



Job description

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE **Immigration & Operations**

Please Note: To apply, you must have the required qualifications listed below.

Introduction

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) was established by the U.S. Congress in December 2000 as an independent federal government agency. VEF's primary purpose is to promote closer relations between the United States and Vietnam through educational exchange both for Vietnamese nationals to pursue graduate and post-graduate studies in science and technology in the United States and for American citizens to teach in the same fields of study in Vietnam. As of Fall 2009, VEF has placed 306 Fellows and 26 Visiting Scholars at top level U.S. universities as well as 7 U.S. Faculty Scholars at Vietnamese universities. The varied projects of VEF are intended to assist Vietnam to gain from, and contribute to, scientific and technological advances globally. VEF receives mandatory funding from the U.S. Government until 2018 without going through the annual congressional appropriation process.

Overview of the position

VEF is searching for a self-motivated and disciplined individual, who wants to make a difference and expand professionally in the field of international education, to provide program support for VEF immigration functions and to assist in the execution of administrative matters related to VEF programs and their related activities. VEF offers the opportunity to be in an international, cross-cultural organization, interacting with various U.S. and Vietnamese entities. The position will involve occasional travel to Vietnam and will involve regular interactions with the VEF field office staff in Hanoi, Vietnam. Occasional travel within the United States is required, including travel to the VEF Annual Conference and to U.S. universities.

The Program Associate (PA) will report to the Senior Program Officer and serves as the Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) for VEF. The PA will assist the VEF Responsible Officer and play an integral role in helping VEF comply with complex government regulations and requirements. In addition, s/he will assist the Senior Program Officer with various aspects of operations, including the Fellowship and Visiting Scholar Program, the U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant Program, and other projects. The Program Associate is located in the U.S. headquarters office in Arlington, Virginia.

MAJOR DUTIES

Immigration

The Program Associate will assist with all immigration functions of VEF, serving as the ARO. The PA will be responsible for the following:

1. Maintaining and updating records for all VEF program participants in the VEF program administration system and in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) in order to meet all federal regulations.
2. Issuing Forms DS-2019 for all VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars as well as their dependents.
3. Assuring SEVIS compliance and keeping all required information updated on SEVIS in a timely manner.
4. Advising and communicating regularly with the Fellows and Visiting Scholars and with their U.S. universities with regard to all immigration matters and VEF policies and procedures.
5. Monitoring the Fellows' academic status and progress toward degree completion to assure legal compliance with immigration regulations and VEF Fellowship requirements.

6. Communicating with U.S. universities, when required, to monitor academic progress.
7. Reviewing and authorizing requests for on-campus employment and Academic Training and issuing relevant letters, documents, and communications.
8. Conducting periodic reviews of immigration functions and data integrity reports.
9. Assisting with all other matters related to immigration and to VEF's authorization as a sponsor of an Exchange Visitor Program.

Program Activities

The PA assists the Senior Program Officer with all aspects of program operations, including the Fellowship and Visiting Scholar Program, the U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant Program, and other projects, while interacting frequently with the VEF Hanoi Field Office staff, who have direct responsibilities for related activities, as well as interacting with various external entities. As a member of the VEF team, the PA will communicate regularly with VEF staff responsible for various aspects of the programs.

Regarding the activities of the Fellowship and Visiting Scholar Program and the U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant Program, the PA will assist the Senior Program Officer in all of the program activities, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Application, selection, and placement processes for the Fellowship and Visiting Scholar Programs and the application and selection process for the U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant Program.
2. Organization of, and activities for, the Pre-Departure Orientation for Fellows and Visiting Scholars.
3. Orientation(s) for U.S. Faculty Scholars.
4. Monitoring and verification of financial obligations of VEF for Fellows and for Visiting Scholars at each university.
5. Assist with planning and execution of the annual VEF conference.
6. Activities associated with U.S. universities, including
 - a. Communicating information regarding newly selected Fellowship nominees and Fellows for each new cohort as well as information regarding new Visiting Scholars.
 - b. Coordinating visits by U.S. universities to the U.S. VEF office or visits by VEF Alliance schools to the VEF office in Vietnam.
 - c. Arranging visits by VEF staff to U.S. universities.
7. Other duties as may be assigned.

The PA will also be involved in helping with the following:

1. VEF Alumni Network and Conference in Vietnam
2. VEF workshops and seminars
3. Special projects related to all programs

OTHER DUTIES

In addition to the major duties listed above, the Program Associate does the following:

1. Regularly reviews systems, documents, and procedures relevant to his/her duties with the intent to improve the efficiency of VEF.
2. Contributes to the management, strategies, and directions of VEF by taking the initiative to offer new ideas and approaches.
3. Helps develop relevant budgets for program activities.
4. Is responsible for other duties as assigned by the Senior Program Officer and/or Executive Director.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required Background, Experience, and Skills

- U.S. citizen.
- Minimum of a bachelor's degree (not online) from an accredited U.S. university.
- Native speaker of English.
- Minimum of two (2) years of recent work experience as an Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO), demonstrating thorough hands-on knowledge of United States Citizenship and Immigration

Services/Department of State J visa regulations and Exchange Visitor Program regulations, in particular in the categories of Student College/University, Research Scholar, and Short-term Scholar.

- Familiarity with SEVIS compliance and reporting requirements.
- Experience with, and oversight of, web-based management systems.
- Two (2) years of experience working directly with international students.
- Evidence of strong critical and analytical thinking skills.
- Ability to apply analytical methods and techniques to gather and summarize data and to identify and resolve issues.
- Demonstrated cross-cultural awareness skills, commitment to work with individuals of diverse backgrounds, and ability to communicate effectively in cross-cultural situations.
- Strong computer skills in a PC/Windows environment including word processing (MS Word), database management (Excel, Access), presentation (PowerPoint), administrative computer systems, internet and electronic mail.
- Experience giving public presentations, using power point.
- Ability to work independently and manage the workload efficiently with serious attention to details and to accuracy of information.
- Proven ability to multi-task in a fast-paced work environment. Ability to manage details of several major projects at once with excellent organizational skills.
- Ability to communicate effectively and positively, both orally and in writing, at all levels with a high concern for interpersonal diligence and diplomacy.
- Experience in composing original documents and doing very close editing and proofreading of those same documents and of documents composed by non-native speakers.
- Ability to function within an unstructured setting with responsibility and accountability, while maintaining a positive and professional attitude and achieving quality performance.
- Experience planning and managing programs and activities for international students.
- Experience living, studying, and/or working outside of the United States.
- Ability to travel domestically and to Vietnam when required.

Preferred Background, Experience, and Skills

- Understanding of U.S. university graduate degree programs in science and technology.
- Experience working in a U.S. higher education environment, including familiarity with the administrative functions and roles of various key offices that work with international students/scholars and sponsored students.
- Experience working in international educational exchange.
- Experience with Web Site development and management.
- Fluency in a second language.
- Experience living, studying, working, or traveling in Vietnam, Asia (specifically Southeast Asia), or a developing country.

SALARY/BENEFITS AND START DATE

Salary/Benefits

The Program Associate is a U.S. government employee and is eligible for all applicable federal government benefits. Annual salary range is \$35,000-50,000, depending on background and experience. Expected start date: As soon as possible.

Start Date

As soon as possible.

Application Procedures

One's application must include a cover letter that explains how the candidate meets the required background, experience, and skills, and that indicates the present salary and salary requirements. The application must include the candidate's resume and the names of 3 professional references, including the referee's position,

dates, and circumstances of knowing the applicant, and the referee's contact phone number(s) and email address.

Applications can be emailed to Christie Dam (christiedam@vef.gov). No phone calls will be accepted. Please note that only applications sent electronically will be accepted.

This position will also be posted at USAJobs (<http://www.usajobs.gov/>). Search for “Vietnam Education Foundation.”

Deadline: September 30, 2011, or until filled

<p style="text-align: center;">THE VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.</p>

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