



Announcement

VEF 2011 Fellowship Program for Process B

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce its 2011 VEF Fellowship program for Process B. Process B involves the submission of an application and documentation supporting a VEF Fellowship award for applicants already in possession of a Letter of Admission from a leading graduate school in the United States for study commencing in Fall 2011 in a field that VEF supports, including science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine. The Fellowship application and selection process is open, competitive, and transparent. Applicants do not need to pay any fees to anyone in order to apply or be considered for a VEF Fellowship. Winners are chosen based on individual merit, including academic performance, intellectual capabilities, English communication skills, and the potential for scientific contribution to education and research.

Applications will be available ONLY online and ONLY from 8:00 a.m., February 10, 2011, to 8:00 a.m., March 10, 2011 (Vietnam time zone).

1. Qualified Fields of Study

VEF seeks highly qualified applicants interested in **pursuing a Ph.D., research doctorate, or Master's degree at leading universities in the United States in the major disciplines of the sciences** (natural, physical, and environmental), **mathematics, medicine** (such as public health, epidemiology, and immunology), **engineering, and technology** (including information technology). Fields include the basic sciences, such as, biology, chemistry, and physics, as well as agricultural science and computer science. Priority will be given to applicants, whose field of study focuses on climate change (environmental sciences) or on nuclear energy, provided that all other qualifications are equal.

2. Eligibility of VEF Employees and VEF Contracted Agency Employees

PLEASE NOTE the following VEF policy regarding *eligibility of VEF employees and VEF contracted agency employees in Vietnam and in the United States*.

- Employees of VEF, including contractor employees, and their immediate families are ineligible for VEF Fellowships, Visiting Scholar Grants, and U.S. Faculty Scholar Grants for a period of one year following termination of such employment.

- If a former employee or contractor employee of VEF is otherwise eligible and chooses to apply for a VEF Fellowship, Visiting Scholar Grant, or U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant after the one-year period, the VEF Board of Directors must approve the submission of such an application.
- Employees of private and public agencies (excluding educational institutions) under contract to VEF to perform administrative or screening services on behalf of the VEF Fellowship, Visiting Scholar, and/or U.S. Faculty Scholar Programs are ineligible for VEF Fellowships, Visiting Scholar Grants, and U.S. Faculty Scholar Grants for a period of one year following the termination of their services for VEF.

3. Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO)

VEF will organize a 5-day PDO on June 10-14, 2011, before the Fellows depart for the United States, to inform Fellows about important issues regarding their Fellowship, including academic matters, cultural differences, financial arrangements, and legal issues related to their immigration status. Included in the PDO is an outdoor Team Building event, which usually involves one day of camping. During the PDO, official Fellowship documents and immigration documents will be given to the Fellows. It is **mandatory that all VEF Fellows participate** in the PDO. VEF Fellows will need to plan ahead and assure that they are able to attend the PDO as a requirement in order to receive a VEF Fellowship.

APPLICATION PERIOD- Process B

Applications will be available **ONLY** online (online applications)

ONLY from 8:00 a.m., February 10, 2011,

to 8:00 a.m., March 10, 2011 (Vietnam time zone).

I. Eligibility

In order to apply, an applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

- A. **VIETNAMESE by citizenship** and not a permanent resident of Vietnam or a permanent resident or citizen of any other country.
- B. **College graduate** with at least a Bachelor's degree in a field acceptable to VEF (See Item #1 above, *Qualified Fields of Study*) or college juniors (3rd or 4th year) or seniors (final year students), who will graduate with such a degree by July 2011.

- C. **GPA. Overall Grade Point Average (GPA)** from a college/university with **at least 7.0/10.0**. Applicants **ONLY** with an undergraduate degree must have at least a GPA of 7.0/10.0. Applicants with an undergraduate GPA from 6.5/10.0 to 7.0/10.0 are eligible to apply **ONLY** if they have a master's degree with a GPA of at least 7.0/10.0 in the same field as the intended field of study. Grades on other scales must be converted into a 10-point scale according to VEF guidelines. A grade conversion scale is available at the VEF website (http://www.vef.gov/download/conversion_table.htm).
- D. **Gained official graduate admission** to a VEF Alliance school or to a leading U.S. graduate school, which accepts VEF's financial support terms, in a field acceptable to VEF (See Item #1 above, *Qualified Fields of Study*). Full and unconditional admission is required.

II. **Online Applications**

*To prepare for the online applications, applicants **must** have the following documents ready:*

- A. **TRANSCRIPTS**. Applicants are required to prepare transcripts from undergraduate studies and from graduate studies, if applicable, translated into English with an official notarization or with an official school stamp (see item **I. Eligibility** above).
- B. **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**. Each applicant must prepare a Statement of Purpose, which is a narrative essay that includes information about the applicant's educational background, practical experience, special interests, and career goals. The essay should provide a description of the study/research objectives and give three significant reasons for wanting to pursue a graduate degree program in the United States on a VEF Fellowship. Objectives must be stated clearly with explanations about how a VEF Fellowship would help the applicant achieve his/her stated objectives. In addition, the applicant must also describe how he/she would help fulfill the mission of VEF as a Fellowship recipient. The Statement of Purpose should also include a description of what special role the applicant sees that he/she would play as a VEF Fellow and a description of the applicant's intended future plans upon returning to Vietnam at the completion of the program of study.

The essay must be well-organized and composed in excellent English and must not be more than two A4 pages single-spaced, using the Times New Roman font of size 12. The quality and content of this essay are extremely important factors in determining the applicant's candidacy for a VEF Fellowship. Below are some suggestions of information to include:

Work and Research Experience

- Narrative of work and research experience.
- Description of a scientific challenge that the applicant faced and how he/she managed and solved that challenge, including the lessons learned. This can be a success or a failure, but it must be memorable.

Future Plans

- Desired fields of study (several specific subjects and general research interests) ranked according to priority.
- Objectives and impact of one's proposed research or project(s).
- Contribution of the proposed research or project(s) to the development of science and technology in Vietnam.

C. THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION/REFERENCE. Three letters of recommendation, also known as letters of reference, must be submitted from the applicant's professors, under whom the applicant has studied or pursued research, or from the applicant's supervisors, who have supervised the applicant's work related to his/her proposed field of study. Recommendation letters must be from individuals who have supervised the applicant's academic or professional work for at least two years and who know the applicant's academic and professional performance very well. The letters need to be written in English, on official letterhead with the signature of the recommender. These letters should be distinctly different. Importantly, each writer should demonstrate in his/her letter a very good understanding of the applicant by giving specific examples of interactions and situations observed by the writer that exemplify the outstanding qualities of the applicant.

D. ADMISSION LETTER. Official letter of admission from a U.S. university, confirming full admission without any conditions, name of degree, level of study (Master's or Ph.D.), department, and the specific field of study within that department.

E. ACCEPTANCE OF VEF FINANCIAL TERMS. The admitting university must acknowledge in writing on university letterhead acceptance of the VEF financial terms and must complete a VEF form that delineates finances over the duration of the degree program. Financial support terms and VEF Financial form are available under "VEF Fellowship Program/Resources for Applicants" at the VEF website:
<http://home.vef.gov/news.php?id=95>

VERY IMPORTANT: *Please check carefully the eligibility requirements and fulfill all the requirements listed above by completing the online application form and submitting all required documents before the application deadline. All information must be submitted by the VEF application deadline. Any missing information or documents will result in an automatic rejection of the application. VEF cannot accept incomplete applications and cannot extend the deadline.*

III. Selection Process

To obtain a VEF Fellowship award, a Process B applicant must succeed in both rounds of the selection process described below:

ROUND ONE - Qualification Screening

From February 10 to March 10, 2011, the VEF online application will be available. VEF will review applications from Process B applicants, who have been admitted for the Fall 2011 term to at least one leading graduate program in the United States in a field of study supported by VEF. Furthermore, whether the school is a member of the VEF Alliance or not, the school must acknowledge in writing the acceptance of the [VEF financial support terms](#) and must complete the VEF form that delineates finances over the duration of the degree program.

After a screening process by VEF to assure eligibility, a technical review is conducted by the U.S. National Academies to determine the significance of the applicant's achievements and to determine the applicant's potential to make a contribution to the intended field as shown by his/her past academic performance, test results, prior research and work experience, honors and recognition, and statement of purpose. Qualified applicants, recommended by the U.S. National Academies, will be invited to round two, which is the last and final round.

ROUND TWO - Interview

In late March 2011, applicants receiving a recommendation from the U.S. National Academies will be invited to a phone interview. Depending on the number of VEF Fellowships available for Process B candidates, the most highly qualified applicants will be recommended to the VEF Board of Directors for approval.

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

The final decision on VEF Fellowship awards will be made by the VEF Board of Directors in April 2011. At this point, the recommended candidates will become VEF Fellows.

After obtaining the VEF Fellowship, all Fellows must strictly observe VEF rules and requirements or they may lose the Fellowship.

Note: The above is the intended VEF time-line of activities for the selection process for the VEF 2011 Fellowship via Process B. VEF reserves the right to make changes as circumstances require. Any changes will be posted ONLY on VEF's official website at www.vef.gov.

If you have any questions regarding the VEF 2011 Fellowship application and selection process for Process B, please e-mail vef2011@vef.gov, or phone VEF at (84-4) 3936 3670 in Hanoi, Vietnam. For more information on VEF and the VEF Fellowship Program, please visit the VEF website: www.vef.gov