K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Vietnam

A guide for international students & families — how Vietnamese higher education works, the DH student visa and residence registration, affordable tuition, English programs, and work.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

VERY AFFORDABLE, FAST-GROWING, ENGLISH OPTIONS AT BRANCH CAMPUSES

Vietnam is a fast-rising, **very affordable** study destination in the heart of Southeast Asia, with respected national universities and a growing set of **English-taught programs — notably at RMIT Vietnam (an Australian branch) and Fulbright University Vietnam (American-model)**. Non-EU students get a **DH student visa** (school-sponsored) and must **register their residence within 24 hours** of arrival. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Vietnamese rules, tuition, and funds change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with your (sponsoring) university, the Vietnam Immigration Department, and the relevant embassy**.

1

STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Vietnam

WHAT TO KNOW

Vietnam offers **very low tuition and living costs; a growing range of English-taught programs (RMIT, Fulbright, and others); a safe, friendly, and vibrant culture; and a central Southeast Asian location** — an emerging, budget-friendly destination.

BY THE NUMBERS

Very affordable	English programs	Central SE Asia
tuition & living	RMIT, Fulbright	safe & vibrant

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Vietnam's **very low costs and growing English options** against a still-developing international-student system — for affordable, English-taught study in a dynamic region, it's a rising choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

Branch and private universities like **RMIT Vietnam and Fulbright** deliver English-taught, internationally-modeled degrees — a real draw.

2

STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Vietnam's leading institutions include **Vietnam National University (Hanoi and HCMC)**, **Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST)**, Foreign Trade University, and Ton Duc Thang, plus **international/private universities: RMIT Vietnam (Australian), Fulbright University Vietnam (American), and SIU** (English-taught).

BY THE NUMBERS

VNU / HUST	RMIT / Fulbright	SIU
national leaders	English, international	+ others

HOW TO HELP

Choose between **affordable national universities** (VNU, HUST) and **English-taught international/private universities** (RMIT, Fulbright, SIU) by field, budget, and language.

GOOD TO KNOW

RMIT Vietnam runs a **trimester system (Feb/June/October intakes)** — and its degree is an Australian RMIT qualification.

3

STEP 03 OF 10

Get the DH Student Visa

WHAT TO KNOW

You need a **DH (study) visa**, sponsored by your school. Importantly, **e-visas and visa exemptions don't work for study** — the DH visa requires **embassy processing with your school's sponsorship**. Your university issues a **visa invitation/approval letter**; you apply at a Vietnamese embassy/consulate. The DH visa runs 3–12 months, extendable.

BY THE NUMBERS

DH visa	Embassy processing	3–12 months
study, school-sponsored	(not e-visa)	extendable

HOW TO HELP

Let your **school sponsor your DH visa** (it issues an invitation letter), apply at a **Vietnamese embassy**, and note that e-visas/exemptions can't be used for study — the DH visa is required.

WATCH OUT

You **can't use an e-visa or visa exemption to study** — the DH visa needs embassy processing and school sponsorship.

4

STEP 04 OF 10

Register Your Residence (24 hours!)

WHAT TO KNOW

A crucial rule: **temporary residence registration is mandatory within 24 hours of arrival** (usually handled by your university or accommodation/landlord). Overstaying or failing to register carries penalties (e.g., fines per day). For longer stays, you may later apply for a **Temporary Residence Card (TRC)**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Register	Via university/landlord	TRC
within 24 hours!	usually	for longer stays

HOW TO HELP

Ensure your **temporary residence is registered within 24 hours** of arrival (your university or landlord usually handles it), and consider a **TRC** for a longer stay.

WATCH OUT

The **24-hour residence-registration rule** is strict — confirm your university or accommodation completes it immediately on arrival.

5

STEP 05 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to universities** (each has its own process and intakes). Decide whether you want to study **in English or Vietnamese**, and check tuition, duration, and scholarships. Your university issues an **acceptance letter** and typically arranges the **visa approval letter**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	English or Vietnamese	Acceptance letter
to universities	by program	+ visa letter

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen universities, decide on English- or Vietnamese-taught study, and get your **acceptance letter** — the anchor for your DH visa.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most universities **assist with the visa** and issue a visa approval letter from the immigration department — lean on their international office.

6

STEP 06 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **very affordable** at national universities, and **higher at English-taught international/private universities (RMIT, Fulbright)**. Living costs are low ($300–600/month). Scholarships come from the Vietnamese government (bilateral programs) and universities.

BY THE NUMBERS

National	RMIT/Fulbright	Low living
very affordable	higher (English)	$300–600/mo

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **affordable tuition** (national universities cheapest; RMIT/Fulbright higher for English-taught degrees) plus low living costs, and pursue government and university scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

Vietnam's **low living costs** ($300–600/month) make it very budget-friendly — a major advantage.

7

STEP 07 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

You generally must show **financial ability** (a bank statement or sponsor letter) to cover tuition and living, plus proof of accommodation. Note: some universities (e.g., RMIT) sponsor the visa and **don't require separate financial proof**. Confirm what your school and the embassy need.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	+ accommodation	Some schools
bank statement/sponsor	proof	sponsor (no proof)

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds and accommodation** where required — though some sponsoring universities (like RMIT) don't require separate financial proof, so confirm with your school.

GOOD TO KNOW

Requirements vary by school — some (like RMIT) **sponsor the visa without separate financial proof**; others require a bank statement.

8

STEP 08 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are taught in **Vietnamese** or, at international/private universities, in **English** (with English-test requirements). If studying in Vietnamese, universities offer **Vietnamese-language courses**. Some Vietnamese helps daily life either way.

BY THE NUMBERS

Vietnamese	English	Language courses
or English	RMIT, Fulbright, etc.	for Vietnamese

HOW TO HELP

Confirm your program's language — choose **English-taught** (RMIT/Fulbright) or take **Vietnamese-language courses** for Vietnamese-taught study — and pick up some Vietnamese for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

For English-taught study, **RMIT and Fulbright** are the standout options — national-university programs are often in Vietnamese.

9

STEP 09 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, ensure your **24-hour residence registration is done, arrange (compulsory) health insurance, and set up banking**. Living costs are low, and Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City offer vibrant student life. For a longer stay, apply for a **TRC**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Residence registration	Insurance	Cities
within 24 hours	compulsory	Hanoi, HCMC

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **24-hour residence registration, compulsory insurance, banking** — and enjoy Vietnam—s low costs and lively cities; consider a TRC for a longer stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

Medical insurance is compulsory for student-visa holders — some universities (like RMIT) arrange it for you.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Make the most of Vietnam's affordability, dynamic economy, and central Southeast Asian location (easy travel to Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, and beyond). For a longer stay or post-study work, confirm the current **TRC and work-permit pathways**, which are evolving.

BY THE NUMBERS

Central SE Asia	Dynamic economy	Post-study
easy regional travel	+ low costs	confirm TRC/work routes

HOW TO HELP

Use Vietnam's **central location and dynamic economy**, immerse in the culture, and confirm the current **TRC and work-permit pathways** if you want to stay and work.

GOOD TO KNOW

Post-study stay/work runs through **TRCs and work permits** — confirm the current, evolving rules for your situation.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Vietnam: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm everything with your university, the Vietnam Immigration Department, and the relevant embassy.

The system

Vietnam National University (Hanoi and HCMC), HUST, Foreign Trade University, Ton Duc Thang, plus international/private universities (RMIT Vietnam — Australian; Fulbright — American; SIU) with English-taught programs.

The visa

Non-EU students need a DH (study) visa, sponsored by the school and processed at a Vietnamese embassy (e-visas/exemptions don't work for study); register temporary residence within 24 hours of arrival; a TRC is possible for longer stays.

Tuition

Very affordable at national universities; higher at English-taught international/private universities (RMIT, Fulbright); living costs low ($300–600/month); government and university scholarships.

Money & language

Prove funds/accommodation where required (some universities like RMIT sponsor without separate proof); Vietnamese or English programs (RMIT/Fulbright); Vietnamese-language courses available; insurance compulsory.

After study

Central Southeast Asian location for regional travel; post-study stay/work runs through TRCs and work permits — confirm the current, evolving rules.

YOUR VIETNAMESE JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our other Studying in [Country] guides, Top Universities by Country, and country guides — among **1,297 free resources**.

tools.k12academics.com →

K12 ACADEMICS

k12academics.com
© 2004–2026 K12 Academics