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# Vietnam

## Study Abroad Semester at FTU in Hanoi

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## Motivation

Seizing the opportunity to go abroad and experience a totally different culture during my studies was something I knew I didn't want to pass. From my perspective, the intercultural skills you gain while studying abroad and educating yourself about different cultures are a vital experience for future success in our globalized world. I already fell in love with Asia on my holidays and decided that I wanted to spend some more time over there. Luckily, our university has some contacts in Vietnam, so I chose to spend my second semester abroad in Hanoi.



## Visa

When I got accepted at the Foreign Trade University in Hanoi, their International Office contacted me to offer me all kinds of information. They organized a 6 month valid student visa for Vietnam (multiple entries!) that I got at the airport. There, I needed to show some documents from the Vietnamese university and had to pay ( I don't remember well but I think it was around 100\$). Because we got a multiple entry visa, we could easily travel during holiday which was totally worth it.

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## Apartment

The International Office of FTU organized a Facebook group for all incoming international students. There I found my new flatmates and we looked for an apartment together. In general, it is much more affordable for Europeans to find a nice apartment in Hanoi. We found a newly renovated house with 7 bedrooms (everyone had their own bathroom), a big kitchen and living room and a super nice rooftop for 250\$ each. The living standards in Vietnam are a bit lower compared to Europe, so you get much more for 250\$ than you would get in Germany.

## The Language

Not everybody in Vietnam speaks English and sadly the university didn't offer a Vietnamese class. However, Vietnamese people are used to tourists, especially in big cities, and together with your hands and feet you can easily get along with English. Btw, some older people still speak French in Vietnam and there are a lot of French students in Hanoi, so you could also learn some French over there haha.

## The University

I spend one summer semester at the Foreign Trade University in Hanoi. In general, it is more strict compared to German universities (at least for Vietnamese students). They check attendance in all classes and there are not only final exams, but also midterms, tests, papers, presentations and group work. However, most of the time international students enjoy more freedom. The semester is divided into two parts and most classes are only offered in one part of the semester, so when you don't need to take that many classes you could easily take all classes in one half of the semester and travel the other half. There were some interesting classes I took and most Professors are also super nice but I would recommend to chose some easy classes so you don't spend your whole semester abroad behind books, because this way you'll never get to know the country ;)

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## Free Time

Vietnam is an amazing country to explore and the people over there are super friendly. Like every other big city, Hanoi offer a lot of things to explore, but I would recommend to travel to the North during the weekends and explore the countryside of Vietnam. During têt holiday (3 weeks off!) You can travel to the South of Vietnam or to Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and Laos. In general it is much cheaper to travel in South East Asia so I would highly recommend to do so!

If you got any questions please feel free to contact me! :)

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