



Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment



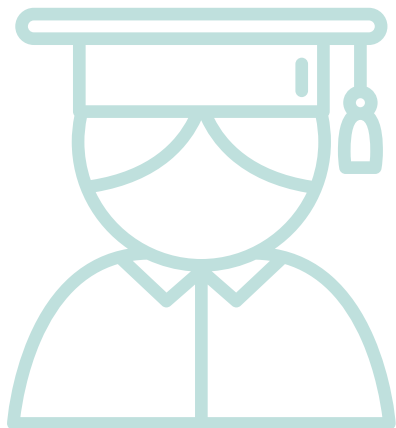
Australian Government  
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# EDUCATION & SKILLS UPDATE

in Vietnam 2019-2020

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**Australian Government**

**Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment**

# **Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment**

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# Cross-sectoral Coordination



# Meetings of the Australian Education in Vietnam Advisory Group

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Nearly

# 40

people attended the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting – the highest number of participants in a meeting since establishment.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Established in August 2017, the **Australian Education in Vietnam Advisory Group** has grown stronger year by year and become an increasingly open and trusted information sharing platform for key Australian education stakeholders in Vietnam. Encouraging stronger coordination across the Commonwealth and State Governments, institutions and industry in this critical sector to the Australian economy, the Advisory Group aims to help maximise the opportunities for collaboration and when necessary, address mutual challenges that require a cohesive response from the sector.

At the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Group in February 2020, members had an opportunity to hear from Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) on the implementation of Vietnam's National Qualifications Framework (VQF) and university

autonomy in accordance with the amended Higher Education Law. The participants and MOET representatives also discussed insights and implications of these new policies for the engagement and partnerships of Australian education stakeholders in Vietnam.



*Members attending the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Australian Education in Vietnam Advisory Group at the Australian Embassy - 12 February 2020, Hanoi.*

The Advisory Group's 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, on the other hand, was an exemplar of how key players in the sector can come together on an open platform to share their insights and best practice in the face of a crisis such as COVID-19. Being aware of the pressure faced by Australian companies and investors overseas posed by the Coronavirus, the Advisory Group members reconvened earlier than expected to update each other on the impact of COVID-19 on their ability to conduct business and how recent changes in policy affected delivery, both onshore and offshore. Austrade and DESE teams in Vietnam have been actively reaching out to key government and sectoral

stakeholders in Vietnam to assure them of the Australian government's continued support for international students. DESE was also spreading positive messages on social media about the range of support offered by the Australian government, states and education providers in response to COVID-19.

The group met again in April, May and June 2020 via video conference. In the context of the changing setting to global education, members shared and discussed the "new normal" of international education including online and blended learning.

## Ambassador meeting with key Vietnamese education stakeholders

On 5 March 2020, the Australian Ambassador to Vietnam HE Ms Robyn Mudie hosted a Roundtable for key Vietnamese education stakeholders, including senior government officers, Deputy Vice-chancellors of leading Vietnamese universities and leaders of Australian and Vietnamese private educational institutions. Introduced by the Education and Science Counsellor, this was the Ambassador's first encounter with this group of key education stakeholders, who have been the connecting bridges between Australia and Vietnam in their diverse roles across different sectors from higher education,

VET, school, to education technology and English language training. Alumni and non-alumni alike, as devoted ambassadors for Australian education in Vietnam, the group proposed initiatives to deepen the bilateral education and training partnership for mutual benefits. Ambassador Mudie was deeply engaged in the discussion around emerging opportunities and challenges in delivering Australian education in Vietnam in the context of technological disruption and the growing need for skilled human resource in the country and region.



*The Australian Ambassador to Vietnam HE Ms Robyn Mudie and the Education and Science Counsellor Ms Joanna Wood meeting with key Vietnamese education stakeholders - 5 March 2020, Hanoi.*

# Skills & Training





# The inaugural Australian Skills Week in Vietnam (21-24 Oct 2019)

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## DID YOU KNOW?

It was the **first Australian Skills Week in Vietnam** co-organised by the Government of Vietnam and Government of Australia. Skills Week even caught the attention of the Prime Minister of Vietnam!

The inaugural **Australian Skills Week in Vietnam (21-24 Oct)** was co-organised by the Australian Government and Vietnam Government, WorldSkills Australia and WorldSkills Vietnam. Our policy roundtables, skills demonstrations, cooking masterclass, and skills conference attracted more than 1,000 participants, over 120 media articles, TV news and social media. **Skills Week** showcased Australian excellence in vocational education and training and strengthened strategic educational ties between the two countries, while contributing

to the Government of Vietnam's continuing effort to raise the status of vocational education and training as an aspirational career pathway.

Outstanding Australian VET Alumni and Australia's World Skills 2019 medallists who were invited to Vietnam also had the opportunity to share with local students and industry not only their excellent skills in 3D spray painting, cooking, graphic design and automotive mechanical technology but also their life-changing experiences and personal VET success stories.

The highlight of Skills Week was the inaugural Australia Vietnam Skills Conference “Vocational Education and Training for Industry”, which brought together government, industry and training providers with 28 outstanding speakers and panellists and 10 interactive sessions. Focusing on the transformative power of vocational education, leading VET policy makers, practitioners and industry representatives shared ideas

and discussed world’s best practice of skills cooperation to ensure our graduates meet the skilling need of industry now and into the future.

Impressed with the inaugural Australian Skills Week in Vietnam, Vietnam has decided, via the Prime Minister’s Directive 24 dated 28 May 2020, to organise Vietnam Skills day, national VET awards and VET ambassadors.



*Australia’s VET Alumni and WorldSkills Australia competitors sharing their skills and passion with fellow Vietnamese VET teachers and students during the inaugural Australian Skills Week in Vietnam - 21-24 October 2019, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.*



*Australia Vietnam Skills Conference 'Vocational Education and Training for Industry' - 23 October 2019, Ho Chi Minh City.*



*Industry panel at the Australia Vietnam Skills Conference 'Vocational Education and Training for Industry' - 23 October 2019, Ho Chi Minh City.*

## Launch of the Industry Skills Board Model

Under the Memorandum of Understanding between Vietnam's Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE), the Education team at the Australian Embassy has been working closely with the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training (DVET) at MOLISA since October 2017 to jointly develop an Industry Skills Board (ISB) model for Vietnam. Co-launched by the Government of Australia and Government of

Vietnam in November 2019, the ISB pilot project in the tourism and hospitality sector will look to undertake a skills audit and skills forecast for this priority sector, with technical assistance from Australian VET experts. In the long term, the ISB is expected to inform national VET policy direction for the Government of Vietnam on how to engage with industry to develop national VET qualifications that meet the needs of industry, providing industry-relevant training for learners.



Representatives from the Governments of Australia and Vietnam co-launching the Industry Skills Board pilot project at National Forum 'Skilling up Vietnam' - 15 November 2019, Hanoi.



*Education Counsellor Joanna Wood introducing the Australia's VET system and the Industry Skills Board Model for Vietnam to Vietnam's Prime Minister HE Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc - 16 November 2019, Hanoi.*

## Successful in-country delivery of Australian VET qualifications in Vietnam

Under a program funded by the Vietnamese Government, 26 Australian VET qualifications were delivered to Vietnamese students by Chisholm Institute, in partnership with 25 Vietnamese colleges. 742 Vietnamese students graduated from the program, along with 300 teachers who were

awarded an AQF qualification. The Government of Vietnam is exploring the potential to scale up the delivery of AQF qualifications to prospective students in Vietnam, in partnership with Australian vocational education and training providers.



*Australian qualification presentation and graduation ceremony for students graduating from refrigeration and air conditioning engineering course at diploma level under the AQF trial delivery in Vietnam - 14 January 2020, Hanoi.*



## The International Skills Training courses – a solution for HCMC’s upskilling needs

Initiated by the Education and Science Counsellor and as an outcome of the collaboration between the HCMC Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the Government of Victoria, the International Skills Training Courses (IST) were introduced to

over 50 vocational institutions in HCMC at a workshop in August 2019. Representatives from four Victorian TAFEs explained how the IST courses can provide a cost-effective option to upskill HCMC’s 12,000 vocational teachers in competency-based training.



*Presenters from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments facilitating the discussion on improving the capacity of VET trainers in competency-based training at the workshop on the International Skills Training courses - 27 August 2019, Ho Chi Minh City.*

## Certificate from MOLISA Minister to DESE Hanoi team

In acknowledgement of our continuing effort and outstanding contribution to advancing vocational education and training in Vietnam, the Vietnam’s Minister for Labour, Invalids and

Social Affairs HE Mr Dao Ngoc Dung awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to the Education team in March 2020 and a Medal of Contribution to the Cause of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

to Joanna Wood - the Education and Science Counsellor in May 2020. The DESE team in Vietnam has been working in close collaboration with their colleagues at the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training through numerous initiatives and projects aimed at linking government, industry and training providers to ensure vocational training meets the skills needs of industry. We have also contributed to improving the policy, governance, quality assurance, and reputation of

Vietnam's VET system, increasing the quality of VET teachers and managers, as well as facilitating efficient institutional collaborations between Australian and Vietnamese VET institutions. Not only a token of appreciation, this formal recognition by the Government of Vietnam also demonstrated their confidence in Australian VET excellence, our expertise and collaboration as a strategic partner for Vietnam's human resource development.



*The Certificate being presented to Ms Joanna Wood, Education and Science Counsellor by Dr Truong Anh Dung, Deputy Director General, Directorate of Vocational Education and Training in the presence of the Australian Ambassador to Vietnam HE Ms Robyn Mudie - 5 March 2020, Hanoi.*

# Higher Education





# Policy collaboration in online higher education

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Australian universities and their Vietnamese partner institutions will deliver joint online courses at Bachelor and Master levels under a test program endorsed by the two governments.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**For the first time, Vietnam will officially approve online and blended programs** jointly delivered by foreign and Vietnamese institutions, and formally recognise the qualifications from these programs.

Australia is supporting Vietnam with policy development in online higher education via both bilateral cooperation and multi-lateral forum such as the APEC project on Quality Assurance of Online Learning Toolkit.

Bilaterally, under the MoU on education cooperation and as part of the CP-TPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) commitment between Australia and Vietnam, DESE and MOET have been working closely to develop and evaluate quality assurance processes of online higher education. Specifically, DESE has been

supporting colleagues from Higher Education Department, MOET, with the development of a circular under Decree 86 on foreign cooperation and investment in education. This circular, expected to be issued this year, will provide guidelines on the approval and quality assurance of joint online higher education programs between Vietnamese and foreign institutions at the Bachelor, Master and PhD levels. With this circular, Vietnam will, for the first time, officially approve online and blended programs jointly delivered by foreign and Vietnamese institutions, and formally recognise the qualifications

from these programs. In addition, the Department also supports MOET with policy development in (i) quality assessment of domestic online higher education courses under draft Circular 1559 and (ii) recognition of foreign qualifications granted to Vietnamese citizens for further study and employment purposes.

Australia will assist Vietnam to evaluate its quality assurance processes for online higher education via a test program, involving four Australian universities and their Vietnamese partners who are going to deliver Bachelor and Master-level online courses. Recruitment for and delivery of these programs are expected to take place early next year.

## \*ASPIRES Workshop on “Internationalisation of higher education – university excellence”

Co-organised by the Australian Embassy and the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Education and Training, with experts from the University of Queensland, this ASPIRES workshop attracted over 80 university education practitioners and policy makers. Participants explored how universities can achieve excellence and create impacts, and in doing so, improve their global rankings and internationalise higher education.



*Mr Rongyu Li, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland presenting on the global university ranking systems and the UQ experience at the ASPIRES workshop “Internationalisation of higher education - university excellence” - 1 August 2019, Hanoi*

\* Australian Speakers and Partners in Research, Education and Skills

## APEC Regional Workshop on Online Higher Education (12–14 November 2019)

Organised by DESE, the APEC Regional Workshop on Online Education brought together 39 delegates from 14 APEC economies to build further understanding of the quality assurance of online education and discuss challenges in applying the APEC Quality Assurance of Online Learning Toolkit across borders and contexts. The workshop provided an open platform for online education experts from the APEC economies to discuss perceptions and realities of online learning as well as issues around quality assuring curriculum design, assessment and integrity, and learning outcomes. Workshop participants reportedly

gained a better understanding of the toolkit's application, felt more confident about quality assuring online learning and the development of policies and practices to apply the Toolkit in their home countries. The APEC Quality Assurance of Online Learning Toolkit was developed and finalised in September 2017 through a series of workshops involving APEC economies working together to consider how best to quality assure online education. Timely and effective application of the Toolkit across APEC economies will help open tremendous opportunities for collaboration in online higher education delivery with Australian providers.



*Participants from 14 APEC economies attending the APEC Regional Workshop on Online Education - 12-14 November 2019, Hanoi.*

# Research & Innovation



# Australia Vietnam Skills and Innovation Week (8–11 Nov 2019)

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 **210**  
participants

 **5**  
events



The Canberra Innovation Network (CIN) initiated its first links with Vietnamese institutions in 2017 during the Australia Vietnam Research Delegation Program in Canberra. In November 2019, the CEO of CIN Petr Adamek was invited to Vietnam and introduced to key players in Vietnam’s innovation system through a series of workshops and events in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city, which paved the way for promising collaborations in the near future.

Under the collaboration between the Australian Embassy and Vietnam’s Ministry of Science and Technology, the Australia Vietnam Skills and Innovation Week brought together key actors in the innovation system in Vietnam – policy makers, academia, businesses and associations. The case studies presented by Mr Adamek and outstanding young Vietnamese entrepreneurs throughout the events provided a fresh perspective on

innovation in Vietnam. The week was also an opportunity to celebrate the on-going collaboration in innovation between the two countries.

To make the most of the experts’ visit to Vietnam, DESE organised an ASPIRES workshop titled ‘Connecting Innovation and Entrepreneurship with Science and Research’ in partnership with Vietnam’s Ministry of Science and Technology. Representatives from universities, industry and government

had a productive discussion about their roles in creating an innovation culture that helps entrepreneurs create positive changes and how

academic institutions can collaborate to link research and innovation and create an environment that supports entrepreneurs.



*Mr Petr Adamek presenting the Canberra Innovation Network as a case study on how academic institutions collaborate to link research and innovation at the SPIRES workshop “Connecting innovation and entrepreneurship with science and research” - 8 October 2019, Hanoi.*



*Mr Petr Adamek, CEO of Canberra Innovation Network sharing Australia's experiences at the Roundtable “Enhancing skills, enabling innovation and collaboration for Vietnam's future digital economy” - 8 October 2019, Hanoi.*

## Discussion with Vietnam's National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED)

NAFOSTED was established by the Government of Vietnam as a non-profit funding agency in March 2008 to enhance the quality of scientific research in Vietnam, support young scientists and strong research teams as well as promote academic exchange and international cooperation in scientific research. DESE and NAFOSTED had a discussion in

February 2020 to identify research collaboration opportunities for Australian and Vietnamese institutions under the scientific, technology, and research funding programs managed by the foundation. NAFOSTED is looking for more Australian agencies to co-fund joint research projects by individuals and organisations from the two countries.



*Ms Joanna Wood, Education and Science Counsellor meeting with Dr Pham Dinh Nguyen, Deputy Director of National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) for future collaboration between Australian and Vietnamese institutions - 14 February 2020, Hanoi.*



## Roundtable with Hoc Mai Foundation

On occasion of the Hoc Mai Foundation annual visit to Vietnam in March 2020, DESE organised a roundtable meeting between the department, the foundation, Austrade, CSIRO and DFAT to provide an update on the Government of Vietnam's education and research priorities, healthcare education and training programs, and information about relevant funding mechanisms. The participating government agencies recommended approaches to enhance Hoc Mai's strategic engagement in Vietnam, including formalising their relationship with Vietnamese medical institutions and seeking funding from

Vietnamese government agencies, in-country multi-lateral donors and the private sector. The Australian Ambassador to Vietnam HE Ms Robyn Mudie also welcomed the volunteers from the Hoc Mai Foundation with a warm reception at her residence. According to the Ambassador, Hoc Mai Foundation is a concrete demonstration of the close links between Australian and Vietnamese communities and the longstanding bilateral partnership. DESE is proud to contribute to advancing the values of this meaningful partnership by providing strategic insights and facilitating conversations between key players in the field.



*The Australian Ambassador to Vietnam HE Ms Robyn Mudie and the Education and Science Counsellor Ms Joanna Wood spending an enjoyable evening with volunteers from the Hoc Mai Foundation, who spent time sharing their expertise to support Vietnam's health sector - Hanoi, 5 March 2020, Hanoi*





Australian Government

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Austrade

# Australian Trade and Investment Commission

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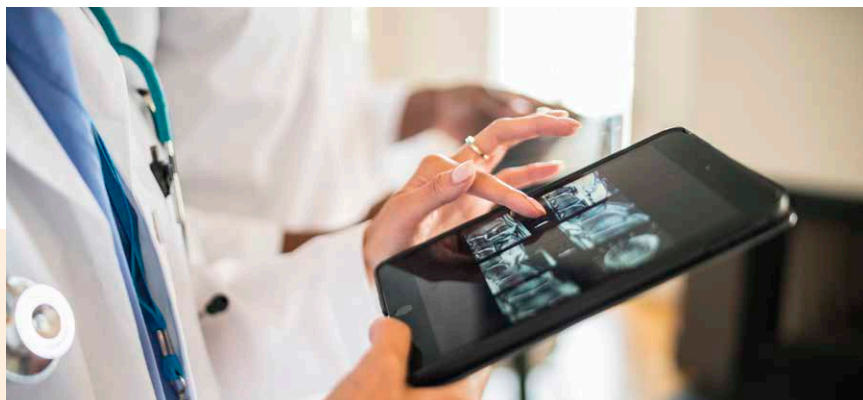
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# Vietnam Market Action Plan



## Showcasing Australia's capabilities in healthcare education and training: Market snapshot and market insight webinar on healthcare education and training in Vietnam



The [Vietnam Market Action Plan](#) published in April 2019 sets out six goals aimed at strengthening and further promoting Australian industry capabilities in Vietnam, with healthcare education and training as one of the priority areas. To understand Vietnam's healthcare system and market demands in healthcare education and training and identify opportunities that align with Australia's healthcare education expertise and capabilities, Austrade conducted a fact-finding study with a total of 35 medical institutions, hospitals, government agencies and international organisations in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City with a focus on nursing, aged care and rehabilitation training.

A [snapshot](#) was published on the Market Information Package (MIP) on 16 Dec 2019 with a follow-up webinar on 27 February 2020. The webinar was joined by two guest speakers from Asian Development Bank and TheRightPeople Co Ltd who shared market insights and in-country experiences with more than 100 participants from Australian universities, VET, and business organisations. Austrade have been following up with a number of Australian institutions who have submitted their Expressions of Interest to explore collaboration opportunities in Vietnam.

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### Snapshot released on healthcare education and training in Vietnam

16 Dec 2019

Austrade Vietnam identified and conducted in-depth meetings with 35 institutions and organisations in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to understand the Vietnam healthcare system and market demands in medical education and

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## Promoting Australia's capabilities in edtech and online education: Scoping Study and market insight webinars



Taking into account the significant digital transformation trends across industries and sectors in Vietnam, Austrade has identified online education and edtech as one of the

key focus areas to promote Australia's competitive advantage in the country, as an expected outcome of Goal 3 under [Vietnam Market Action Plan](#).

On 25 February, Austrade published a [Scoping Study on Edtech market](#) on the Market Information Package (MIP), followed by two webinars on 8 April. Over 200 participants from academic institutions, schools, state and territory authorities and edtech companies attended these webinars to gather market insights from the higher education, vocational education and training, early childhood education, and schools sectors.



As online education is expected to be fast-tracked in Vietnam in the context of COVID-19, the study and the webinars have been highly valued by key Australian stakeholders. The relatively limited digital capability of Vietnamese education and training institutions is opening up unprecedented opportunities for Australian edtech providers to fill the gaps.

# Austrade's Engagement with Agents



## Working collaboratively and effectively with education agents is crucial to Austrade's success in contributing to a sustainable international education sector in a highly competitive international education arena, especially in Vietnam.

Austrade has maintained our annual education agent briefings and a bi-annual focus group roundtable with the top ten education agents to discuss challenges faced by the sector.

At the focus group roundtable in February, education agents raised a number of issues such as the growing competition from other study abroad destinations, a need for new communication channels and digital promotion of Australian education, and Australian education providers' response to the COVID-19 crisis. The group also brainstormed innovative ideas to raise the profile of Australia as a preferred education destination.



*Webex meeting with top ten agents  
(R-L) Ms Yvonne Chan, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, Austrade  
Ms Trinh-Trinh, Business Development Manager  
Mr David Whitehead, Chief Migration Officer, Department of Home Affairs  
Ms Michelle Gray, Senior Migration Officer, Department of Home Affairs*

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Austrade has set up regular communication channels with education agents in Vietnam and Cambodia to provide them with timely support and access to essential information.

- Started in April: a weekly email providing the latest updates on international student support, resources for agents, success stories showcasing Australian capabilities, and in-country events for agents and the general public organised by Australian institutions
- 17 April: A webex meeting with the Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, HE Ms Robyn Mudie, providing updates on support for international students from the Commonwealth and state and territory governments, and institutions.
- 14 May: A webex recording addressing questions on student visa processing and the promotion of Australian international education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Austrade will continue to support education agents as they are crucial and highly valued in-country marketing partners for Australian education and training institutions.



## **STUDY IN AUSTRALIA UPDATES**

**VIETNAM  
17 APRIL 2020**



# Engagement with key stakeholders: International Education Workshops



## Bi-annual workshops with key promoters of international education in Vietnam

In 2017, Austrade Vietnam initiated the bi-annual international education workshops for representatives from countries and regions who actively promote international education in Vietnam to come together and share regular updates on recruitment trends, relevant events, regulations and partnerships. Regular members of the platform include Austrade's counterparts from the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Ireland, and the European Union, who share the common goal of growing the international education market in Vietnam together.



*6<sup>th</sup> International Education Workshop on 13 December 2019 in Hanoi with counterparts representing UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Ireland and EU.*



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