

# Vietnam Ireland Bilateral Education Exchange (VIBE) Programme

## 1. Background

The Vietnam Ireland Bilateral Education Exchange (VIBE) programme aims to contribute to Vietnam's socio-economic development priorities by encouraging mutually beneficial development links between Vietnam and Ireland, with particular reference to third-level education and research cooperation.

The specific objective of the programme is to act as a catalyst to encourage and deepen third-level education **linkages**, build capacity and research capability by supporting the commencement of a number of new partnerships between Irish and Vietnamese education and research institutions.

"Linkages" here refer to new two-way co-operation between Vietnamese and Irish third level institutions across a broad range of academic and research activities and can include:

- Staff and student exchanges that contribute to collaborative innovation/learning projects, digital Innovation and creativity
- Joint curriculum design and development
- Joint teaching programmes that contribute to capacity/systems strengthening
- Development and sharing of quality assurance/certification systems
- Exchanges that contribute to building skills and institutional management capacity
- Joint work on student enterprise development and innovation
- Joint research focussed on creating opportunities for sustainable research collaboration<sup>1</sup>

## 3. Disciplines

The disciplines of VIBE programme reflect the overall objectives of contributing to sustainable socio-economic development in Vietnam and are in line with the Government of Vietnam's sectoral priorities for overseas education and research collaboration.

Prioritised areas for the 2020 call are:

- Agribusiness, Food Safety and Nutrition
- Environment and climate change/action

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<sup>1</sup> As this funding is catalytic, the scale of available resources is unlikely to support major research but can contribute to research planning, sharing and joint funding identification and stimulating initial links between and supporting capacity building among, early career researchers.

## 4 Eligible Applicant Institutions

Eligible Vietnamese institutions include higher education academic and research institutions and vocational colleges that have a registered legal status in Vietnam. Eligible Irish intuitions include recognised Irish Higher Level Intuitions (public and private).

VIBE projects/ partnerships that have received fund from the Embassy for 4 years are not eligible for extension under this call.

Applications must be submitted by the Vietnamese partner but should be jointly prepared by the Vietnamese and Irish Institutions based on an agreed partnership. Other stakeholders can be part of the partnership (e.g. private sector engagement).

## 5. VIBE Funding and project management

Award is up to a maximum of €70,000 per annum depending on the proposed project activities. The project duration under the VIBE programme is 12 – 15 months.

**Eligible expenditure:** Project expenditures eligible for the Embassy's funding include direct cost to implement project activities, travel costs, accommodation and subsistence. In general, eligible areas of focus are those listed in Section 2 above. UN-EU cost norms 2017 for development projects in Vietnam will be applied – see below link for further information.

[https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/un\\_eu\\_costnorms2017\\_2.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/un_eu_costnorms2017_2.pdf)

**Non-eligible expenditure:** Professional fees for academic staff are not eligible. Salary, allowances, honorarium for the project personnel and academic staff from both Vietnamese and Irish institutions involved in the project are not allowed under the VIBE programme and should be factored into the project budget as the partners' own contribution. Grants for researchers and academics to undertake PhD studies in Ireland or Vietnam are only considered under special circumstances and on exceptional basis.

Costs in kind must also be factored into the proposal budget to demonstrate the commitment and cost-sharing of the applicants.

The Vietnamese applicant will be the project owner and it will be responsible for overseeing project management, including budget management and reporting to the Embassy in line with the Embassy's partner guidelines. The Vietnamese applicant institutions must possess the organisational, governance and financial structures necessary to receive, manage, account for and report on external funding in a transparent and efficient manner. The Embassy will conduct a preliminary organisational capacity assessment of successful applicants before awarding the grant.

The Irish university will collaborate with the Vietnamese partner to deliver the project, based on the MOU/MOA between the two sides. The Irish partner must confirm to the Embassy the commitment for collaboration and contribution of own resources for the project.

Upon final selection, an agreement will be signed by the Embassy of Ireland and the successful Vietnamese partner institution. The Vietnam partner will be entirely responsible for oversight of the project budget.

## **6 Application Process**

### **Stage 1: Submission of Concept note**

A concept note following the Embassy of Ireland's format must be submitted by email in English, by the Vietnamese partner to the Embassy of Ireland, Hanoi by **12:00 hrs local time on 15 April 2020**. The concept note should not exceed four A4 pages, excluding Annexes. .

### **Stage 2: Submission of full technical proposal**

Applicants who are successful in the concept note stage will be invited to submit a full technical proposal. The format for technical proposal and further instruction will be provided to the shortlisted candidates.

## **7. Time Line, Award, Contract**

The time line is as follows:

- Submission concept note : 15 April 2020
- Invitation for full proposal: 4 May 2020
- Submission of full proposal: 15 June 2020
- Notification of final results: 30 June 2020
- Contract signing : July 2020
- Projects commence: July 2020

Appraisal and selection will be undertaken by the Embassy of Ireland Hanoi.

Key selection criteria include:

- Feasibility and organisational capacity
- Project relevance and alignment to Ireland's Strategy in Vietnam
- A clear and practical co-operation plan and activities
- Clear milestones, planned outputs and eventual outcomes
- Innovation of project approach
- Sustainability beyond the Embassy's funding
- Contribution of own resources

## **8. Submission of applications**

Concept notes should be emailed no later 12:00 hrs local time on 15 April 2020 to

Ms. Vu Thi Minh Thuy

Programme Officer

Embassy of Ireland

Email: vuthiminh.thuy@dfanet.ie

## **9 Forms**

- Concept note format (attached)
- Full proposal format will be sent to applicants who are successful in the concept note stage. A more detailed work plan, and a letter of re-confirmation from the Irish partner, will be required at this stage. Further instruction on preparation of a detailed project budget will be provided to the shortlisted applicants.