AT A GLANCE

Launch Date  
September 2016

Location  
Ho Chi Minh City

Funding Raised to Date  
Approximately $40 million pledged in cash and kind

Funding Target  
$100 million (first five years)

Languages of Instruction  
English, Vietnamese

Number of Students  
2,000 (first five years)

VISION

Values. Fulbright University Vietnam (FUV) is the first private, nonprofit Vietnamese university founded on the principles of accountability, meritocracy, transparency, self-governance, mutual respect, and open inquiry.

Mission. FUV serves Vietnamese society through the creation of human and knowledge capital that enhances its wellbeing, prosperity, and sustainability. We are pioneering a new kind of Vietnamese university, a learning focused community that is rooted in Vietnam’s rich cultural traditions, embodies universal values, and embraces the latest advancements in teaching, learning, and technology.

Access, affordability, diversity. Our dedication to academic excellence is matched by a commitment to ensuring that our programs are affordable and accessible to qualified students regardless of their socioeconomic circumstances. FUV attaches special emphasis to the empowerment of women and members of under-represented communities. Our student body will reflect the diversity of Vietnamese society.

Embedded in Vietnamese society. FUV must be deeply embedded in Vietnamese society in order to contribute to and benefit from Vietnam’s social, economic, and cultural dynamism. FUV cultivates strong, mutually beneficial bonds with the constituencies we serve—including students and families, employers, and the public sector—and the communities around us.

Maximizing learning outcomes. FUV is laser focused on maximizing our students’ learning outcomes. Rigorous and ongoing internal and external assessments guide our decision making. FUV will benchmark itself against the best institutions in the world, in part by pursuing institutional and specialized accreditation from international accrediting agencies.

Discovery for problem solving. FUV conducts transdisciplinary, impact-oriented research. We focus our quest for new knowledge on those areas where the potential impact on the resolution of the grand challenges facing Vietnam is greatest, and where FUV enjoys comparative advantage. We believe that knowledge creation is an inherently collaborative endeavor and we aspire to work with institutions inside and outside the academy to translate insight into actions that benefit society.

Promoting higher education reform. We are deeply committed to the continued renovation of Vietnam’s higher education system. We promote meaningful change through knowledge sharing, collaboration with other Vietnamese universities, and healthy competition.
INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

Robust governance. FUV is governed by an independent, fifteen member board of directors who share fiduciary responsibility for the institution. FUV is supported by the Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam, a Boston based 501(c)(3). TUIV mobilizes resources for FUV from donors in the US and Vietnam, stewards the contributions of the US government, and backstops the governance of FUV through representation on the university’s board.

Two advisory bodies help chart our pursuit of excellence. The Innovation Council, consisting of representatives of leading Vietnamese and multinational firms, will help ensure FUV’s programs meet the workforce demands of Vietnam’s economy. The Academic Advisory Panel provides FUV’s leadership with access to the insights of leading educators, scholars, and scientists.

Structure. During its first five years, FUV will focus on the growth of three integrated academic units:

Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management: graduate-level programs in public policy, law, finance, management. Applied research and policy dialog. (Launching September 2016)

Fulbright School of Engineering and Applied Sciences: undergraduate and graduate programs in engineering, applied sciences, mathematics, and computer science. Transdisciplinary research focused on spurring economic innovation and solving grand challenges. (Launching 2017)

Fulbright College: undergraduate, liberal-arts oriented programs offering English language acceleration and a general education that equips students with job-ready competencies. Research in the humanities and social sciences and the preservation and transmission of Vietnamese culture. (Launching 2017)

Organizational flexibility and sustainability. FUV must be flexible, responsive, and entrepreneurial in order to maximize its capacity to contribute to Vietnam’s development. FUV’s academic and administrative structures are designed to ensure the university’s financial and environmental sustainability.

PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS

Human capital. FUV is recruiting gifted Vietnamese scholars and scientists, wherever they are. Over the past twenty years thousands of Vietnamese have gone overseas to pursue advanced graduate education. US government initiatives such as the Vietnam Education Foundation as well as US universities, foundations and companies have helped hundreds of Vietnamese to complete graduate training at US universities The Vietnamese American community represents a deep wellspring of talent from which FUV is drawing great strength.

Institutional linkages. A consortium of leading US universities is working with FUV to design and deliver its teaching programs. These institutions will support the development of FUV faculty members. In some cases partners will grant degrees or certificates concurrently with FUV credentials. For our partners, ties with FUV will yield uniquely enriching opportunities to engage with a vibrant, complex developing society.

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

The promise of hybrid learning. Technology is the key to realizing FUV’s goal of providing a world-class education that is affordable to the widest demographic of qualified Vietnamese students. We will leverage the advances in digital learning that are transforming higher education. FUV will utilize hybrid teaching approaches that blend online resources with in-class interaction to create a unique learning experience.

BILATERAL BUY-IN

A new chapter. The Vietnamese and US governments support FUV as a hallmark in the deepening of bilateral ties. The Vietnamese government officially endorsed FUV in June 2014. Operational approval is anticipated in 2015.

GROWTH TRAJECTORY

Toward a comprehensive knowledge enterprise. FUV aspires to expand its teaching and research spectrum, adding programs as human and financial resources allow. Areas of particular emphasis include medicine, environmental science, and the basic sciences.