require. You MUST provide the Program Director for this program a clear photocopy of your passport's inside cover (it has your photo) and facing page (it has your signature). Also, attach a sheet of typed paper with your full name, address, phone number, email address, and date and place of birth. This MUST be received no less than ten (10) weeks before you plan to travel.
- In addition, provide the Program Director a one-page resume. The resume (on one page) must include ALL of the following: your name, citizenship, birth place, current/permanent address, phone number, date of birth, parents' names and citizenship and employment and address, your employment and education history.
- In addition, provide a copy of your physician's report, and a copy of your immunization record.
- In addition, the Program Director must have your actual passport.
- You will also get visa application forms from [www.vietnamembassy-usa.org](http://www.vietnamembassy-usa.org) . Two copies of these are to be completed, as will be instructed by the Program Director. Only those items he notes on the form are to be completed. Complete the rest carefully and clearly. Firmly attach one passport photo to each of the two applications. Forward all completed forms and attached photos to the Program Director no less than ten (10) weeks before you plan to travel. Include your actual passport with the completed visa forms and photos.
- You must also bring to Vietnam a 3" by 3" passport style photo (for residence registration after you arrive in Vietnam). The Program

**Director will arrange for proper visas to be issued by the Embassy of Vietnam in Washington.**

- **Mail to the Program Director the passport, visa applications, photos, resume, and copies of medical forms NO LATER than ten weeks before the departure date. If you fail to do this, you might not be admitted to Vietnam in time to begin the program.**

Once this process is complete, your passport and visa will be mailed to you by Express Mail or FedEx (over night mail). Your passport will contain the visa stamped in your passport.

Remember: You will not be admitted to Vietnam without both your passport and visa. Lose either, and your fellow students will be sending you postcards about how they enjoy the program you missed.

The College at Brockport will retain a photocopy of your passport and visa. You are also required to keep a copy of both with you during your travel to Vietnam, as a safeguard in the unfortunate event that your passport is lost.

## 5. VACCINATIONS

Under the International Health Regulations adopted by the World Health Organization, a country, under certain conditions, may require International Certificates of Vaccination against cholera and yellow fever from international travelers. At the present time, no vaccinations are required to return to the United States from any country. Vietnam will require no vaccinations for your entrance from the US to that country. However, you are strongly advised to contact your public health department for the latest advisories regarding precautionary vaccinations they might advise. Complete this contact well in advance of the date you plan to travel to Vietnam (there might be a need for a follow-up vaccination). We strongly advise you have current tetanus and hepatitis A vaccinations.

All students ARE STRONGLY ADVISED to take precautions against malaria. Speak with your local public health department or your physician about this. Most who travel to Vietnam for any period of time use Mefloquine (Lariam). Some have negative reactions to this drug. However, there are other such medications to prevent malaria, and this should be discussed with your local health department or your physician. These medications are taken on a schedule before, during, and after your travel. Follow the directions you are given carefully. The reported rate of malaria in Danang, by the way, is very low.

You are advised to look on the Internet for related information: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

The booklet, "Health Information for International Travel," available from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, provides pertinent information. Specific information may be obtained from your local or State Health Department, or the Embassy or Consulate of each country you plan to visit. The Public Health Service recommends that you have only those shots that are required; avoid the risk involved in being vaccinated against a disease to which you will not be exposed. Few countries will refuse to admit you if you arrive without the necessary vaccination; officials will either vaccinate you, give you a medical follow-up card, or put you in isolation for the incubation period of the disease for which you were not vaccinated. If you do need vaccinations, they must be recorded on approved forms such as those included in the booklet PHS-731, "International Certificates for Vaccination." This booklet is available from most public health offices, passport agencies, and Government Printing Office bookstores. Keep it with your passport, and remember to double check requirements before you leave.

**Again, we require Hepatitis A and Tetanus shots and advise the taking of anti-malaria medication. Discuss this with your health care provider or public health providers.**

According to New York State Public Health Law 2165, all students taking six or more credit hours at on or off-campus classes are required to have proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella. Specifically, proof of two doses of measles vaccine and one dose each of mumps and rubella vaccine, or proof that the student has had a case of these diseases, is required by New York law for registration in study abroad courses and report of grades. Official proof must come from a student's physician and documentation must be sent to the College's health center. Exceptions include students who were born before January 1, 1957, students who have medical reasons documented from a physician, and students who have religious beliefs that are inconsistent with the law.

## 6. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IDENTITY CARD

All participants in Brockport overseas programs who have paid their program fees are entitled to an International Student Identity Card that can be obtained by completing the application in the CIEE Student Travel Catalog and returning it together with a passport-size photo to Brockport's Office of International Education (the fee is included in your program fee). The ISIC offers discounts for transportation, admission fees, and accommodation while abroad in some countries. Students who plan to travel while abroad should consider joining the International Youth Hostel Federation. Information about the benefits of membership in the Youth Hostel Federation is contained in the *CIEE Student Travel Catalog* included in Memo #1.

## 7. COSTS AND FINANCES

### A. Pre-Departure Financial Arrangements

If you are going to be receiving your money from financial aid sources, either loans or grants, it requires a certain amount of forethought and planning to avoid problems. For the sake of clarity, let us briefly outline the general procedures of financial aid, discuss the problems involved, and offer some solutions. The primary stage in arranging for financial aid is the application and approval phase. The second stage is the discovery that your request for aid has been approved. As a student who is going to be studying abroad, it is critical that you also discover how much aid you can expect to receive well in advance of the time you will depart. As a general rule, you must be enrolled in at least 12 credits to qualify for most forms of state and federal financial aid. The Vietnam Program is for 15 credits.

HOWEVER, SINCE FINANCIAL AID IS SO VARIABLE FROM STUDENT TO STUDENT AND FROM PROGRAM TO PROGRAM, YOU SHOULD CONFER WITH YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFICE CONCERNING YOUR ELIGIBILITY.

Check the Study Abroad site at [www.brockport.edu](http://www.brockport.edu) for possible scholarships.

### B. Pre-Departure Currency Exchange

A person traveling to another country should usually obtain some local currency before departure. However, you cannot obtain Vietnamese currency outside of Vietnam. The Vietnam Dong is the local currency. Dong is not supposed to leave Vietnam. However, you will be able to exchange US currency once you arrive in Vietnam. The rate will be posted at your airport upon arrival in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, or Danang (it is usually about 18,000 dong per US dollar, as of 10/09). You may also exchange US currency in Danang. You are advised to bring enough US currency to cover your expenditures with you. It is best to over estimate rather than under estimate how much money you will need. We recommend bringing about \$1,000. You might spend more or you might spend less. Make sure your dollars are clean and in very good condition. You may not be able to exchange bills that are crumpled, marked, or dirty. Coins may not be used or exchanged. It is advised you bring \$50 and \$100 denominations. **GUARD YOUR MONEY CAREFULLY.**

**There are now several ATMs in Danang that usually work. Personal checks will not be accepted in Vietnam. Western Union funds may be wired to you in Danang.**

### C. Summary of Costs

The purpose of this section is:

- 1) To provide you with a statement of the costs of your participation in the College at Brockport Vietnam Program program;
- 2) to give you an idea of when you should expect to pay these costs;
- 3) to explain what you can expect to receive for the money you will pay.

Please notice that the date that is listed as the due date for PRE-DEPARTURE COSTS is the final date by which these costs must be paid. *An early payment is always recommended.* In any event, students who have not met all pre-departure obligations will not be permitted to participate in the program.

These are the costs that you can anticipate in association with your participation in the Vietnam Program:

#### A. Costs that must be paid prior to departure:

##### 1. Program fees:

This fee is due within 10 days of receipt of notice of acceptance into program: \$ 350

(This deposit is normally non-refundable except in the event that the program must be cancelled)

This fee is to be paid directly to Brockport's Office of International Education, and checks should be made payable to "FSA-International Programs," and sent to the Office of International Education, The College at Brockport.

Check with International Education for tuition and fee costs.

Tuition and fees are to be paid at your home SUNY campus. [Remember that BROCKPORT IS CONSIDERED THE HOME SUNY CAMPUS OF THE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE NOT NORMALLY SUNY STUDENTS. This was the point of that Visiting Student form]. You may defer your tuition payment against the

arrival of your financial aid—but you CANNOT defer the College or University Fee against the arrival of that student aid.

Normally, you can expect to receive a bill for your tuition and fees when you register or soon after. Pay this bill by sending a check (made out to “The College at Brockport”) directly to the Bursar’s Office at The College at Brockport.

Prompt payment of tuition (directly to the Office of International Education) will guarantee that we can complete a manual registration to insure that you are registered for the appropriate courses and 15 credits during your participation. (Participants whose home campus is another SUNY campus should pay for tuition and fees at that campus).

2. Check with International Education for the Study Abroad Differential:

This payment is due at the same time as tuition. Checks or money orders for this payment should be made payable to “The College at Brockport” and sent to the Office of International Education, The College at Brockport, Brockport, New York 14420.

The Study Abroad Differential payment is the difference between the actual costs of the instruction you will receive abroad and that portion of those instructional expenses provided by your SUNY tuition payment.

3. Roundtrip airfare: (Memo 2)

Due 45 to 60 days prior to departure: \$1,600 to \$2,500 (estimate)

The Office of International Education makes arrangements with a travel agent for an inexpensive group flight. A participant, who wishes to make other arrangements for travel is welcome to do so, **provided he/she would arrive in Danang, Vietnam by the start of the orientation program.** Each student will contact the Program Director to let him/her know whether or not travel will be with the group or arranged individually. If a student selects traveling with the group, payment for tickets (usually non-refundable tickets) will be the responsibility of the student.

4. Health Insurance Fee:

This fee must be paid only by participants whose family health insurance policies do not provide the types of health insurance coverage described in item 2.b. above and who have not submitted the request for waiver of this mandatory health insurance coverage (see section 2 of this Orientation Handbook for an explanation of this waiver process).

Checks should be made payable to “The College at Brockport” and sent to the Office of International Education at The College at Brockport.

5. Miscellaneous Pre-Departure expenses:

A. How much this item amounts to depends on what you need and what you want:

A passport will cost about \$125.00 (everyone must have one, check [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) for current fee);

A new set of luggage might cost \$200;

1. Extra Travel: \$200-700

You will travel a good deal in Vietnam. There will be occasional trips on weekends and during holidays that are covered by your program fee. **Students may not travel on their own in Vietnam. They may not leave and reenter the country.**

2. Entertainment: \$ 300-\$500

3. Miscellaneous Expenses: \$ 200-\$650

You will probably want to send post cards and letters homes. Phone calls outside of Danang can be expensive and may NOT be made from the Program House. There are several cell phone and computer applications that you can use to make international calls for no cost. SKYPE, HeyTell, Viber, and Facetime are examples that allow you to chat, text and have video communications with friends and family as long as your friends and family have the same application that you have. You will undoubtedly want to purchase souvenirs. This cost will depend on your self-control.

## 8. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

A group flight will be booked for The College at Brockport Vietnam Program. You will receive information about this (in Memo #2) soon after you return your acceptance form and program fee to the Office of International Education. These tickets are non-refundable. If you decide to leave Vietnam on your own and make separate arrangements or if you are required to leave Vietnam, you will be responsible to pay those costs.

**You are also free to make your own arrangements, provided you arrange your itinerary to arrive in Danang, Vietnam on the day the program begins.** Also, check your visa approval date for entry. You cannot enter Vietnam before that date. The Office of International Education should be kept informed of your travel plans. All arrangements made separate from the group arrangements are your responsibility.

The address for the program is 38 Van Cao, Thanh Khe District, Danang, Vietnam

## 9. PACKING HINTS

Packing is a critical aspect of your planning. Given that you will be traveling literally thousands of miles, it is evident that packing lightly and efficiently is a paramount concern.

The reality of the situation is that most people leave it to the last moment to pack, and then attempt to take as much as they can with them. And at some point, sooner or later—usually sooner—they come to regret it. Regret that could have been avoided by simply observing the golden rule of packing: **NEVER PACK MORE THAN YOU CAN CARRY BY YOURSELF FOR A SUSTAINED PERIOD.** Also, keep in mind that you will buy things in Vietnam you will want to bring home. You will buy many things, as a matter of fact. Your luggage should have enough room for this and will be subject to weight restrictions on the airplane.

Moreover (this point is chiefly of importance to students participating during the spring term), in addition to finding room in your luggage for acquisitions, space will also have to be found, when packing to return, for the winter clothing that was worn on the way out. Finally, the physical situation of touring is going to require that you have only the bare minimum of luggage with you, because if you exceed a certain size and weight limit, you'll discover that your luggage simply won't "travel"—it will drag you down, instead. **Also, heavy luggage might mean additional cost when you check in your luggage or disappointment when you try to bring a carry-on. The Vietnam Program flies Vietnam Airlines in that country, and overweight luggage may cost you literally hundreds of dollars.** Therefore, those of you who take the maximum over and discover later on that you're going to have to pare your weight down, or that you need more room, are going to find yourself in one of two unpleasant positions: a) You will have to mail possessions home in order to make room, but postage is expensive and of limited use: the maximum you can mail in one package is 10 kilos (22 ½ lbs.), and even via surface mail, the rates are very high; b) Finding the mail option unacceptable on the basis of cost or size, you will have to give or throw away possessions in order to create room—just as costly and very heartbreaking; you will find yourself saying as you dispose of things, "Damn, I wish I hadn't brought that!" If you are in doubt about whether or not to bring something, don't bring it.

Now that we've covered the horrors of over-packing and have listed the consequences that you will encounter if you do over pack, allow us to detail the fine art of packing correctly:

- 1) Your first consideration in packing correctly is going to be what to pack things in. Our recommendation, though it will instantly identify you as an American student, is to use a backpack. A small backpack is the ideal size to hold all you'll need, and what's more, not only is having your hands free from luggage an advantage to you,

your back is far better suited to carry weight than are your arms. And as we have already explained, there will be at least two situations—arriving and departing—when you will be obliged to pick up and carry all your possessions from place to place. There is handy luggage with wheels most people use for air travel. These are also recommended. Check to make sure they are the correct size and weight for carry on.

2) Your second consideration will be how much of what to take. Here is a minimum outline:

A. Hardware:

1. Backpack
2. Camera (Take film, but it can also be purchased in Danang. If you bring a video camera, government officials will subject you to special scrutiny. You will not be allowed to enter Vietnam with used or unsealed videotapes. They will be taken from you at Customs. You will not be allowed to leave the country with the videotapes you use during your stay until government officials have reviewed the tapes. This may result in your losing the tapes AND your camera and paying a hefty fine. It is much easier to use a regular or digital camera.)
3. Toiletries and cosmetics (include Imodium, insect repellent, tissues, etc). Most can be purchased in Danang.
4. Small pocket calculator, optional but very useful
5. Small knapsack, again optional, but handy.
6. Laptop computer, optional but **very useful**.

B. Software:

1. Towels, take at least one.
2. Receipts: take a receipt for items of value, you may be asked at Customs to prove where you bought your valuables, i.e., camera, radio.

C. Clothing:

1. One week's worth of underwear (or more)

2. 2-3 pairs of pants
3. 3-4 T-shirts (tank tops are discouraged)
4. 3 medium weight shirts
5. Two sets of dress clothes (and shoes) Worn at restaurant dinners and special meetings.
6. Windbreaker: Few people have one, but we consider them a necessity in the fall or spring.
7. Footgear: should be good for keeping your feet dry and comfortable for a lot of walking, Sandals are best.
8. Raingear: raincoat or poncho, depending on whether you want to be stylish or practical. This is usually not necessary during the summer, and may be purchased cheaply in Danang.

Specifically, concerning the weather: Danang is usually hot and humid. It's Vietnam, after all. Check out [www.vietnamembassy-usa.org](http://www.vietnamembassy-usa.org) for the useful links about the weather (and other information). You may have days in the 70 degree to 100-degree range and nights from 50 degrees to 80 degrees. It may periodically rain heavily. There are times it may rain for several days. However, rains usually come and go quickly. Sunshine is much more common. Your Program Director and the staff may be skilled but cannot control the weather.

- 3) Your third consideration is going to be how to actually go about packing. We realize now that this appears to be the simplest aspect but NOT TRUE! If you wait until the night before leaving to pack, you will almost certainly pack too much, and worse, pack all the wrong things. Instead, we recommend that you start to conduct trial runs at packing at least two weeks before your departure. Also, adhere to the latest security restrictions enacted by the government for airline luggage and contents.

Some last thoughts on packing:

- 1) Please assume that your luggage is going to receive brutal treatment in the course of your travels and prepare accordingly. Carry on the airplane any fragile items, and if at all possible, attempt to carry your pack or other carry on luggage on the plane.

**Carry with you three days clothing in the event your check your luggage is lost.**

- 2) Do not take any kind of electrical appliance overseas with you. Other nations' electrical systems are markedly different from ours, and American products aren't compatible with them. Laptop computers may be OK (check the documentation with your computer).
- 3) Purchase everything you will need in the US. However, you can buy most film in Vietnam and can have it developed.
- 4) You are not always going to find prices overseas to be a bargain, especially technological items, and you may not find the quality of the products to your American tastes.

Furthermore, make sure that the clothes and shoes you take with you are either new, or in new condition, in order to spare yourself the pain and expense of replacing them should they wear out while you are overseas. The chances are good that you will not find the size you wear in Vietnam. However, having clothes made in Danang is very inexpensive. Most students find it better to bring little and have clothes made. Also, you want to look "good" in Danang or people will make fun of your grungy appearance or torn clothes.

**Finally, let us caution you a last time to pack as frugally as possible, and not to worry about having too little. Part of the beauty of this experience is realizing just how few things you really need in order to get by.**

**Carry any fragile or valuable items on the airplane. If at all possible, make sure your carry on luggage consists of one piece of luggage, like an other than large pack or carry on with wheels and handle. Pack in this carry on what you must secure, can't afford to lose, and must have.**

One final note:

Jeans and tee shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts etc., are common for students throughout the world, and can be your daily attire, but you should have at

least two dressier outfits. People in Vietnam may tend to dress more formally than Americans, and if you are invited into a Vietnamese home for dinner, the men will be expected to wear coat and tie, for example. You will also attend meetings. These usually require that you appear appropriate for a business meeting. Our students should avoid too short shorts, bare midriffs, etc. **MODESTY IS IMPORTANT. Torn and “grungy” clothes will result in most people making fun of you. Avoid these clothes.**

Your laundry will be done for you. However, bring items you can also wash yourself. Don't count on being able to dry clean your clothes at all. Don't bring electrical things; they might not work. The current is not the same outside the US. Current converters sometimes do the trick. Battery driven appliances are fine, and you can buy batteries in Danang and elsewhere during your Vietnam travel.

## **HINTS FROM FORMER STUDENTS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM FOLLOW:**

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### Hints for Packing

#### **The College at Brockport Vietnam Program**

##### **IMPORTANT THINGS TO BRING:**

- IMODIUM, OR A SIMILAR PRODUCT
- TYLENOL, OR A SIMILAR PRODUCT
- SUN SCREEN
- INSECT REPELLANT
- DAILY VITAMINS
- TUMS, OR A SIMILAR PRODUCT

- ANTI-MALARIAL DRUG
- BANDAIDS
- ANTISEPTIC
- ANTI-FUNGAL MEDICATION
- EMAIL ADDRESSES YOU NEED
- PRESCRIPTION SCRIPT FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THAT WILL BE BROUGHT IN PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES
- MODEST BATHING SUIT AND CLOTHES
- ONE OR TWO "DRESSY" OUTFITS
- BRING ENOUGH CLOTHES FOR ABOUT 8 OR 9 DAYS, AVOID GRUNGY CLOTHES (PEOPLE WILL MAKE FUN OF YOU – DON'T LOSE RESPECT)
- AN OUTFIT THAT MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A TEACHER FOR WHEN YOU TEACH
- ELECTRICAL CURRENT CONVERTER
- GIFT FOR EACH OF 6 STAFF – GREETING CARD IS OK – SOMETHING SMALL
- LOTS OF PICTURES OF HOME AND FAMILY
- BOOKS TO READ THAT ARE NOT WAR, POLITICS, ETC.
- ANY VIDEOS OF MOVIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE OR SHARE, MUST BE "SEALED"
- CDS AND CASSETTE TAPES
- A HAT
- CAMERA
- SPENDING MONEY IN US DOLLARS: CLEAN, UNMARKED, "NEW" CONDITION, LARGE DENOMINATIONS (WE WILL KEEP THIS IN A SAFE FOR YOU)
- FLASHLIGHT
- ANTISEPTIC WIPES
- A BAR OF SOAP
- A SWEATER
- NOTEBOOKS FOR COURSES
- PENCIL/PENS

**THINGS NOT TO BRING:**

- PHONE CARDS THAT WON'T WORK
- FILM, YOU CAN BUY IN DANANG
- BATTERIES, YOU CAN BUY IN DANANG
- TOO MANY TOILETERIES, YOU CAN BUY IN DANANG
- FOOD, YOU CAN BUY IN DANANG
- TOO MANY CLOTHES
- TOO MANY SHOES, BUT YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO BUY IN DANANG
- WHATEVER YOU KNOW IS NOT ESSENTIAL
- UNSEALED VIDEO TAPES
- BOOKS ABOUT THE WAR, POLITICS, OR ANYTHING POTENTIALLY OFFENSIVE
- SHORT SHORTS OR A TWO-PIECED BATHING SUIT (NO BIKINI!)
- CLOTHES THAT ARE "REVEALING". BE MODEST!
- FOOD

- US FLAGS

**Most of what you will need is available in Danang. Pack no more than is necessary. When in doubt, ask the Program Director. Remember that what you carry on your person or in your carry-on will be subject to the new security restrictions.**

**Place VERY visible colored tape on your check-in luggage in order that it will be easily retrievable when you land in HCMC, Hanoi, or Danang.**

**Remember that all check-in luggage might be lost.  
Therefore, all that you check-in must not be essential.  
This is important!**

## 10. THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

You will usually attend four classes of three hours duration each, Monday through Thursday. These will be held each morning at The College at Brockport Program house or at one or more of the three institutions of higher learning: Danang University, Duy Tan University, and the Danang School of Politics. These will be courses in the Vietnamese language, Vietnamese culture, the Vietnamese political system, and the history of Vietnam. Instruction will be in English or an interpreter will be in the class. **Class schedules sometimes change.**

Students are expected to stand when the instructor enters the room. They are to dress respectfully. No shorts are permitted, etc. In Vietnam, there is a high degree of respect for teachers. In Vietnam, do as the Vietnamese do.

Three afternoons (M-W) will be involved in Community Service placements. **Schedules sometimes change.** The evening activity may include one hour of service by students in assisting teaching conversational English to local persons in Danang. These persons all ready have a basic grasp of English. Your role is actually to discuss relevant topic (family, holidays, etc.) and to assist the local students to improve their American accent and their relationships with you and other Westerners. Aside from the service this provides, it will be an excellent opportunity to make friends in the community. Most of those you “teach” are local university students. Our program alumni have found that many of these relationships continue after completing the program.

Materials to assist in preparing for the classes and related activities are appended to this handbook. It is also recommended that you prepare by reading the information on the recommended web sites listed in the appended material. Your texts will be given to you after you arrive in Danang. The cost of these texts is included in your program fee. You need purchase no text books for your courses.

Additional information will be provided each student that will detail specific course content, course assignments, course objectives, and grading criteria. The Vietnamese instructors, the Program Administrator, and the Program Director will evaluate students’ work. The Vietnamese instructors will recommend a final grade for courses. The Program Director will decide on a final grade. Any student who wishes to receive a Pass/Fail rather than traditional letter grades must do so before enrolling in the program.

The College at Brockport Vietnam Program is an academic program. It is expected that every student will attend all classes and activities. Any student who refuses to attend classes or activities will be sent home (at their own expense). This, of course, does not mean that a

student who is ill and misses a class or activity will be sent home. It does mean that a student who just refuses to take a certain course or to engage community service activities is making the decision not to participate in the program.

The program students do not attend classes with Vietnamese students. Classes are arranged just for the Americans. Most are held at the program house. Staff provides translation/interpreting when necessary.

Community Service is the core of this academic program and provides the opportunity for students to integrate their course learning into service learning activities. You will have explained carefully appropriate behaviors in the various settings in which you will provide services to the poor during your orientation week upon arrival and before providing services.

A weekly Community Service Seminar is held throughout your participation. Please be sure to prepare for this Community Service course. You might search on the Internet for Agent Orange sites. You might read Lepers and Lunacy: An American in Vietnam Today by Kenneth J. Herrmann, Jr (see amazon.com or booksurge.com). You might ask for email addresses for program alumni from the Program Director. Community service activities depend on weather, agreements with relevant government agencies, various NGOs, available funding, and other factors. **Therefore, services and service sites may change without much notice.**

Students are evaluated by quizzes, assigned papers, a journal, and oral examinations.

Our students come from various colleges and universities across America. They represent many different academic major. Some are sophomores. Others may be juniors, seniors, or grad students. All take the same courses and curriculum. Some have academic commitments from their own home campus that require additional academic activities or commitments that will differ from other students in the program. These will be negotiated with the Program Director BEFORE the students arrive in Danang. In the past, Social Work, History, Communications, Anthropology and students from other academic majors have had to add additional academic responsibilities. The Program Director and the on-site Program Administrator have supported such additional academic responsibilities. All students, however, take the same five courses and complete the course specific tasks and products. Whatever additional work they must complete will be assisted in a reasonable manner at the discretion of the Program Director.

When the Program Director approves the students' final grades, these are forwarded to The College at Brockport Office of International Education for both the students' academic transcripts and forwarding to the students' home campuses.

**You are urged to read carefully the course syllabi that are provided on the study abroad The College at Brockport web site (as links) BEFORE you leave for Danang. Please print these and bring them with you. They are available on The College at Brockport Vietnam Program web site. They might change and will be updated on your arrival in Danang.**

## 11. HOUSING

The students will live in housing provided by the program. These quarters will be in Danang. The house will be partially air-conditioned. The bedrooms will have double or more occupancy. There will be adequate bedroom, kitchen, office, and recreational facilities. Vietnamese program staff will be available 24 hours each day.

The office is exclusively for the use of the staff.

Although Vietnam is a third world nation and living/housing standards differ markedly from the US, an effort will be made to provide as much comfort as possible. It might be useful to know that many students bring videos and books to donate to the program house library for future students.

The program rents vans for the convenience of students and staff to attend various events and to go on trips and activities. **Students will never be permitted to drive any motor vehicle in Vietnam.** When students go shopping or wish to travel locally, they walk or take taxi cabs.

## 12. HEALTH CARE

If you suffer from any allergies or are on some special medication, it is strongly recommended that you take the necessary medicines and prescriptions with you to Vietnam. If you wear glasses, it is a good idea to take an extra pair with you or, at least, the lens prescription. It is also a good idea to carry with you a small first aid kit for on-the-road use (this should include some first aid cream, Alka Seltzer, aspirin, a few band-aids, a roll of tape, Imodium, etc.).

The program staff will provide any referrals for necessary medical care in Vietnam. Physicians are readily available and have a close relationship with the Program. It is the program policy that any student with a fever **must see a physician**. Our program has an arrangement with a local medical clinic administered by Western physicians that provides modern medical care to our students and accepts all health insurance for future reimbursement to the student.

Students with allergies or other medical problems **MUST** inform the Program Director before they leave for Danang.

Students are advised to bring insect repellent and sunscreen.

## 13. DRUGS

The possession, use, or sales of controlled substances (including marijuana) are all criminal offenses in Vietnam. **Drug laws are more severe than in the United States and are rigorously enforced.** Use, possession, sale or being with others who do these things, may risk your spending the rest of your life in prison in Vietnam (or worse). You are urged to read and heed the information from the State Department contained in Appendix 1, “The Drug Problem: Americans Abroad.”

The authorities in Vietnam will closely observe you. *Avoid any use of drugs or association with those you suspect of using drugs.* ALL STUDENTS USING OR ASSOCIATED WITH ANY ILLEGAL DRUGS WILL BE SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY. ANY STUDENT ABUSING LEGAL DRUGS WILL BE TREATED THE SAME.

Not all drugs are illegal. You may bring prescription drugs you need for medical reasons. You must also bring a valid prescription from your physician. This will help avoid any possible misunderstanding at Customs. Keep the medicine in the prescription container, too.

## 14. PROGRAM POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Generally, misconduct abroad is defined as any situation in which the student jeopardizes the welfare of her/himself, her/his fellow students, or the program; or openly flouts the customs or manners or mores of the community in which s/he is living. **The Program Director reserves the right to terminate a student's participation at any time if s/he feels there is sound evidence of misconduct. The student is responsible in such cases for all expenses incurred in her/his return to the United States.**

**The students should be aware that Vietnam has its own political, social, and cultural standards. You are also a participant in the first US program of its kind in Vietnam. Courtesy, respect, and patience are expected of each student.**

Vietnam has laws that may seem unusual for US students. You are cautioned not to bring books or other reading material that might be considered subversive by the authorities, ex. books or articles about the war, anti-Communist literature, etc. Avoid political demonstrations if they occur (they probably won't). You may attend religious services or church, but you may NOT attempt to convert people to a particular religion or religious belief. This is illegal. Avoid disagreeing with course instructors. **You are there to learn and experience an adventure, not to change or challenge a country's politics or a country's way of life.** Leave at home audio taped music or music CDs that may contain lyrics considered offensive to the authorities in Vietnam. When in doubt about what to bring, discuss this with the Program Director before packing for the trip. There are restrictions for our students in Danang that are not readily observable for tourists and other travelers. These restrictions (like the curfew and travel restrictions) are part of our legal contract for the program in Vietnam. Students must observe these carefully.

The curfew for students is currently at 11:00 PM. This is set by the local authorities. They do this because they are responsible for the safety of the American students. It is to be carefully observed by all students. There isn't much to do in Danang after 11:00 PM any way.

The daily schedule is posted each week for all students' information. Breakfast is usually at 7:00 AM, lunch at 11:30 AM, and dinner at 5:30 PM. There is a break from 12 to 2 PM each day. Changes to this daily routine are also posted, and students are notified. Students are expected to eat all meals with the group, but exceptions may be made after consulting with the staff. You will receive a complete daily schedule for the 18 weeks you will be in Danang. This and other helpful advice will be sent you before you leave by the Program Administrator in Danang. NOTE: This schedule is subject to change.

## 15. FINAL NOTES

### *THE FOLLOWING IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. READ VERY CAREFULLY.*

- A. Participation in the program provides a rare opportunity for American students to begin to know a society other than their own from within. But it involves certain responsibilities. The most obvious one is to adapt one's behavior to the customs and expectations of the host country. This is not to deny one's own culture but to respect that of others. Another, even subtler, responsibility Americans abroad have is to remain open in order to become aware of similarities and differences, to learn rather than to judge. This can be the most rewarding experience in a student's educational career. What is exciting and at the same time frightening, is that so much depends on the students themselves.
- B. Attitudes come in a wide variety of sources, ranging from broad and pervasive cultural attitudes to the most specific and personal attitudes. Because of the scope of this subject, it is probably the most difficult to discuss. However, because the attitudes you take with you to Vietnam and those you form once there will have such a great effect upon your perception of the Vietnamese people and their ways, we feel it is very important to make you aware of the role attitudes play in your overseas experience.

Normally, attitudes exist on a more or less subconscious level. When faced with a new situation, most people will recognize their reaction to it, but not necessarily the underlying attitude responsible for that particular reaction. This makes sense in terms of mental activity since we cannot forever analyze the entire structure and scope of our beliefs.

When we deal with people who share the same basic cultural attitudes as ourselves, the system works well: the differences in attitude between two Americans, broadly speaking, are far more likely to be of the specific and personal kind than the cultural kind. When we interact with people of different nationalities, however, the problem arises. Communications break down because their cultural attitudes are fundamentally different from ours, and the results are often feelings of confusion and hostility on both sides. But there is a real world out there—beyond the books you read, beyond the US college life. That is the world you will be living in while you are in Vietnam--the Vietnamese world, where people have to work and make their living but who would so much like to have you like their ways, their country, and their town. Don't Americans like to have people admire their way of living? Oddly, the Vietnamese are the same, and to get along with them we have to be a bit indulgent of what you might see as human weakness. It is not. It is just difference. That is what you going to experience.

This situation has come to be referred to by the euphemism “culture shock,” but we feel that this is a highly misleading term. One tends to get the impression that “culture shock” is some kind of disease that everyone routinely catches and after a certain length of time, recovers from, but nothing could be further from the truth. There are people who go overseas and never recover from this condition, despite the length of their stay. This is because “culture shock” is actually caused by the aforementioned mismatch of cultural attitudes, not by some virus, as sometimes seems to be implied. And it’s easily seen that the traveler who doesn’t maintain an open mind, and doesn’t invest any effort trying to understand a foreign culture, is always going to be in a state of shock. Such people had best stay at home, for if they rigidly hold onto their American attitudes, they will not in reality have actually ever left!

*Finally, we urge you to keep these thoughts in mind when you leave for Vietnam: Vietnamese culture and their political system are different from ours for some very good reasons, regardless of whether they are immediately visible to you or not. Moreover, it is for precisely this reason, to study the differences between the two cultures and nations, that you are going abroad. So, go there with an open mind, be prepared to change, and make the most of this experience! This will be the greatest experience of your life.*









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## Program Students' Contacts

Susan L. Herrmann, Program Director

Email: [shermann@email.fielding.edu](mailto:shermann@email.fielding.edu)

Telephone: 315-246-8481

The College at Brockport Vietnam Program – Program House in Danang  
(Program Administrator is Ms. Nguyen Thi My Hoa)

Phone: 85-511-365-2402

Cell phone: 84-903-599-427

Email: [cththndn@dng.vnn.vn](mailto:cththndn@dng.vnn.vn) Address: 38 Van Cao, Thanh Khe District, Danang, Vietnam

Ms. Lindsay Lau Assistant Director, International Education

Office: 585-395-2119

Fax: 585-637-3218

Email: [llau@brockport.edu](mailto:llau@brockport.edu)

**You may receive phone calls at the Program House (see phone numbers for the program in Danang above). Your day begins at 7:00 AM. Phone calls from family and friends should be received BEFORE the day begins. If you are in class or a program activity when someone calls, you will not be able to take the call. It is advised that you provide the daily schedule you receive before you leave for Vietnam with those who might call you while you are there. Also, you will be**

able to send and receive emails while you are in Danang. Make sure those who want to contact you by email have the email address you will use there. Usually which ever email address you use in the USA will work in Vietnam, too.

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# VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE

Anything you can do to learn some Vietnamese will be helpful but not necessary. Amazon.com has several dictionaries and language tape services.

The Internet has a free audio program with basic words and phrases. This is free. Try [www.travlang.com](http://www.travlang.com). This page has a variety of other useful links.

While you struggle with basic vocabulary, keep in mind that the tone of words and where you place the accent often determine meanings in Vietnamese. You will have intensive language instruction during your studies in Danang. Know how to say “hello” and “thank you” before you leave.

Once you master a few words, please don't be shy about trying them out with the local Vietnamese. When your pronunciation is wrong, they will voluntarily help you. Mutual laughter over your mistakes helps build relationships. Your effort will really make a difference in being accepted. **By the way, it is culturally IMPORTANT that you NEVER make fun of others.**

Many people in Vietnam know English to some degree. Many study English in school. They will know more English than you know Vietnamese. The Program provides staff who speak English, and they will interpret. However, there will be some occasions when knowing a few Vietnamese words and phrases will be invaluable and APPRECIATED by those you come to know.



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## WORDS & PHRASES

Hello	Chao ong (ba); <i>ong</i> is saying hello to men; <i>ba</i> for women. If you are greeting a child use <i>chau</i> , a young man use <i>anh</i> , a young woman use <i>co</i> .
How are you?	Ong (ba) co khoe khong?
Fine, thanks.	Cam on rat tot.
My name is...	Ten toi la...
I don't understand.	Toi khong hieu.
Telephone	dien thoai
Goodbye	Tam biet
I am sorry	Xin loi
Excuse me	Xin loi
I don't like	Toi khong thich
I'm hungry	Toi doi
How much is...?	Bao nhieu...?
What is your name?	Ten ong (ba) la gi?
Where is the toilet?	Nha ve sinh o dau?
Do you speak English?	Ong/ba biet noi tieng Anh khong?
Yes	Da; vung
No	Khong
Please	Lam on
Can you help me?	Ong/ba co the giup toi khong?
Where is the....?	....o dau?

## **OVERVIEW:**

**(Provided by the Embassy of Vietnam)**

**Official Name:** The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**Capital City:** Ha Noi

**Area:** 128,000 square miles

**Population:** 80.7 million

- [Geography](#)
- [Natural Conditions](#)
- [Natural Resources](#)
- [Ethnic Groups](#)
- [History](#)
- [Government](#)
- [Foreign Affairs](#)
- [Economy](#)
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### **Geography**

Viet Nam is near the center of Southeast Asia, bordered by China in the north, Laos and Cambodia in the west, and by the Pacific Ocean in the east and south. Viet Nam forms an S shape over 1000 miles long, with a 1,400 mile coastline. The widest part (380 miles) is in the north and the center of the country is quite narrow, only 39 miles at Quang Binh province. The Paracel (Hoang Sa) and Spratley (Truong Sa) archipelagos lie to the east of Viet Nam in the Eastern Sea.

### **Natural Conditions**

Viet Nam enjoys a wide variety of natural beauty, from pristine beaches all along the coast to stunning mountains in the central and northern provinces. Viet Nam's sea waters are warm all year and provide abundant seafood, one of Viet Nam's major exports. The highest mountain peak is 10,300-foot Phan Si Pan in Lao Cai Province. About 1/3 of the land area is covered by lush tropical forests or mangrove swamps and about 22% of the

land area is under cultivation. Thousands of streams and small rivers flow from the mountains to join the Red River in the north or the Mekong River in the south. These rivers have produced vast fertile deltas that are among the most productive rice-growing regions in the world.

Viet Nam has a tropical monsoonal climate that yields hot weather all year long in the south, while the northern part of the country has a hot season during the summer and a cool season from October to March. In Ha Noi, the temperature may fall as low as 40<sup>0</sup>F during January and February, and usually reaches highs of 90 - 100<sup>0</sup>F during June and July. In Ho Chi Minh City the temperature range is much less, ranging from about 80<sup>0</sup>F - 95<sup>0</sup>F throughout the year.

## **Natural Resources**

Viet Nam's forests contain more than 12,000 species of vegetation, including over 1,500 pharmaceutical herbs and many species of precious woods. Animal life is extraordinarily varied, with over 1,000 bird species, 300 mammal species, 300 reptile species, and thousands of insect species. Rare animals include the recently-discovered deer (Sao La), rhinoceros, and tigers. Viet Nam's sea waters support abundant and highly diversified animal and plant life, as well, with nearly 7,000 identified animal species and over 650 species of plants.

Viet Nam's mineral resources include coal, oil, natural gas, iron, and a variety of other metals. Fresh water in Viet Nam is abundant.

## **Ethnic Groups**

Viet Nam is home to 54 ethnic groups. The Kinh, or Viet, account for 90% of the population. Each ethnic group has its own cultural identity, evident in its food and dress, music, musical instruments, social relations, customs and traditions. Of special interest are weddings, funerals, and traditional and religious festivals. Each group has its own spoken language and some have written languages. Beyond their particular ethnic identities, these groups blend to form the identity of the Vietnamese people, which is characterized by patriotism, a strong sense of community, integrated religious beliefs, and open-mindedness.

## **History**

Archaeologists have found traces of human habitation in Viet Nam dating back over 500,000 years. About 4,000 years ago, civilized tribes living in what is now northern Viet Nam began to migrate from the mountains and to settle in the Red River Delta. Eventually they formed the glorious Van Lang - Au Lac Kingdom, ancestor of modern Viet Nam.

From 179 BC until 905 AD Viet Nam was dominated by various Chinese dynasties. The successful uprising led by Khuc Thua Dzu in 905 AD ended this rule and ushered in an era of national independence, sovereignty, and development for the Vietnamese people. During the next ten centuries, Viet Nam advanced by the accomplishments of many dynasties: Ngo (938 - 967); Dinh and early Le (968 - 1009), Ly (1009 - 1225), Tran (1226 - 1400), Ho (1400 - 1407), later Tran (1407 - 1414), later Le (1428 - 1788), Tay Son (1788 - 1802), and Nguyen (1802 - 1945). From the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the French colonized and exploited Viet Nam and her people. From 1941, the Japanese gradually overthrew the French and occupied Viet Nam. Vietnamese patriots then fought side-by-side with allied armies against the Japanese aggressors.

In August 1945, under the leadership of the great patriot Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese seized the government from the Japanese and abolished the old feudalist regime. On September 2, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh read the Declaration of Independence, solemnly proclaiming the birth of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first-ever people's democratic state in Southeast Asia. The French colonialists then returned, with a view to reimposing their rule on Viet Nam. The Vietnamese people carried out a nine-year resistance which culminated in the historic victory of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, after which France signed the Geneva Agreement and recognized Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity. According to the Agreement, Viet Nam was temporarily divided into two parts and would be re-unified upon the conclusion of general elections in 1956. However, the US intervention and aggression prevented the re-unification of Viet Nam. The Vietnamese people were again forced to conduct a 20-year war of resistance and national salvation, this time against the US. In 1975, Vietnam was entirely liberated from foreign rule. On July 2, 1976, Viet Nam was officially reunified and officially became the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The State of Viet Nam is one of the people, by the people, and for the people under the leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam.

## **Government**

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam comprises 61 provinces and cities under the central government. According to the 1992 Constitution, the National Assembly is the highest legislative body of the state. The head of state is the President; the head of the government is the Prime Minister.

## **Foreign Affairs**

Viet Nam is a member of the following international organizations:

The United Nations

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The Forum of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)

The French-language using countries (Francophone)

Viet Nam maintains diplomatic relations with 166 nations, enjoying normal relations with all superpowers and top political and economic centers in the world and having economic and trade relations with over 120 countries and territories. Prompted by the interests of each country and of peace, stability, and development in the region, Viet Nam and the United States of America have enjoyed normalized relations since 1995 and are joining efforts to build a new relationship based on equality and mutual respect.

## **Economy**

Viet Nam has a multi-sector market-oriented economy in which the state assumes a leading role. Since economic reforms were initiated in 1986, Viet Nam has achieved remarkable economic growth, particularly in agriculture, industry, communication and transport, finance, banking, trade, and investment. The success of the economic reforms has been highly evident in the dramatic improvement in people's daily lives. Step by step, the Vietnamese economy is becoming integrated with the Asian Pacific Region and the world.

## **Tourism**

All year round, Viet Nam is a wonderful tourist destination. Ha Long Bay is recognized by UNESCO as one of the natural wonders of the world, with over 3,000 dramatic and magical islands set in pristine water. Phong Nha Cave is one of the largest and most beautiful caves in the world. Viet Nam has many cool mountain villages including Tam Dao, Sa Pa, Da Lat. Clean and unspoiled beaches can be found in Tra Co, Bai Chay, Do Son, Sam Son, Cua Lo, Lang Co, Non

Nuoc, Nha Trang, and Vung Tau. There are hundreds of historical and cultural sites including the Hung Temple, Co Loa, the Temple of Literature in Ha Noi, My Son Sanctuary, the ancient city of Hoi An, and the Citadel at Hue. Thousands of pagodas, temples, and churches can be found throughout the country. Vietnamese cities and villages take pride in their architectural jewels of traditional and colonial design. Finally, it is very interesting to observe the distinctive traditions of the various ethnic groups that comprise our wonderful country.



## Cautions.....

The Vietnamese government will approve your staying in their country to study and provide service. You are expected to travel in Vietnam only to certain approved places with approved permits (the Program will take care of this).

While you are in Danang, you will live in the Program House. It is not recommended that you accept any invitation to spend the night in any other home (unless it is an approved Program activity). Your permit only allows you to stay in Program housing. If the Program Administrator arranges an overnight trip, that is OK. Don't make your own arrangements with your new friends in Vietnam.

The Program provides a secure safe for your valuables. Keep a copy of your passport with you at all times. Keep the original in the Program safe. Don't carry any more money than you can afford to lose.

Use suntan protection. You will notice most Vietnamese protect themselves from the sun.

**Wear no shorts to seminars and classes. Look at the Vietnamese university students for what they wear. That's how we all learn to dress appropriately. Some of the pictures in this handbook will provide examples.**

Remember you are being watched in Vietnam. No need to feel paranoia. It is for your safety. That's just the way it is. The staff and authorities do all they can to assure your safety. Behave in a manner that will develop trust and an excellent image for the Program. Then, you will be treated with respect. This will result in your having an excellent experience without any hassle at all.

Avoid the use of perfume or cologne. You will attract fewer mosquitoes that way.

When outside the city and in the mountains, stay on the roads and trails. It's easy to get lost when you are not familiar with jungles.

Let others drive you from place to place. Avoid the very real temptation to rent a motorbike. You may NOT. The Program does provide bicycles, however.

There may be an occasional negative remark (but very rare) about your nation's destructive behavior during the "American War". You are a guest in Vietnam. It would be insulting to argue about such comments. You have an opportunity to

improve our image, especially among the 75% of the Vietnamese people who were born after the end of the war in 1975. Try building bridges of friendship between our two nations.

## ODDS AND ENDS

### DUTY-FREE, TOBACCO, AND ALCOHOL

You may import 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, or 250g of tobacco. You may import 1 liter of wine, 1 liter of liquor, and an unlimited amount of film. However, only the film will be of interest to you. Smoking and alcohol consumption by students younger than 21 is prohibited by the Program. Any abuse of alcoholic beverages may result in a rapid return to the USA. Smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages in the Program House are prohibited.

### LUNAR NEW YEAR OR TET

The lunar New Year or Tet is celebrated in January or February each year. The week before you will find the country begins to celebrate. The Tet holiday is similar to New Year, Christmas, and all similar holidays rolled into one. You may be invited to celebrate with local families. Accept the invitations after obtaining approval from the Program Administrator. It will be a wonderful experience. Otherwise, stay off the streets. The consumption of alcohol by some of the locals during the holiday suggests caution.

### SHOPPING

The stores and shops are open from 8 AM until about 5 PM (generally speaking). Feel free **politely** to negotiate the costs of what you want to buy. Almost all stores offer prices. Politely disagree and offer a lower amount of money. You will always pay less this way.

### INTERACTION

Always ask permission before taking photos of people. The same rule applies to places of worship. Permission will almost always be granted.

Be firm yet very diplomatic when dealing with officials who will often appear rigid. Patience is the best policy. Politeness is always useful and expected. **Others will interpret displays of anger as your immaturity. It's easy to lose respect for this. CONTROL YOUR TEMPER.**

A gentle handshake is the most appropriate manner of greeting. **Wait for the other person to extend their hand. If they do not, don't offer to shake their hand.** A slight bow of the head is courteous.

Avoid asking intrusive, personal questions of others.

Smiling is welcome. Laughing may be misunderstood as making fun of others. This making fun of others is unacceptable. Making fun of yourself is OK.

If your legs are crossed when sitting, don't extend a leg so that the bottom of your foot faces another person. This insults the other person. Crossing your arms across your chest or holding your hands on your hips when talking to another person is seen as a pompous show of authority. Avoid this.

## HELP AND CONTACTS

If you have a crisis, call the Program Administrator (Ms. Nguyen Thi My Hoa) at the phone numbers you are provided upon arrival. You may always call the Program Director at 585-762-8882 (his home). You may also contact the Program's government partner organization: The Danang City Union of Friendship Organizations, 84.511.821378. They are located at 522 Ong Ich Khiem, Hai Chau District, Danang. Don't call the Union unless it is truly an emergency and the Administrator or the Program Director is unable to be contacted. This should never be the case. However, the Union is always a back up.





**VIEW FROM THE PROGRAM HOUSE IN DANANG.**



## **YOUR PROGRAM HOUSE IN DANANG**



**THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT PROGRAM STAFF IN DANANG.**



**Program classroom.**

# THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT VIETNAM PROGRAM

## STUDENT CONDUCT

The following are regulations affecting your conduct while in Vietnam:

- Students must not take part in political activities (law)
- Students may not go out alone at night (Program regulation)
- Students may not go to bars at night and may not get drunk or use any illegal drugs (both)
- Students may not consume alcoholic beverages in the Program House
- Students may not smoke in the Program House, except in their own rooms
- Students must not wear shorts or singlets ( undershirts, athletic shirts) at school, during community service, or in similar activities in public (regulation)
- Students must not drive any motor vehicle (regulation)
- Students must comply with all laws and regulations in Vietnam (law)
- Students must attend all Program classes and other scheduled activities (regulation)
- Students must comply with all Program regulations (regulation and immigration agreement)

- **Students must behave in a manner congruent with respect and courtesy in Vietnam (regulation)**

Penalties for violating laws, rules, or regulations will be fines, imprisonment, or deportation. Your USA citizenship will NOT protect you from fines or imprisonment for violating Vietnamese laws (same in all countries). You may be sent home at your own expense for breaking these regulations.



## **CHECK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**<http://www.brockportabroad.com/programs/vietnam/index.html>**

**or**

**Call**

**585-395-2119**