



Ambasáid na hÉireann | Vítneam  
Embassy of Ireland | Vietnam  
Đại sứ quán Ireland | Việt Nam

## Background note

### Fund for Ireland Vietnam Alumni and Academics (FIVAA)

#### 1. Background

Since 2007, to strengthen the capacity of central government, research agencies and the private sector the Embassy of Ireland has been providing scholarships to talented Vietnamese to undertake master study in Ireland. The scholarship programmes offers high quality education opportunities to talented Vietnamese citizens resident in Vietnam who would otherwise be unable to access overseas postgraduate opportunities and who are committed upon return to Vietnam to put their acquired skills to use for the benefit of their country.

Over 270 Vietnamese citizens have been awarded scholarships to pursue master courses in Ireland under the Irish Government's scholarship programme to Vietnam.

In March 2012, a Vietnam-Ireland Alumni Network was set up to connect and create a network of people who have studied in Ireland, to assist current and prospective students in Ireland, to strengthen the relationship between Vietnam and Ireland, to share experience, ideas and opportunities, to promote Irish education and provide information about educational opportunities as well as to link business between Ireland and Vietnam. The network has currently over 200 members; alumni of Irish government scholarship programme, alumni who went to study in Ireland under ESBI (Electricity Supply Board International Ireland) grants in the 1990s and self-financed students.

Alumni actively participate in the Embassy's promotion activities such as Ireland Day to showcase Ireland and Irish education, pre-departure meetings to share experiences of living and studying in Ireland, information event and education fairs. Alumni are also connected with IBAV (Irish Business Association Vietnam) in order to promote trade links between the two countries.

In 2016, the Embassy launched the Vietnam Ireland Bilateral Education Exchange (VIBE) programme under the Irish Development Experience Sharing Programme (IDEAS) with the aim to encourage and deepen third-level education linkages, build capacity research collaboration between Irish and Vietnamese education and research institutions. Since 2016, hundreds of academics/students have received short training and done internship in Ireland and undertook exchange visits to Ireland to share experience with Irish universities on new teaching method, develop joint research, build new curriculum for new academic programme etc. . In 2019, a VIBE community was established at the Vietnam National University Hanoi (VNU) and the first cultural event was organised by VNU Hanoi VIBE community at the end of 2019.

It is the Embassy's intention to continue to engage with and actively support alumni/VIBE academics as a way to further strengthening bilateral relationships between the two countries. The Embassy is now launching a **Fund for Ireland Vietnam Alumni and Academics (FIVAA)**.

## **2. Objective of Fund for Ireland Vietnam Alumni and Academics (FIVAA)**

The Fund for Ireland Vietnam Alumni and Academics (FIVAA) aims to support alumni and Vibe academics to contribute to the work of the Embassy' to further strengthening bilateral relations between Ireland and Vietnam, promoting Ireland including trade and education in Ireland and strengthening the Alumni and Academics network.

A maximum of five grants up to 2,000 euro/per grant will be awarded in year one.

## **3. Project themes**

- Promotion of Ireland: country, people, culture, sport, education
- Promoting trade links: engage with Irish Business Association Vietnam (IBAV) activities and other activities to promote trade
- Strengthening of Alumni and Academics network: get together, talk, alumni gala, workshop
- Community initiatives around environment, climate change action

## **4. Eligible applicant**

FIVAA's applications should be submitted by at least two alumni with one Irish Government Scholarship fellow (either fellows of Irish Development Experience and Sharing Scholarship programme - IDEAS or fellows of Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme) and/or 2 VIBE academics. The team members should be Vietnamese.

## **5. FIVAA funding/ eligibility**

In general, eligible activities will be those listed in Section 3 above. UN-EU cost norms for development projects in Vietnam will be applied. Specific expenditure eligible will include additional project-specific travel, subsistence, and translation costs. Time of alumni and or VIBE academics will not be reimbursable.

The allocation of funding between the alumni/VIBE academics and other partners if any is a matter for those partners.

## **6. Timeline, Award, Contract**

The timeline is as follows:

- Deadline for submission of concept note: 27<sup>th</sup> March
- Notification of final results: 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Commencement of project: from May 2020
- Completion of projects: December 2020

Selection criteria will be:

- A clear and practical plan and activities
- Feasibility of the project

- Clear milestones, planned outputs

Appraisal and selection will be done by the Embassy of Ireland Hanoi. A small internal selection committee will be established for this purpose.

An agreement will be signed by the Embassy and the successful applicant on selection.

### **7. Submission of concept note**

Concept note must be submitted in English, by the Alumni/VIBE academics applicants to the Irish Embassy Hanoi by 12:00 hrs. local time on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Concept note should not exceed 04 A4 pages, excluding Annexes.

Concept note should be emailed by no later than the deadline above to:

**Ms. Nguyen Khanh Duyen**

Trade and Promotion officer

Embassy of Ireland

Floor 2

41 A Ly Thai To Street

Hanoi, Vietnam

Tel: +84-24-3974-3291

Email: [duyen.nguyen@dfanet.ie](mailto:duyen.nguyen@dfanet.ie)

### **8. Forms**

Concept note template