



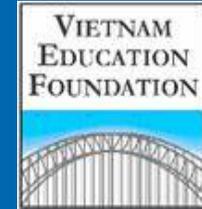
Oral Exam/Interview Orientation: Briefing for 2014 Candidates

Vietnam Education Foundation
May 2013

Candidates here today

- For the VEF Fellowship: to pursue a graduate degree in the U.S.
- For the VEF Visiting Scholar grant: to pursue post-doctoral professional development for 5 - 12 months at a U.S. university

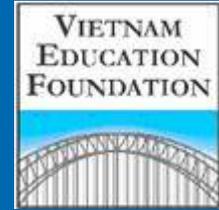
Introductions



VEF Team

- **From U.S. headquarters, Arlington, VA:**
 - Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director
- **From Hanoi Field office:**
 - Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Country Director
 - Ms. Hanh Bui, Program Manager

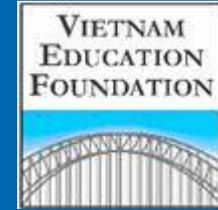
Introductions: VEF Fellows



VEF Fellows of Cohort 2013 from Ho Chi Minh City

1. **Ms. PHAN Thị Như Hoa**
2. **Ms. NGUYỄN Thị Li Na**
3. **Mr. HUỲNH Vĩnh Khang**

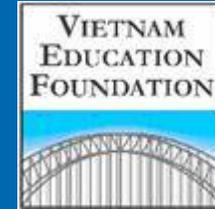
Introductions: VEF Fellows



VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholar of Cohort 2013 from Hanoi

1. **Ms. PHAN Thùy Linh**
2. **Mr. THIỀU Mai Lâm**
3. **Ms. NGUYỄN Thị Huyền Trang**
4. **Dr. NGUYỄN Thị Nguyệt Hạnh**

Welcome!

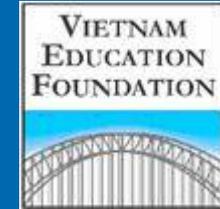


➤ Purpose of today's meeting

- To explain the VEF selection process
- To prepare you for the upcoming oral exam/interview and answer your questions
- To give you a chance to interact with, and learn from, the experience of our current Fellows/Visiting Scholars
- To collect your documents (for Fellowship candidates)

VEF Cohort 2014

Selection Process



➤ **ROUND 1: Qualification and eligibility screening**

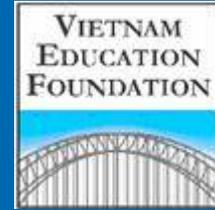
- For VEF Fellowship: 458 registered to apply, 124 completed applications and submitted by the deadline, and 110 are eligible for the Oral Exam/Interview.
- For VEF Visiting Scholar grant: 58 registered to apply, 6 completed applications and submitted by the deadline, and 6 are eligible for the Interview.

➤ **ROUND 2: Oral Exam/Interview**

- Oral exams/interviews of 110 Fellowship finalists and 6 Visiting Scholar finalists by expert panels of U.S. professors and scientists
 - **Hanoi** : July 31 - August 1 and 2
 - **Ho Chi Minh City** : August 4, 5 and 6

VEF Cohort 2014

Oral Exam/Interview



- Conducted by 11 American professors and scientists

DO NOT CONTACT U.S. INTERVIEWERS

DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

This will lead to disqualification.

- Individual oral exam/interview format:
 - Panel of 2 prominent U.S. scientists/professors
 - Panel Assistant will escort you to and from the interview room and take notes as needed.

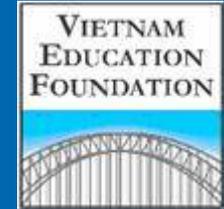
VEF Cohort 2014

Overview of the Interview Process

- **Duration:** up to 45 minutes
- **English** is the only language.
- **Questions** on anything
- **Problem-solving exercises** usually included. You may be asked to use the white board.

VEF Cohort 2014

Frequently Asked Questions

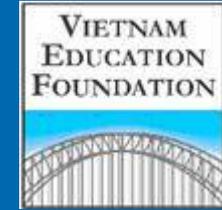


- **May I bring anything with me?**
- **Will the professors decide whether I receive an award?**
- **When will I learn the results?**

ARE YOU THE WINNER?

YOU!

The Perfect Candidate!

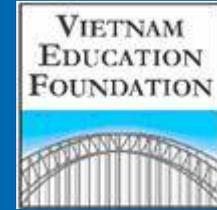


- Accomplishments – **Confirmed!**
- Intellectual capabilities – **Confirmed!**
- Communication – **Important!**
- Persuasive Skills – **Important!**

You are GREAT !



The Winning Formula



- **Know what the interviewers are looking for: Future Scientific Contributor and Leader for Vietnam**
- **Believe in yourself. Be positive. Smile.**
- **Dress in business attire. (No jeans or tennis shoes)**
- **Speak precisely. Organize your ideas, i.e. using A,B,C and 1, 2, 3.**
- **Tell the truth. Don't make up answers.**
- **Look in their eyes. Sit up straight. Breathe slowly, calmly, and confidently.**





Communication techniques

- Can you please repeat the question?
- Can you restate your question?
 - OK, then you mean....
 - Ah, yes, if I understand you correctly, you are asking about....
- May I show you on the white board?
- Well, I don't know about that particular aspect, but I do know about
- Hmm, let me think...



Pro n u n c i a t i o n

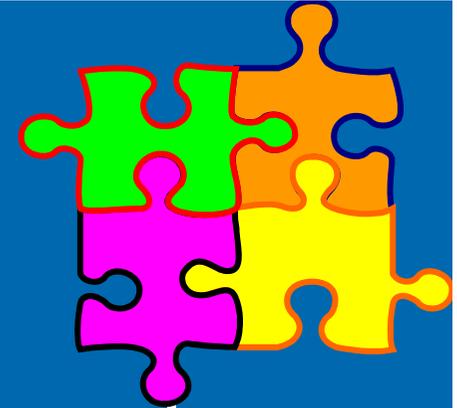
- Speak slowly and clearly = ENUNCIATE
- Say the end sounds and double, triple consonants:

1: academic - break - life - helpful – Vietnam -
section - group - studies - south

2: field - built - working - student - cohort - health
- lunch - fist - fits – science - established

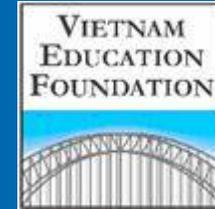
3: organisms - terms - comments

IMPORTANT



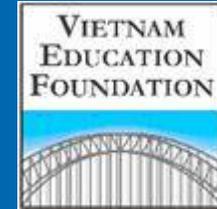
- Before you leave home---
 - Look your best: clean, neat clothes and shoes; clean, neat you!
- Come to the exam site 45 minutes early to prepare yourself.
- Review your own Statement of Purpose beforehand.
- Know about the U.S. universities (for Fellowships candidates) and professors you have named in your application.
- Bring your own publications or research documents, only to show as examples of your work, not to read from them.
- Greet the interviewers. Use a firm handshake. Smile confidently.
- Say “Thank You” at the end.

FOR UPDATES from VEF



- Visit the VEF website everyday.
- Keep your email inbox open and available to receive messages. Check your bulk/junk mailbox.
- Check your email daily and respond promptly.
- If needed, email VEF (For Fellowship applicants: vef2014@vef.gov, for VS grant applicants: vs@vef.gov)
or call VEF: 04 3936 3670

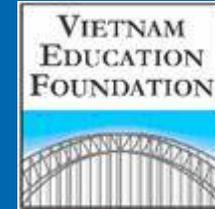




Q & A



Last Year's Oral Exam Experience 2013 Fellows - HCMC



1. **Ms. PHAN Thị Như Hoa**, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Michigan State University
2. **Ms. NGUYỄN Thị Li Na**, Plant Biology, University of Missouri at Columbia
3. **Mr. HUỲNH Vĩnh Khang**, Biosystems Engineering, Michigan State University

Last Year's Oral Exam Experience



2013 Fellows and Visiting Scholar Hanoi

1. **Ms. PHAN Thùy Linh**, Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago

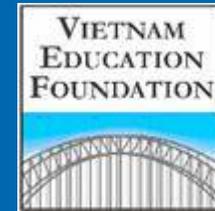
2. **Ms. THIỀU Mai Lâm**, Macromolecular Science and Engineering, Virginia Tech

3. **Ms. NGUYỄN Thị Huyền Trang**, Soil Science, Oregon State University

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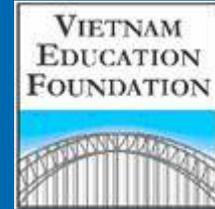
1. **Dr. NGUYỄN Thị Nguyệt Hạnh**, Electrical Engineering, Arizona State University

Administration



-- For Fellowship applicants--

- Review and Collection of your documents

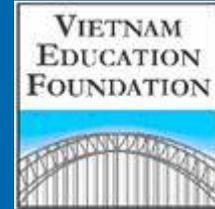


Instructions

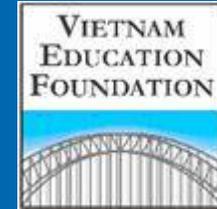
1. Follow the sequence on the check-list to organize your documents for submission to VEF.
2. You must submit **FOUR** identical sets of documents (one notarized set plus three copies of the notarized set.)
3. All pages must be in white A4 size. No stapled sheets and envelopes will be accepted.
4. Use a black metal paper clip to hold each set together.
5. The VEF staff will check for authenticity of the documents. Any falsehood will disqualify you from the VEF Fellowship competition forever.
6. All submitted documents will become the possession of VEF and will **NOT** be returned to you.

Check List

1 original + 3 copies



1. VEF online application
2. Notarized, English translation of transcripts and diplomas from your undergraduate studies.
3. Notarized, English translation of transcripts and diplomas from your graduate studies (if any).
4. Your TOEFL score report.
5. Your GRE score report.
6. Three letters of recommendation in English. Please do not keep letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes.
7. Notarized, English translation of awards and/or academic certificates (if any).
8. Do you have 4 sets total, with all pages in white, A4 size?



WE WISH YOU THE BEST!

THANK YOU!