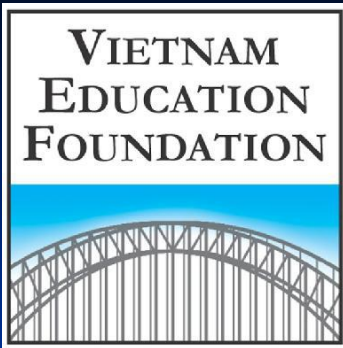


*The Vietnam Education Foundation*  
**A U.S. Government Educational Program  
in Vietnam**

Phuong Nguyen, Ph.D.  
VEF Country Director

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Introduction about the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF)**
- **VEF Programs**
  - **Fellowship Program**
    - + Process A
    - + Process B
  - **Visiting Scholar Program**
  - **US Faculty Scholar Program**



# WHAT IS VEF?

- Created by an act of Congress in December 2000.
- Purpose:
  - To build closer relationships between the U.S. and Vietnam
  - To help Vietnam build excellence in science and technology through educational exchange
- Fixed funding: US\$5 million per year until 2018
- Supported fields: science, technology, engineering, mathematics, & medicine

# VEF PROGRAMS

## 1. Fellowships (for Vietnamese)

- Graduate degrees at leading U.S. universities
- 378 to date; up to 45 new Fellows per year

## 2. Visiting Scholar grants (for Vietnamese)

- Postdoctoral training, research, and study up to one year at a U.S. institution
- 32 to date; up to 3 new Visiting Scholars per year

## 3. U.S. Faculty Scholar grants (for Americans)

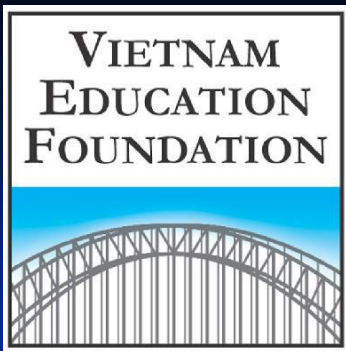
- U.S. professors teaching at VN institutions on-site or via videoconferencing
- 17 to date; up to 5 new USFS grants per year



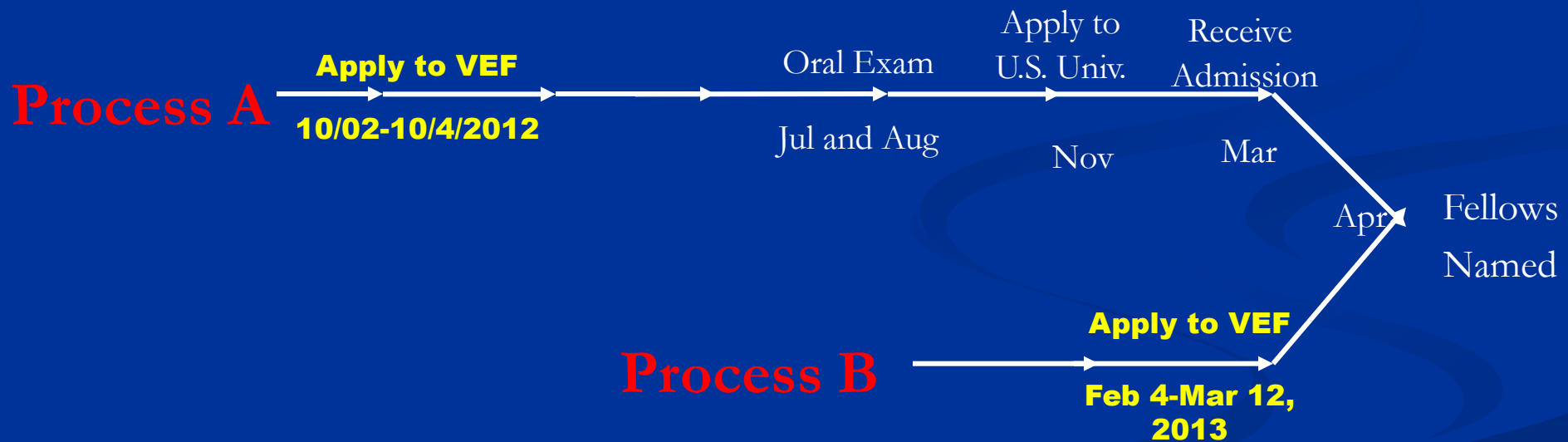
# **VEF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

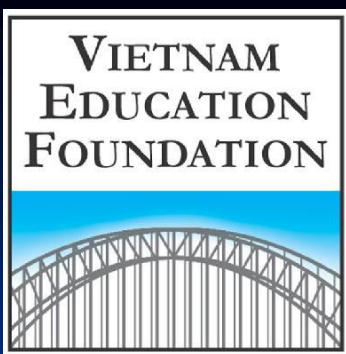
# VEF SUPPORTED FIELDS

- **Natural/Basic Sciences:** Maths, physics, biology, chemistry, computer science, environmental science, agricultural science, etc.
- **Technology, Engineering:** Electrical engineering, telecommunication, IT, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, aviation, industrial engineering, biomedical engineering, etc.
- **Medicine:** Public health, epidemiology, immunology, etc.



# Fellowship Program





## Process A: Who can apply?

- Vietnamese by citizenship
- College graduate/College juniors/Seniors
- GPA from college of at least 7.0/10.0 or 6.5/10.0 having a Master's degree with GPA of at least 7.0/10.0
- English Language Proficiency:
  - TOEFL  $\geq$  500 PBT (173 CBT or 61 iBT)
  - IELTS  $\geq$  6.5
  - Degree from an English-speaking country
- GRE General Test: Combined score (verbal and quantitative) of at least 1,000 (290 for new GRE test since Aug 1, 2011)

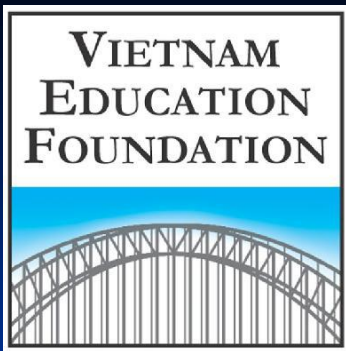


# **Process A: APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

**Applications will be available ONLY online**

Online application from 10:00 a.m., February 10 to 8:00 a.m., April 10 annually (Vietnam time zone)

- **Round 1: Qualification Screening**
- **Round 2: Oral Exam/Interview**
- **Round 3: Admission to a U.S. university**



## Process B: Who can apply?

- Vietnamese by citizenship
- College graduate
- GPA from college of at least 7.0/10.0 or 6.5/10.0 having a Master's degree with GPA of at least 7.0/10.0
- **Gained official graduate admission** to a VEF Alliance school or to a leading U.S. graduate school that accepts VEF's financial support terms

# **Process B: APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

Online application: early Feb – early Mar

- **Round 1: Qualification Screening**
- **Round 2: Interview by phone in every March**

# VEF Financial Terms

## ➤ Fellowship Grant to the University:

- US\$ 27,000/yr for the first 2 years for Master's and Ph.D. degrees
- Supplementary support from US institution to cover additional costs, if any, for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years, as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> year and onward

## ➤ Professional Development Grant to the Fellows:

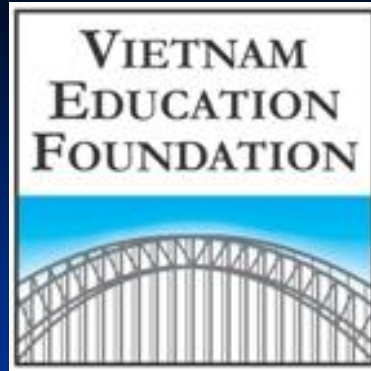
- US\$1,000/yr (\$2,000 for Master's degree & \$5,000 for PhD degree)

## ➤ Other Support:

- University application (TOEFL & GRE test score report fees, GRE subject test, application fee)
- Visa for the U.S.
- Health check-up and immunizations
- Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO)
- A round-trip economy air ticket
- Settling-in allowance US\$ 500

# IMPORTANT!

- The final decision on VEF Fellowship awards will be made by the VEF Board of Directors in April Board Meeting each year.
- The candidates will become VEF Fellows



# VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM (VSP)

# OBJECTIVES

- Support professional development training, which may include studies, research, and/or observational activities, to take place in cooperation with a leading U.S. academic institution
- Duration: 5-12 months

# Who can apply?

- Vietnamese citizens
- Ph.D. holder in a VEF supported field: science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine
- A high level of English proficiency



# APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Online application for Cohort 2012: from 10:00 a.m., **December 5, 2011** to 10:00 a.m., **February 10, 2012** (Vietnam time zone)

- **Round 1: Qualification Screening**
- **Round 2: Interview by phone in mid-March**
- **Final decision by VEF Board of Directors: April**

# APPLICATION PROCEDURES



For 2013 COHORT (Academic Year 2013-2014)

## **ATTENTION:**

VEF is moving the announcement and application deadlines for the 2013 cohort earlier

- **2013 Program announcement: Feb 13, 2012**
- **Online application: Mar 10-May 2, 2012**
- **Personal interviews in Vietnam: early August 2012**

# SELECTION CRITERIA

- Evidence of superior academic achievement as a scholar in Vietnam
- Quality of the Visiting Scholar professional development plan
- Commitment to return to Vietnam to contribute to the educational and scientific development of the country
- Support from the U.S. host institution
- Support from the Vietnamese institution
- Likelihood of continuing collaboration with the U.S. host institution

# VEF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Health check-up and immunizations.
- Medical insurance for the whole program in the United States
- Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO)
- Air ticket (round trip)
- Settling-in allowance: US\$ 500
- Monthly stipend: US\$ 2,300 stipend per month
- Professional Development Grant: US\$ 300 per month.

# OTHER SUPPORT

- Visa Sponsorship (J-1 visa sponsor for the Visiting Scholar and the J-2 visa sponsor for the Visiting Scholar's dependents)
- VEF network
- VEF Annual Conference

# What to prepare for the VSP application?

- A clear and concise professional development plan
- Training of Trainers (TOT) plan
- Commitment from U.S. host university
- Support letter from Vietnamese institution



# U.S. FACULTY SCHOLAR PROGRAM (USFS)

# U.S. FACULTY SCHOLAR PROGRAM

- Duration: 1 – 2 terms
- Financial Support:
  - ✓ US\$55,000 /grant
- Models of Teaching: On site in Vietnam or by video-conferencing from the U.S.
  - USFS conducting videoconferencing teaching: come to Vietnam for 1 week at the beginning and 1 week at the end of the teaching program



# Who can apply?

- U.S. citizen
- Academic position of Associate Professor, Professor or Emeritus in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and medicine
- Invitation from the Vietnamese host institution

# APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Online application from December 5, 2011 to February 10, 2012 (U.S. time zone)

- **Round 1: Qualification Screening**
- **Round 2: Interview by phone in March**

# APPLICATION PROCEDURES



## **ATTENTION:**

VEF is moving the application deadlines earlier for the 2013 program

- **2013 program announcement: Mid-Feb 2012**
- **Online application: Jun 6-Aug 31, 2012**

# SUMMARY OF U.S. FACULTY SCHOLARS

- Academic Year (AY) 2008-2009: 4 grants
- AY 2009-2010: 2 grants (3 professors)
- AY 2010-2011: 05 grants
- AY 2011-2012: 05 grants

# Helpful information

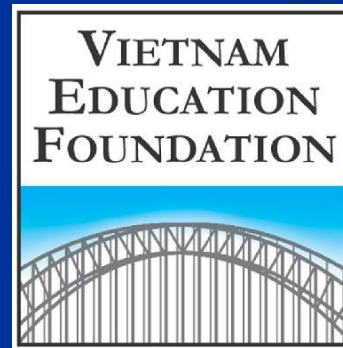
- USGuide
- VietPhD
- VietAbroad
- [www.testmagic.com](http://www.testmagic.com)
- [www.ivce.org](http://www.ivce.org)
- EducationUSA
- [www.nhatnghe.com](http://www.nhatnghe.com) (GRE Computer Based Test on Wednesdays and Thursdays)  
*TRONG MANH NGUYEN*  
*Manager (Testing & Certification)*  
*NHAT NGHE EDUCATION JSC*  
*49 Hoang Van Thu Street, Phu Nhuan District, Ho Chi Minh City*  
*84 8 3 9955667*  
*84 933 542 055*

**Are you in STEM and  
medicine field?**

**Are you thinking of  
AMERICAN  
EDUCATIONAL  
EXCHANGE?**

**Are you looking for  
SCHOLARSHIP?**

**Go to  
[www.vef.gov](http://www.vef.gov)**



# Formula for Success

“Ch”s

- Chuẩn bị
- Chăm chỉ
- Chủ động
- Chiến lược

## CHIẾN THẮNG

# ***Thank you!***

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**www.vef.gov**

- Fellowship Program: [fellowship@vef.gov](mailto:fellowship@vef.gov)
- Visiting Scholar Program: [vs@vef.gov](mailto:vs@vef.gov)
- U.S. Faculty Scholar Program: [usfs@vef.gov](mailto:usfs@vef.gov)