



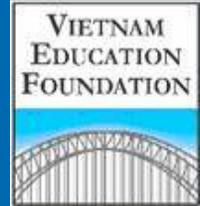
Oral Exam/Interview Orientation: Briefing for 2013 Candidates

Vietnam Education Foundation
June 2012

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 up to 12 months at a U.S. university

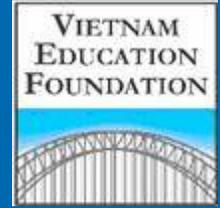
Introductions



VEF Team

- **From U.S. headquarters, Arlington, VA:**
 - Dr. Isaac Silvera, Chairman, VEF Board of Directors
 - Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director
 - Ms. Sandarshi Gunawardena, Senior Program Officer
 - Dr. Peggy Petrochenkov, Program Officer
- **From Hanoi Field office:**
 - Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Country Director
 - Ms. Hanh Bui, Program Manager
 - Ms. Ha Phuong Nguyen and Mr. Cuong Nguyen, Program

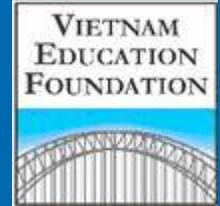
Introductions: VEF Fellows



VEF Fellows of Cohort 2012 from Ho Chi Minh City

1. **Ms. HA Thi Thanh Huong**
2. **Mr. NGUYEN Phuong Duy**

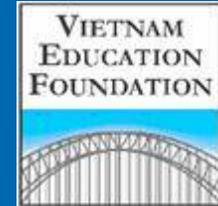
Introductions: VEF Fellows



VEF Fellows of Cohort 2012 from Hanoi

1. **Mr. DO Tho Truong**
2. **Ms. TU Ngoc Ly Lan**

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
 - To collect your documents (for Fellowship candidates)

VEF Cohort 2013

Selection Process

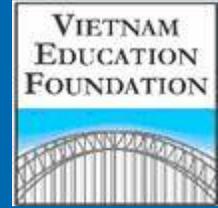


- **ROUND 1: Qualification and eligibility screening**
 - For VEF Fellowship: 100 complete applications submitted by the deadline, and 87 were eligible for the Oral Exam/Interview
 - For VEF Visiting Scholar grant: 5 complete applications submitted by the deadline, and 4 were eligible for the Interview

- **ROUND 2: Oral Exam/Interview**
 - Oral exams/interviews of 88 Fellowship finalists and 4 Visiting Scholar finalists by expert panels of U.S. professors and scientists
 - Hanoi: August 1 – 3, 2012
 - Ho Chi Minh City: August 5 – 7, 2012

VEF Cohort 2013

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.

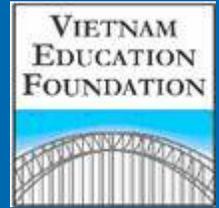
VEF Cohort 2013

Overview of the Interview Process

- **Duration:** up to 45 minutes
- **English** is the only language.
- **Questions** in many realms
- **Problem-solving exercises** might be included. You may be asked to use the white board.

VEF Cohort 2013

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!

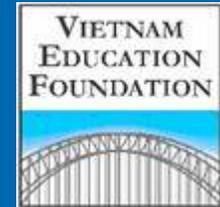


- Accomplishments – **Confirmed!**
- Intellectual capabilities – **Confirmed!**
- Communication – **Important!**
- Persuasive Skills – **Important!**

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 at their eyes. Sit up straight. Breathe slowly, calmly, and confidently.**





Communication techniques

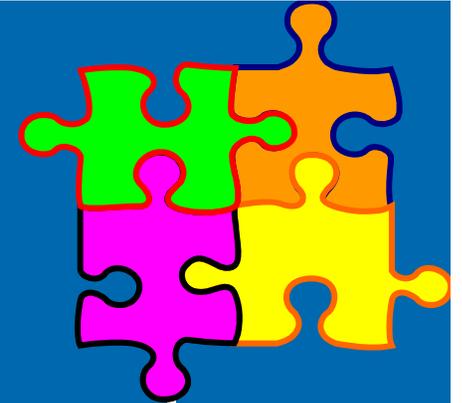
- Can you please repeat the question?
- Can you restate your question?
 - OK, then you mean....
 - Ah, yes, if I understand you correctly, you are asking about....
- May I show you on the white board?
- Well, I don't know about that particular aspect, but I do know about
- Hmm, let me think...



Pro nunci a tion

- 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.

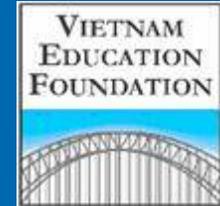
FOR UPDATES from VEF



- 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: vef2013@vef.gov, for VS grant applicants: vs@vef.gov)
or call VEF: 04 3936 3670

Vietnam Education Foundation



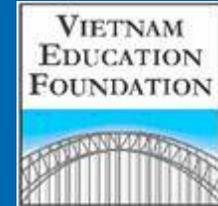


Q & A



Last Year's Oral Exam Experience

2012 Fellows - HCMC

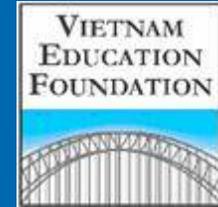


1. Ms. HA Thi Thanh Huong:
Ph.D. Fellow in Biosciences, Stanford University

2. Mr. NGUYEN Phuong Duy:
**Ph.D. Fellow in Electrical and Computer Engineering,
University of California at Davis**

Last Year's Oral Exam Experience

2012 Fellows - Hanoi



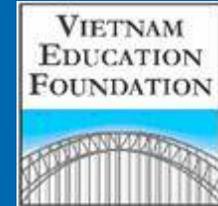
1. Mr. DO Tho Truong:

Ph.D. Fellow in Mechanical Engineering, Michigan State University

2. Ms. TU Ngoc Ly Lan:

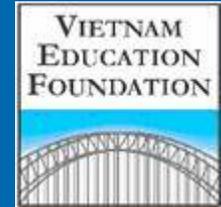
Ph.D. Fellow in Genetics and Development, Cornell University

Administration



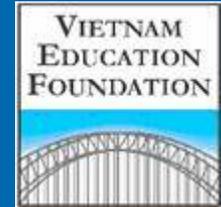
-- For Fellowship applicants--

- Review and Collection of your documents



Instructions

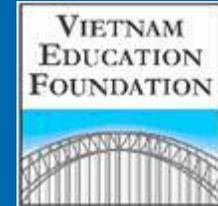
1. Follow the sequence on the check-list to organize your documents for submission to VEF.
2. You must submit **FOUR** identical sets of documents (one notarized set plus three copies of the notarized set.)
3. All pages must be in white A4 size. No stapled sheets and envelopes will be accepted.
4. Use 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!