

Internationalisation in Higher Education

Opportunities and Challenges for Universities in Vietnam



Hoang Minh Son

Internationalisation in Higher Education (UNESCO 2006)

- is a process of integrating an international perspective into the education and research
- integrates an international, intercultural and global dimension into many aspects of a university or a higher education system:
 - Strategies
 - Teaching and learning
 - Research
 - Service functions
 - Standards and programs
 - Leadership and governance
 -

Approaches of Internationalisation of Vietnam Higher Education System

Internationalising existing HEIs

- All top universities
- Many other universities and university colleges

Establishing new international HEIs

- VGU (Vietnam-Germany)
- USTH (Vietnam-France)
- VJU (Vietnam-Japan)
- ...

Establishing new foreign HEIs

- RMIT (AUS)
- BUU (UK)
- FUV (USA)
- ...

Main Components of an Internationalised HE Institution

01

Adopting international academic standards and conventions

02

International programs with English as medium of instructions

03

Recruiting overseas students, faculties and scholars

04

Students and faculties exchange programs

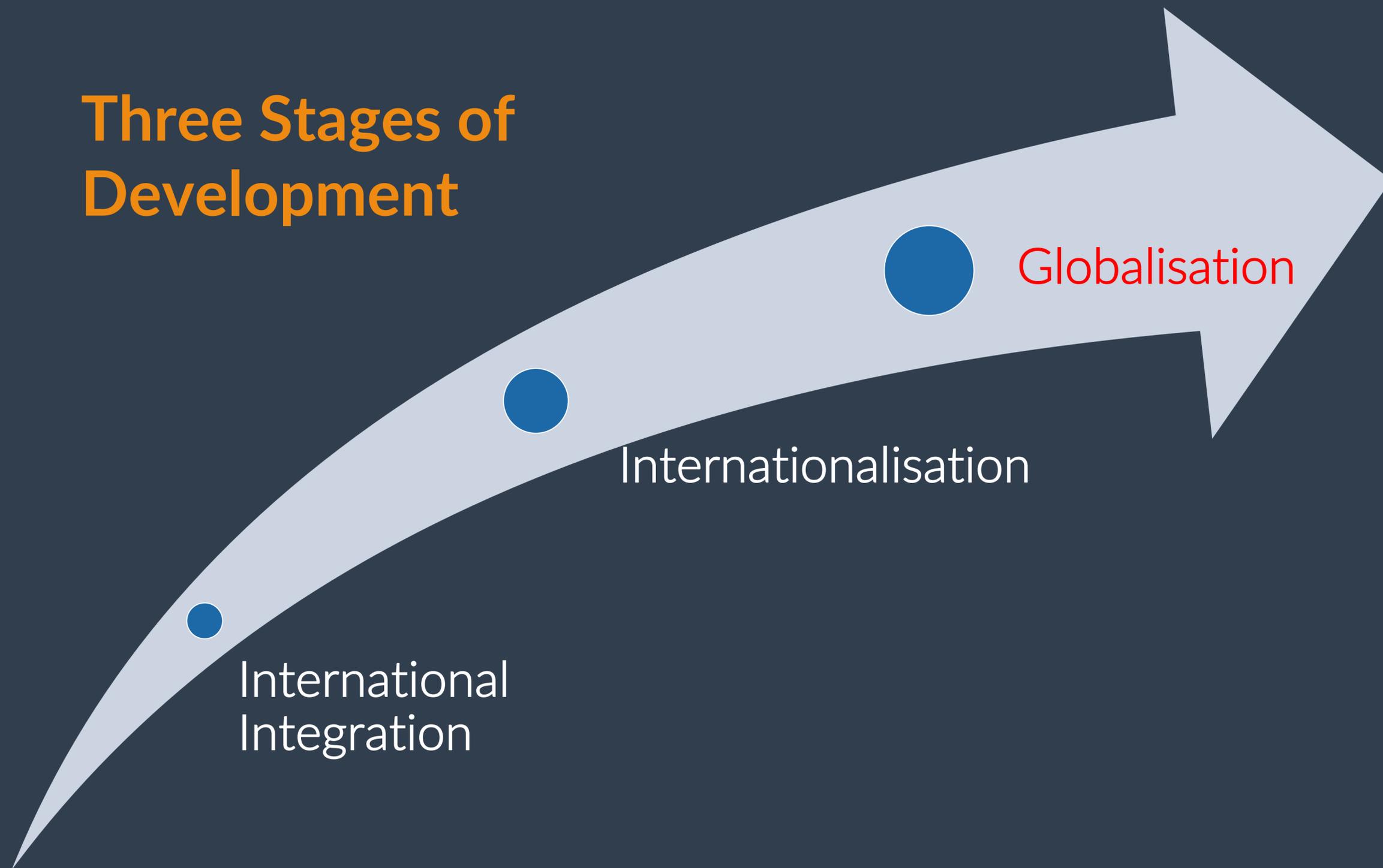
05

Collaborative research projects and publications

Why internationalisation matters in Vietnamese universities?

- Collaborative education programmes help reform curriculum and adopt international standards
- International faculties and students enrich the culture and motivate domestic students
- Outgoing students gain international experiences which help elevate their careers as global citizen
- Universities gain better recognitions, reputations and rankings in the region and world-wide
- International programmes generate high revenues for universities

Three Stages of Development



Internationalisation of Vietnamese HEIs

- Almost all HEIs have some activities of internationalisation
- International collaborative programs, student and staff mobility programs are most popular
- Top universities get international accreditations of institutions or programs
- Top universities get recognition in international rankings (2 VNU, HUST, TDTU)
- Top universities focusing now more on international collaboration in research and postgraduate education

Legal frameworks for Internationalisation in Vietnam Higher Education

- Resolution No. 29-NQ/TW on fundamental and comprehensive innovation in education and training, serving industrialisation and modernisation of the country
- Revised HE Law 2018 focusing on autonomy, governance reform, and quality assurance
- Decree No. 86/2018/ND-CP: Foreign cooperation and investment in education
- National Standards: National Qualification Frameworks, Evaluation and Accreditation Standards of HEIs and Programs,...

Opportunities for Universities in Vietnam

01

High demand and increased affordability of young generations for high-quality education (also from the region)

02

Increased autonomy for universities for collaborate with international partners and open new programs

03

Globalisation fosters more foreign companies and universities to collaborate with Vietnamese partners

04

Wide accessibility of MOOCs and digital tools for higher education sectors

05

Motivations of Vietnamese universities to gain world reputations and rankings

Autonomy in International Education Collaboration

Higher education institution can decide on its own:

- To establish any new Bachelor program if the institution is accredited
- To establish a new Master program based on a accredited related Bachelor program
- To establish a new PhD program based a accredited related Master program
- To develop the curricular (as long as its conforms to national standard)
- To choose the language of instruction
- To select the accreditation agency for accreditation of institution and programs

Challenges for Universities in Vietnam

01

Stronger competitions among universities to recruit students and talented staff, domestic and global

02

Reform of university governance model and restructuring of higher education system

03

Limited financial support from government, disadvantages for weak universities to implement autonomy

04

Equality and accessibility for disadvantaged student, students form low-income families

Top Priorities for Successful Internationalisation of Vietnamese HEIs

- 01 Enhanced leadership and governance capacity
- 02 International collaborative programs and strategy for quality assurance
- 03 English as second language on campus
- 04 Enhanced research capabilities through international research networks and industrial collaborations
- 05 Strategy for recruitment and nurturing of talents