

Report 2020–23

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Introduction

We are pleased to share the three-year summary report of our work between 2020 and early 2023, reflecting the pandemic and post-pandemic years.

Building on our portfolio over many years with different government, non-government and international partners, the British Council in Viet Nam has worked as a bridge and supported innovative partnerships with organisations/institutions across arts and culture, education and English language teaching, learning and assessment, contributing to greater UK and Viet Nam collaboration and growth. Through our programmes and services, we have continued to support the creative, employability, leadership and research skills of many thousands of young people in Viet Nam, whilst at the same time strengthening institutional and organisational capability.

Our programmes and activities are informed by research and market insight, providing reassurance to both our UK and Vietnamese partners and the wider market. This has meant that we have provided valuable insights in education, English language and arts and culture adding value to a range of Vietnamese institutions and organisations.

Whilst covering our three areas of Arts and Culture, Education and English Language, this report primarily focuses on our Education and English language programmes and services given the remit of the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), and so we very much welcome feedback from our MOET partners.

Our next report will include a detailed focus of our UK/Viet Nam Season 2023 which celebrated two important milestones in the UK–Viet Nam relationship – 30 years of the British Council's presence in Viet Nam and 50 years anniversary of diplomatic relations between both countries. The Season, which took place between June and December 2023, was a diverse programme of more

than 30 projects and initiatives across all areas of our work, all involving both UK and Vietnamese partners. The Season was both a celebration of the remarkable partnership to date between the UK and Viet Nam, whilst at the same time looking with great anticipation towards the future. Ultimately, our ambition is to continue to strengthen national, UK and international networks as well as support a cadre of young outward-looking leaders supporting an inclusive and sustainable Viet Nam with strengthened cross-sectoral links with the wider UK.

The British Council in Viet Nam is very grateful to the Government of Viet Nam, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and all related government authorities for their partnership. We also look forward to preparing for the process of the renewal of our operational status which is due later in 2024, and we thank MOET and all our Government partners in advance for their support in this. We respectfully assure all our Government partners and all related authorities that the British Council in Viet Nam will continue to consistently pursue our mission and vision in Viet Nam with high quality programmes and services that contribute effectively to Viet Nam's development priorities and strengthen collaboration between both countries.

About us

About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. We do this through our work in arts and culture, education and the English language. We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2021–22 we reached 650 million people.

About the British Council in Viet Nam

The British Council has an established presence in Viet Nam, with a dynamic portfolio spanning the arts and creative industries, education (higher, vocational and non-formal), and English teaching, learning and assessment, delivering a range of academic and professional UK qualifications.

We have 370 staff in Hanoi and in Ho Chi Minh City across nine offices and teaching centres. We opened three Young Learners English language teaching centres in Ho Chi Minh City in 2023 and plan to open ten further centres in the coming two years in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

We have built extensive networks, connections and partnerships between UK and Vietnamese individuals, organisations and institutions across all areas of our work, and with ambitions to further expand these networks.



Our Status

From 14 December 2019, the British Council in Viet Nam has consisted of two entities:

- a) the British Council Viet Nam as regulated in Decision 4789/QĐ-BGDĐT (dated 13 December 2019) operating in the fields of culture, education and technical cooperation programmes and
- b) the British Council Limited Liability Company (Viet Nam) incorporated under Viet Nam's Enterprise and Investment laws, with Enterprise registration number 0107581903, effective from 19 September 2016, delivering English language teaching, examination and educational support services.

Despite challenges posed by COVID-19 from early 2020 to middle of 2022, coupled with our global transformation programme that impacted considerably on our operations in Viet Nam, we are proud to report that we have been very resilient in not only maintaining our work but continuing to develop and expand through an innovative approach.

By October 2023, the British Council in Viet Nam started on our fifth year operating under the Decision 4789/QĐ-BGDĐT (dated 13 December 2019). We have successfully delivered a diverse portfolio of activities across our three operating pillars of Education, English, and Arts and Culture. Our other entity, the British Council Limited Liability Company (Viet Nam) (registration number 0107581903, effective from 19 September 2016), resumed English language teaching and Examination services immediately from the time the Vietnamese government announced the new normal with lifted social restrictions. To date, we have nine English language teaching centres in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. We are working on ambitious plans of expansion in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to better meet the increased need for high quality English language training in Viet Nam. We commit to our long-term vision of expanding the range of our services and presence in Viet Nam, and start to look at other locations in addition to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in the years to come.

Our two entities operate jointly together as one British Council operation in Viet Nam, with a shared mission of building connections, understanding, and trust in a world of opportunities, contributing to our global vision and mission. The two entities also operate in shared premises, with headquarters at 20 Thuy Khue, Tay Ho, Hanoi, and a branch office at 285 Cach Mang Thang Tam, District 10, Ho Chi Minh City.

With the established status of the two entities, we are confident in expanding the reach and quality of our partnership programmes in culture, education, and technical cooperation and services in the areas of English language teaching, examinations, and educational and cultural co-operation, to increasing numbers of people in Viet Nam.

2023 has marked our 30th anniversary of operation in Viet Nam, and the 50th anniversary of the UK–Viet Nam diplomatic relationship, with strong foundations and a commitment to further enhance our collaboration with partners in Viet Nam, the UK, and other countries, to contribute effectively to strengthening strategic partnerships between the two countries, beyond the first fifty years of our diplomatic relationship.

Summary

Arts and Creative Industries

1m

Audiences are reached in Viet Nam every year

100

UK and Vietnamese artists, creative professionals, and art and cultural organisations annually

30–50

organisations and institutions received grant support

Higher Education

2,945

UK and Vietnamese higher education leaders, academics, researchers, students were engaged in our activities

14

Vietnamese higher education leaders joined a mission led by Director General of Higher Education Department

50

UK higher education institutions, governmental organisations, professional bodies participated

Study UK and Alumni

5,730

Vietnamese students participated in Study UK promotional events

560+

counsellors from overseas study agents and international schools attended UK briefing

250

alumni in Viet Nam have engaged with Alumni Awards programme

The Newton Programme Viet Nam

£4.4m

Financial contribution

£3.7m

In-kind and other
contribution

150

participants in professional
development and
engagement activity

English Programmes

447

teachers benefited from Viet
Nam Digital Learning Innovation
Fund Pilot project

1,600

teachers directly benefited
from the TAGs

10,000

teachers and teacher educators
from across Viet Nam could
access free, up-to-date learning
resources

Youth Leadership programme

150

Mekong Delta youth
from provincial
Youth Unions of Can
Tho City

15

social action
projects

12

mentors
supported
youth social
action
projects



Performance and Achievements

Arts and Creative Industries

Aims

- Showcase the UK arts and creativity and promote collaboration between UK and Vietnamese artists.
- Create opportunities for heritage practitioners, cultural professionals, artists, and young people to develop their knowledge, skills and networks contributing to greater prosperity.
- Support communities, including those with marginalised groups, to gain better access to and awareness about arts and cultural heritage as well as contribute and benefit from their cultural values.
- Build useful connections between governments, organisations and institutions and celebrate the best of UK–Viet Nam partnership in the arts and culture.

Partners

- Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
- Viet Nam National Assembly Committee for Culture, Education, Youth, Adolescents and Children
- Viet Nam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)
- Viet Nam National University in Hanoi (VNUYU)
- Government agencies, institutions, organisations and businesses working in the arts, culture and creative sectors across Viet Nam



UK–Viet Nam Connection through Culture create new partnerships and strengthen existing ones between UK and Vietnamese organisations and institutions in the arts and culture.



Cultural Heritage for Inclusive Growth project supports communities of Chăm ethnic in Ninh Thuận province and Ede, Bahnar and J'rai ethnic in Gia Lai province in safeguarding and celebrating local cultural heritage.



Backstage to the Future project promotes artistic approaches and creative communications amongst young people in tackling social issues.

Achievements

- Our art and cultural activities and events, from training to exhibitions and performances, reach over one million audiences in Viet Nam every year.
- We create useful connections leading to artistic collaboration and long-term partnership for over 100 UK and Vietnamese artists, creative professionals, and art and cultural organisations annually.
- We provide grant support to between 30 and 50 organisations and institutions on annual basis for delivering capacity building opportunities in the culture sectors and showcasing artistic talents to the Vietnamese audience.
- We continually expand our impact beyond first tier cities in Viet Nam, reaching diverse communities in Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Bac Ninh, Quang Binh, Da Lat, Da Nang, Gia Lai, Ninh Thuan, Can Tho and many more.
- We thrive to strengthen our pioneering role in promoting diversity, inclusion, gender equality, and sustainability in the culture sector.



1m

Audiences are reached in Viet Nam every year

100

UK and Vietnamese artists, creative professionals, and art and cultural organisations engaged annually

30–50

organisations and institutions received grant support

6

I learned a lot more about Vietnamese design and culture, about interesting grassroots projects and about the story of how local designers founded or co-founded their businesses. It was great getting an understanding of the diversity of craftspeople and designers in Viet Nam from so many ethnicities and backgrounds. For our sector, we would share - as case studies - the methods / processes / stories of Vietnamese designers that have moved into the contemporary design spaces whilst acknowledging and celebrating their heritage.'



Karishma Kusurkar, Founder and Director, Belfast Design Week, UK

6

Through Backstage to the Future, our partners employ innovative approaches to creating useful informative resources, as well as effective communication and advocacy platforms for the benefit of vulnerable individuals and communities. I encourage you to join us to learn from this handbook [Handbook for the Youth], and use the knowledge as to enable ourselves to reach and support many young men and women from local communities realising their future dreams safely either in Viet Nam or abroad.'



Giorgio Aliberti, Ambassador, European Delegation in Viet Nam

[View our Backstage to the Future Handbook](#)

6

The project [Cultural Heritage for Inclusive Growth] is a strong encouragement for local weavers to gather their strength to rebuild the Cooperative and their traditional craft after Covid-19 leaving devastating impact in their villages.'



Phú Văn Ngòi, President, Brocade Cooperative Chăm Mỹ Nghiệp, Ninh Thuận

6

Our mission is about social economic development and cultural preservation. The Connection through Culture grant was very practical and meaningful to help us really address community needs with actions. This grant helped us to strengthen and develop more activities on cultural preservation side especially Deng textile and lead bead which is what our team is really passionate about.'



Lê Thị Châu Quỳnh, Centre for Cultural Preservation & Economic Development

Higher Education

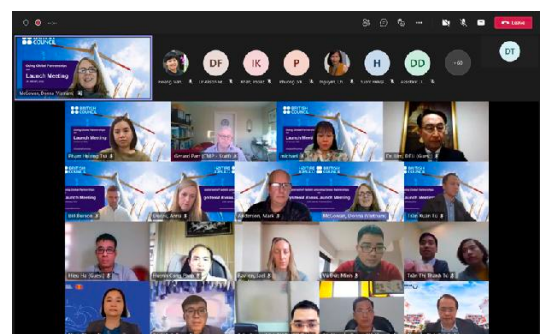
Aim

Provide ongoing support to the Viet Nam's Higher Education Reform Agenda under the framework of Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education and Training, and the International Education Strategy of the UK through the Going Global Partnerships programme, that enables knowledge sharing and UK–Viet Nam sustainable higher education partnerships in key priority areas of Viet Nam as below:

- higher education leadership for social inclusion and gender equality; preparation of Vietnamese qualifications for future development of trans-national education programmes and international recognition; and the excellence in teaching, research, innovation, and knowledge transfer.
- digital transformation in higher education in Viet Nam.
- empowering women in research, STEM, and promoting gender equality in higher education.
- research development for early career researchers in Viet Nam.
- enabling stronger UK–Viet Nam higher education network for knowledge exchange and partnership creation.

Partners

- Ministry of Education and Training: International Cooperation Department, Higher Education Department, Viet Nam Quality Assurance Agency, Information and Technology Department.
- UK and Vietnamese universities and businesses.
- UK governmental departments and professional bodies: Department of Business and Trade, Universities Wales, Global Wales, Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Jisc (UK digital, data and technology agency); HEFCW (Higher Education Funding Council for Wales), Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).



Results

- A Memorandum of Collaboration (MOC) between British Council and Ministry of Education and Training signed in October 2021 during COP-26 in Glasgow, focusing on strategic priority areas of mutual interest in internationalising education, quality assurance and accreditation and English language teaching and assessment.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the British Council, UK–Viet Nam Higher Education Network, and Vietnamese Intellectual Society in the UK and Ireland (VIS) signed in October 2022, focusing on research capacity development for Vietnamese early career researchers
- Engaged with approx. 2,945 UK and Vietnamese higher education leaders, professional academics, researchers, students, etc. through British Council's or British Council funded workshops and conferences in higher education.
- 14 Vietnamese Higher Education leaders joined a mission led by Director General of Higher Education Department, MOET to visit the UK, meeting 160 representatives from nearly 50 UK HEIs, governmental organisations, professional bodies and Ed-techs through networking events and workshops on the topics of Innovation, Digital Transformation, Quality Assurance, and Impact in Higher Education.
- A delegation of nine Vietnamese university leaders attended and presented at Going Global Asia Pacific Conference to explore the pursuit of equity in international education against the backdrop of changing, volatile and inequitable interrelated challenges.

2,945

UK and Vietnamese higher education leaders, academics, researchers, students were engaged in our activities

14

Vietnamese higher education leaders joined a mission led by Director General of Higher Education Department

50

UK higher education institutions, governmental organisations, professional bodies participated

9

Vietnamese university leaders attended and presented at Going Global Asia Pacific Conference



Going Global Asia Pacific 2022

Exploring How to Pursue Equity in an Inequitable World
28 November – 1 December 2022

#GoingGlobalAPAC



Results

- 29 partnership grant projects created between 23 UK and 38 Vietnamese universities, organisations and universities in East Asia since 2020. Key themes of partnerships include:

- o higher education leadership for social inclusion and gender equality

- o Preparation Vietnamese qualifications for future development of TNE programmes and international recognition

- o Towards the excellence in Teaching, Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer

- o Digital Transformation in Higher Education

- o Gender Equality in Higher Education

- o Improving the quality of student experience through digital learning

- o Climate Change and Shared Heritage

- Dedicated digital transformation focus to response to COVID-19 impact on teaching and learning including national online conference, research report on Digital Transformation in Higher Education in Viet Nam and funded projects on digital transformations between universities in Viet Nam, UK and East Asia countries.

- Two-year workplan was developed on enhancing the quality assurance and accreditation for higher education in Viet Nam with Viet Nam Quality Management Agency, MOET.

- Production of handbook on Easy Step Guide on Education Collaboration and Investment in Viet Nam in collaboration with International Cooperation Department, MOET.

- Nearly 170 Vietnamese early career researchers from 50 Vietnamese universities attended the Researcher Connect – an online training aiming to improve communication skills in academic research with UK experienced trainers and researchers in East Asia.

- Over 7,000 online viewers watched The Conversations series of ten episodes, nine topics with nearly 40 UK and Vietnamese HE leaders, researchers, scientists and businesses about their experiences and success stories not only in higher education partnerships, but in science and innovation, English Medium Education and social innovation in higher education.

29

partnership grant projects created between 23 UK and 38 Vietnamese universities

170

Vietnamese early career researchers from 50 Vietnamese universities attended the Researcher Connect

7,000

online viewers watched The Conversations series



The conference today has very important meaning for higher education in the context of global pandemic which strongly affects our life and education system. This is the opportunity for UK and Vietnamese universities to share experience, to discuss issues in digitalisation in teaching, learning, research, industry engagement as well as in quality assurance. The content discussed today will help the Ministry of Education and Training and universities to review and contribute to the strategic planning process for digitalisation in future. The event also opens up collaboration opportunities for UK and Vietnamese higher education – one of the main pillars of the strategic partnership plan of the UK and Viet Nam.'

Speaking at the conference 'Preparing Higher Education in Viet Nam for Digital Transformation' in November 2020, Vice Minister Hoang Minh Son said.



The UK is one of the strategic partners in the journey of reforming higher education in Viet Nam, and the British Council has been playing a critically important role in promoting and facilitating higher education collaborations and partnerships between the two countries.'

Attending the UK Inward Mission in October 2022, Assoc Prof Nguyen Thu Thuy, Director General, Department of Higher Education said.



The UK–Viet Nam Higher Education Network brings benefits to both UK and Vietnamese universities.'

Associate Professor Huynh Quyet Thang, President, Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Chair, UK–Viet Nam Higher Education Network.



We are planning to do a lot of new activities in the future... all these are aiming to connect people together, to share experiences and practices, so we can all benefit from the partnership.'

Professor Raymond Lee, Associate Dean (Global Engagement), Professor of Biomechanics, University of Portsmouth, Co-Chair of the UK–Viet Nam Higher Education Network.

Case study: Supporting digital transformation in higher education in Viet Nam

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Viet Nam higher education has both highlighted and accelerated the digital transformation agenda at universities. National level policy has also shaped and driven forward the digital transformation agenda. Positive and rapid progress has been made to date. While some universities were actively engaged in this process, a range of challenges remain both nationally and in particular for those institutions that have only recently embarked on digital transformation.

To support MOET's priorities to digital transformation in Vietnamese HE sector to response to the technology and pandemic disruption of learning, the British Council worked, in collaboration and consultation with the Ministry and various stakeholders, to:

- co-organise an online conference on Preparing higher education for digital transformation in September 2021 with the participation of Vice Minister Hoang Minh Son, and over 700 UK and Vietnamese HE leaders, government leaders, practitioners.
- produce a report on 'Readiness of Vietnamese universities in digital transformation' in 2022. The report presents a snapshot of the current state, and potential, of digital transformation in Viet Nam higher education and current collaboration with UK universities to support the digital transformation agenda; and makes a series of recommendations and also suggests a series of recommendations for collaboration between UK and Viet Nam universities.
- grant £257,263 to three partnership projects that develop digital literacy and skills, support change management and create a digital transformation hub for Vietnamese universities during 2022-2025, involving three UK universities, six Vietnamese universities, the Association of Vietnamese Universities and Colleges and technology organisations such as Jisc - the UK digital, data and technology agency focused on tertiary education, research and innovation, and Viettel.
 - o Digi:Đổi: A future-proofed, scalable digital transformation hub in Viet Nam underpinned by digital inclusion, wellbeing and net-zero
 - o TEDH (Teacher Educators Digital Hub): Supporting the digital transformation of teacher education in Viet Nam
 - o SOARing to successful digital transformation in Vietnamese universities
- support six partnership projects valued at £390,000 that focus on improving the quality of student experience through digital learning, with the participation of six UK universities, eight Vietnamese universities, and 11 Chinese and Indonesian universities.
 - o A Mobile and Open learning and networking platform for Science and Engineering (MOSE platform)
 - o Integrated Built Environment Teaching & Learning in the Joint Curriculum Development amid Digital-Driven Industry 4.0 among China, Viet Nam, and UK
 - o Digital Doctorate Training Hub
 - o LIT Educational Hub: Enhancing the student experience of the digital university in the UK, China and BRI countries
 - o Decarbonisation, Decentralised and Digitalisation (3D Energy)
 - o Fostering Multidisciplinary Collaboration amongst Architecture, Engineering & Construction (AEC) Graduates Using Digital Construction Skills and Immersive Learning



Case study: Promoting gender equality in higher education

Globally, the higher education sector has witnessed a major shift in the methods of teaching, learning, research and innovation to address emerging global challenges. These will require university leaders to rethink and reshape their institutions to make them more inclusive and equitable.

Gender equality has been promoted in Viet Nam's education context with some specific actions through an action plan in the period 2016-2020. In Viet Nam, universities play an important role in the country's economic and social development. The revised Higher Education Law 2018 allows greater autonomy and accountability to university leaders enabling changes being implemented across the sector.

The British Council has put an increasing emphasis on gender equality over the past five years and this is reflected in our Strategy 2025. Going Global Partnerships supports shared solutions to enable more equitable and inclusive higher education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). We bring partners together to remove barriers to participation, make education inclusive for underrepresented groups, and tackle inequalities in the education system. We focus on addressing the inequalities that women experience during and after study, including increasing women's participation in STEM, supporting and encouraging women's leadership and promoting campuses as safe spaces. Ultimately, we support education systems that can address social inequalities, support fairer economic and social growth and ensure nobody is left behind.

Programmes addressing Gender Equality in Higher Education in Viet Nam include:

- Women in STEM scholarships providing opportunities for 19 female researchers and academic to pursue their Master programme in STEM subject areas in the UK from 2021.
- Researcher Connect enhancing research communication skills for over 170 Vietnamese early career researchers, more than 50 per cent of whom being female researchers.

- SEAMEO led project on Enhancing Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in East Asia Higher Education Leaders, Faculty and Staff

- Partnership and Consultancy Opportunities for Strengthening Leadership with Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) at Higher Education Institutions in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Timor-Leste Project

- Six Going Global Partnerships projects focusing on Gender Equality valued at £234,600 between ten UK and 15 Vietnamese universities.

- o Design and evaluation of leadership training for female students in higher education institutes in Viet Nam

- o Lived Experiences of Gender and Sexual Minorities in Higher Education in Viet Nam

- o EnPOWER (Enabling Progression of Women Researchers)

- o Inclusive Leadership and Governance Exchange - Developing a Network of Best Practice between Wales and Viet Nam

- o Empowering women leadership in higher education towards digitalization and globalization ages

- o Cross-Sector Partnerships to Improve Transnational education and Gender Equity in Transport sector in Viet Nam



Study UK and Alumni

Aim

- Provide Vietnamese students and their parents with the best access to reliable information about the UK education system;
- Raise standards and practice in the UK education consultation service, by building knowledge, capacity and professionalism for education counsellors at overseas study agents, schools and universities;
- Form, develop and maintain long-term relationships with UK alumni on a nation-wide basis to support their lifelong engagement to address aspirations and challenges faced in both the UK and Viet Nam by providing professional and career development and networking opportunities.

Key partners

- The British Embassy in Viet Nam; UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI)
- Schools, colleges and universities in Viet Nam and UK
- The network of more than 100 overseas study agents in Viet Nam
- UK Alumni Association in Viet Nam (UKAV)
- Hanoi University of Science and Technology
- BritCham Viet Nam
- The Vietnamese Student Association in the UK (SVUK)
- Viet Nam UK Friendship Association



© Image credit

Results

- 5,730 Vietnamese students participated in Study UK promotional events (both online and face to face).
- 560+ counsellors from overseas study agents and international schools attended briefing to be updated about student visa and study in the UK.
- 250 alumni in Viet Nam engaged with Alumni Awards programme. There were one Global winner, seven national winners and 14 finalists identified.
- 275 alumni registered and eight leading companies in three areas of finance and banking; IT and computer science; and business participated in the Alumni activity event (Connect the dots Job Talk)
- 530+ alumni attended the Alumni Gathering Events in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and Danang in March 2023
- 64 UK universities and colleges participated in Study UK activities organised by British Council in Viet Nam and East Asia region.
- 31 scholarships granted to Vietnamese students from 2020–2023 (19 Women in STEM scholarships, 12 GREAT scholarships).
- 16 Viet Nam universities participated in meetings with UK institutions to explore TNE partnership opportunities.

5,730

Vietnamese students participated in Study UK promotional events

560+

counsellors from overseas study agents and international schools attended UK briefing

250

alumni in Viet Nam have engaged with Alumni Awards programme

31

scholarships have been granted to Vietnamese students



Case study: Study UK Alumni Awards – celebrating the achievements of the UK’s Alumni in Viet Nam

The British Council’s Study UK Alumni Awards aims to celebrating the outstanding achievements of the UK’s international alumni around the world, who have used their experience of studying at a UK university to make a positive contribution to their communities, industries, and countries. From 2020 – 2023, there were one global winner, seven national winners and 14 finalists identified in Viet Nam.

Here are some inspiring stories from our winners:

In 2018, Trinh Khanh Ha co-founded Vulcan Augmetics – a tech start-up that develops and manufactures highly functional and affordable robotic arms, aiming to bring technology to the life of people with disabilities in developing nations. Since then, Vulcan Augmetics has changed the lives of more than 100 amputees; inspired and educated hundreds of disabled people through awareness-raising programmes aiming to change the public mindset about people with disabilities; as well as partnering with more than 20 prosthetics hospitals and clinics to serve amputees across Viet Nam.

Ha’s UK education – from how the classes were delivered, to how assignments were formatted to boost creativity, autonomy and collaboration – has honed her intellectual, emotional, social, and entrepreneurial skills.



Trinh Khanh Ha – Business and Innovation Award Winner 2022–23
Cardiff Metropolitan University

Nguyen Huu Tu is General Secretary of Viet Nam Young Physicians Association (VYPA), one of the biggest health professional organisations in Viet Nam. Since 2014, he has played a leading role in mobilising over 86,800 health professionals to organise thousands of health campaigns across the country. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Huu Tu and his team rallied over 10,000 doctors to workday and night for seven months to help over four million people contracted with Covid-19. Huu Tu has received recognition by various institutions, such as the Vietnamese government, the WHO, and other reputable agencies.

His education in the UK, specifically at Cardiff University, have shaped who he is now.



Nguyen Huu Tu – Social Impact Award Winner 2022–23
Cardiff University

Case study: Study UK Alumni Awards – celebrating the achievements of the UK’s Alumni in Viet Nam

Nguyen Phuong Thao is the co-founder and COO of Nguyen Khoi Farm – an agricultural business that focuses on sustainable, organic farming. During years of operating, Thao and her team has successfully developed the first Circular Organic Agriculture Model to ever be successfully implemented in Viet Nam, which has in turn gained her countless awards, titles and grants, both on a domestic and international level.

Thao was inspired by the deteriorating status of environment in Viet Nam, which, combined with her belief for entrepreneurship in sustainable farming in socioeconomic growth. Set out to challenge problems of food and nutrients security, environmental protection and poverty reduction, Nguyen Khoi Farm has successfully created and implemented its Circular Organic Agriculture Model, with proven benefits: economic efficiency, zero-waste, farmer-friendliness, and production of healthy pork.



Nguyen Phuong Thao – Entrepreneur Award Winner 2020–21

University of East Anglia

The Newton Programme Viet Nam

Aim

Managed by the former Department of Business, Energy and Industry Strategy (BEIS), the Newton Fund built research and innovation partnerships with 17 active partner countries including Viet Nam to support their economic development and social welfare, and to develop their research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth.

In Viet Nam, the British Council worked alongside other key UK organisations to deliver the Newton Programme Viet Nam through two strands: People and Translations to promote international collaboration, innovation capacity and develop careers for researchers and institutions. The programme focuses on Viet Nam's prioritised areas of development and over the past five years.

Partners

- Ministry of Science and Technology, Viet Nam
- Ministry of Education and Training, Viet Nam
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK
- UK and Viet Nam Higher Education Institutions and Research Institutes



Results

The Newton Programme Viet Nam closed in 2021. The overall results and impact of this programme in Viet Nam included:

- Financial contribution £4,410,767.48
- In-kind and other contribution £3,717,263.43
- 34 UK universities and organisations and Vietnamese universities and organisations
- 11 Researcher Links Workshops with participation of 274 researchers.
- 29 Institutional Links
- 8 Researcher Link Travel Grants
- 9 PhD scholarships
- 150 participants in professional development and engagement activity
- 14 case studies produced under the Newton Programme Viet Nam

£4.4m

Financial contribution

£3.7m

In-kind and other contribution

34

UK universities and organisations

11

Researcher Links workshops

150

Participants in professional development and engagement activity



Case study: Digital monitoring for Viet Nam's bridges

Researchers in Viet Nam, the UK, France, and Belgium have developed a digital monitoring system to assess early damage on bridges in Viet Nam.

Public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and powerlines, require regular monitoring to ensure safe and smooth operation throughout their lifetime. To enable this, they are often equipped with built-in monitoring systems from the start of operation. In Viet Nam, this is difficult due to a limited budget and priority given to building new infrastructure.

Now, a team of researchers has developed a digital monitoring system, based on the new and advanced Digital Twin technology, for bridges in Viet Nam. The system creates a digital model of a structure that can detect early wear, plan a predictive maintenance scheme and simulate an optimal solution for repair if damage is found. It helps save money and time in renovation and maintenance by eliminating the burden of physically assessing structural damage.

'I believe Digital Twin is an important technology that Viet Nam can adopt, adapt and develop, aiding its digital transformation process,' says Professor Huan X. Nguyen of the London Digital Twin Research Centre (LDTRC) at Middlesex University, UK. Nguyen led the project together with Dr Thanh T. Bui at the University of Transport and Communications, Viet Nam. The project included establishing the LDTRC and was supported by a new Institutional Links grant under the Newton Programme Viet Nam Partnership. The fund was provided by the UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and delivered by the British Council.

To develop the Digital Twin model, the researchers collected existing databases and new data on the long-term exposure to vibration of seven bridges – Can Tho, Thang Long, Nam O, Chuong Duong, Nhat Tan, My Thuan and Kien – as well as the Nam Chien dam in Viet Nam. Based on the data, they created a computer model that can predict damage scenarios and test possible solutions using big data analytics and machine-learning algorithms. The real structure and its 'digital twin' in the computer model were connected by sensor systems

and a cloud-based platform, allowing transmission of data and information both ways to conduct structural assessment in near real-time.

The team tested the digital twin model with a mock-up bridge in the lab followed by full-scale testing on Thang Long Bridge, which was built in the 1970s and '80s and connects the Noi Bai International Airport with the capital city Hanoi. With a commission from Viet Nam's Ministry of Transport, the researchers used the model to assess the bridge's condition and prepare a repair plan. This led to renovations that were completed two months sooner than it would have taken with the conventional method, saving 15 percent of the cost.

'The Digital Twin research has been essential for reducing costs and is helping Viet Nam move strongly towards digital transformation in infrastructure and Industry 4.0,' says Nguyen Trung Sy, the Director of Directorate for Roads at the Ministry of Transport.

The researchers are now working with the ministry to build a digital twin model for other bridges that are key transport infrastructures in the country. They have also secured grants on four new projects to create a digital twin model for manufacturing, heritage and healthcare/ agriculture sectors.

The team also formed new academic and industrial partnerships, including joint activities with the Digital Twin Consortium in North America and the Centre for Digital Built Britain at the University of Cambridge, as well as a software package donation worth US\$100,000 by Ansys, a global engineering software company.

The project outcomes were reported in journal papers, workshops and a conference. It also received national news and TV coverage during the renovation of Thang Long Bridge.

This work was supported by the Newton Fund Institutional Links grant, ID 429715093, under the Newton Fund Viet Nam. The grant is funded by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and University of Transport and Communications, Viet Nam, and delivered by the British Council. For further information, please visit www.newtonfund.ac.uk.



Youth Leadership programme (2022–2025)

Aims

Support young people in Viet Nam to engage in change-making and collaborate with their peers to address key local and global challenges in climate change, and gender equality via skills development and engaging in policy dialogues. The implementation approaches include:

- **Youth skills element (-to learn)** – enhancing the skills that young people need now and in the future and which complement the skills and learning they receive in formal education
- **Youth pathways and leadership offer (-to do)** – providing opportunities to use the skills in practical ways and in collaboration with UK youth, by being mentored and guided, as equals, so participating young people can get the most out of the learning experience and feel that what they are learning is applicable in the real world and making a difference to them and their communities
- **Ecosystem offer (-to sustain)** – skill training programme is embedded in institutions who can continue to provide young people with opportunities once the programme is completed.

Partners

- DRAGON-Mekong Institute, Can Tho University
- UK consultants



Results

- Established a network of 150 Mekong Delta youth from provincial Youth Unions of Can Tho City and Soc Trang Province, 12 high schools, The Centre for the Mekong Delta Women Development, The Centre for Youth Startup Ecosystem in Can Tho City and two universities who are concerned and willing to act for the sustainability of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta (VMD) under complex climate change impacts.
- Youth participants equipped with fundamental knowledge and necessary skills towards self-creating resilient capacity to climate change, gender inequalities and skills development.
- 15 social action projects implemented in innovative approaches empowering university students and local youth to actively engage with local communities in addressing climate-related issues, fostering collaboration and empowerment among stakeholders.
- 12 mentors supported youth social action projects implementation in three months
- Two policy-based youth dialogues organised to connect relevant stakeholders in Mekong Region.
- A communication series entitled Delta's Youth Talk developed to raise the voice of youth participants to the community taken advantage of their social action projects.

150

Mekong Delta youth from provincial Youth Unions of Can Tho City

15

social action projects

12

mentors supported youth social action projects

2

policy-based youth dialogues



Case study: The Climate Connection

The Climate Connection brings people around the world together to meet the challenges of climate change. Through arts and culture, education and the English language, it is about ideas, innovation and real change. In Viet Nam, a campaign that brought together young people from across the world to address the shared challenge of climate change in the run up of COP26 in 2021 including Global Youth Letter (2022), FameLab Climate Change Communicators (2021) and Rivers of Life (2019–2021).

Rivers of Life

In the British Council's Next Generation Report in 2021, Vietnamese young people aged 16 to 30 identified clean water and sanitation, clean energy, climate actions and adequate living conditions among their top priorities. To underline this stance, the British Council launched the Rivers of Life project, under the Country Innovation Fund initiative, and as part of the global Climate Connection campaign.

The Rivers of Life project provided a platform for youth-led climate change actions, targeting the Mekong Delta which had increasingly been impacted by climate challenges over the past few years. The project aimed to provide young people with the opportunity to understand the emerging issues of climate change on their lives and communities and the increased sense of urgency about responses to climate challenges; as well as enhancing their skills and behaviours in being able to think critically and respond creatively and digitally.

The project was delivered by British Council in partnership with Dong Thap Department of Education and Training in 2021.

‘

In the near future, we wish to expand the Rivers of Life project to high schools across Dong Thap province, on the basis of the original ten climate action projects implemented by 23 youth leaders and selected high schools in our province. First, we will consider cascading the project-based learning approach used by the Hungry Water project – which helped students understand about landslides and erosion of the Mekong river – to all high schools in Dong Thap province. Other projects also have very effective products such as The story of saltwater, The voice of the floating market, the experimental film The way of salt, the cartoon Death of the river, or stories about the Plain of Reeds, plus songs and images of the Mekong Delta. We can share these products as resources for our high school students.

Huynh Thanh Hung, Deputy Director, Dong Thap Department of Education and Training.

Results

10

Climate action projects

23

youth leaders

100+

high school students from four high schools in Dong Thap province

700+

participants in climate change dialogues with 15 experts, lecturers, scientists, artists and communication experts

137,000+

reach via online channels

Case study: The Climate Connection

Global Youth Letter

On 9 September 2021, the British Council launched the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, a call for action from young people globally, directly addressing the leaders attending COP26 – the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, in Glasgow, November 2021.

- 7,727 Viet Nam youth pledged the Vietnam Youth Statement, engaged 2,000 people f2f with 210,000 video view part of Global Youth Letter presenting an opportunity for Vietnam youths to be more vocal towards climate actions recommendations.
- Three Vietnamese Youth Ambassadors for Climate Action represented Vietnam at Pre-COP youth forum in Italia and COP26 in Glasgow, November 2022, presenting Viet Nam Youth Statement.
- Three dialogues underlined the importance of youth voices in climate debates, and focusing on one broad discussion theme and involves guest speakers from embassies, ministries, universities and youth-led projects
- One Vietnamese candidate won the audience vote at FameLab Climate Change Communicators, a global online competition and training event to build trust in climate science

Results

7,727

Viet Nam youth pledged the Viet Nam Youth Statement

3

Vietnamese Youth Ambassadors for Climate Action represented Viet Nam at Pre-COP youth forum in Italia and COP26 in Glasgow

3

dialogues underlining the importance of youth voices in climate debates

English Programmes

Aims

To support the country in the development and reform of its education systems to provide inclusive, quality English language teaching, learning and assessment. We support the professional development of teachers and teacher educators, and our work is delivered through two main impact areas:

- English in Education supports Viet Nam's Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) and key stakeholders through partnerships with UK expertise to improve standards in the teaching, learning and assessment of English in a multilingual world;
- English Connects supports individual teachers and teacher educators in Viet Nam to connect through the world's largest online English teacher community – [Teaching English](#)

Partners

- Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)
- National Foreign Languages Project (NFLP)
- Provincial Departments of Education and Training (DOETs)
- VietTESOL Association
- UK and VN Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- UK ELT and EdTech sector



Teachers in Ninh Thuận province, who participated in the Viet Nam Arts-based language learning project delivered by University of Glasgow and VNIES under VN/UK partnership programme in school year 2022-2023.



Teachers in Son La province attended launching event of TAG project between IH Bristol and Hanoi University of Education in 2022.



Over 200 teachers, lecturers and language assessment professionals from across Viet Nam gathered in Ho Chi Minh City's Van Lang University for the third Viet Nam Language Assessment Symposium (VLAS March 2023).



The virtual signing ceremony of Collaboration Plan between the British Council and NFLP for school year 2021-2022, with a vision to 2024-2025, with the participation of Vice Minister Nguyen Huu Do.

Results

- Since 2020, 18 partnerships between UK and Vietnamese institutions/organisations established and funded by British Council in Viet Nam to pilot digital innovations in English language teaching, learning, and assessment, including in-service teacher CPD (in the form of Teacher Activity Groups – TAGs)
- 447 teachers and an estimated 1,215 students benefitted from the Viet Nam Digital Learning Innovation Fund Pilot project in 2020–21
- More than 1,600 teachers benefited from the Teaching Activity Group project (TAGs) in 2022–23
- Through our Teaching English global resources, up to 2022, over 10,000 teachers and teacher educators from across Viet Nam could access free, up-to-date learning resources. Since 2020, 3,872 Vietnamese teachers have studied massive open online courses (MOOCs) in our global online platforms to support their professional development.



18

partnerships between UK and Vietnamese institutions/organisations

447

teachers benefited from Viet Nam Digital Learning Innovation Fund Pilot project

1,600

teachers directly benefited from the TAGs

10,000

teachers and teacher educators from across Viet Nam could access free, up-to-date learning resources

6

As we know, this post COVID-19 world is full of challenges, but also opportunities for teachers, students, schools, and education management units. Vietnamese schools have continuously searched for alternatives such as online and television learning. Therefore, we highly appreciate the support from the UK through the Digital Learning Innovation Fund. The high-quality projects represent the long-term commitment and strategic planning between the two countries and will have the potential to bring wide-ranging effects to Vietnamese teachers and learners.'

Prof Pham Quang Hung, Director General, International Collaboration Department, MOET

6

Before TAGs project, we also took part in other professional development programmes. But TAGs project was different. The uniqueness of the project was the participation of local artists. The artists shared various performances, created arts-based activities to support the development of teaching materials.

The use of arts in teaching really brings endless inspiration and creativity to teachers. They are more interested in their lectures. They feel confident, natural, creative and innovative in their teaching. They spend more time to guide and encourage students to learn. Students are eager to make their products and learn English better when teachers use arts and culture as medium.'

Nguyen Thi Hai, ELT specialist at Bac Ninh Department of Education and Training

‘

I appreciated the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the CPD framework for teacher educators, challenge our assumptions about teaching contexts and teacher needs, and critically analyse some of the coursebooks which are used by teachers in Viet Nam.’

Dr Le Thi Giao Chi,
Dean of the Faculty
of Foreign Language
Teacher Education,
University of Danang
– Participant of the
online Teacher
Educator
Programme pilot

‘

The Covid-19 pandemic has made it challenging for educators to stay connected and continue to learn new skills in physical meetings. However, the TAG project provided us with a much-needed chance to connect online, share knowledge, and engage in meaningful, animated discussions with teachers.

The ability to participate in the TAG project online funded by the British Council has been a game-changer, allowing me to continue learning and sharing knowledge while being safe at home. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity that I was part of the project, arming me with invaluable professional development opportunities. I would highly recommend the project to any educator who is passionate about improving their teaching skills and building lasting relationships with other educators.’

Do Thanh Nhan, a
lecturer at Can Tho
University

More about our programmes

Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Apr 2022 – Mar 2023
Research and Insight		
Viet Nam Digital Learning Innovation Fund Pilot provided research grants worth £90,000 to three UK–Viet Nam partnership projects formed from four UK ELT organisations and three Vietnamese universities. The fund enabled partnerships which generated new research, insight and innovations to improve the teaching and learning of English in Viet Nam.	Investigation into English medium instruction (EMI) in Higher Education in Viet Nam –this provides insights into EMI policy, the driving forces behind EMI, how it is implemented and the attitudes of core stakeholders towards this growing trend. The research has important implications for supporting national strategy on internationalisation of higher education.	English as a subject in basic education (ESBE) in ASEAN: A comparative study This monograph reports on the findings drawn from a research study focusing on English (ESBE) in the education systems of ASEAN member states. It also includes a Country profile of Viet Nam with country-specific recommendations for policy and research.
	Two Viet Nam-focused research projects through partnerships between UK and Vietnamese institutions, focusing on online ELT provision and CPD; and the provision of English language assessment and testing.	Girls' education and empowerment: Exploring the potential of English language and digital skills – This report presents summaries of 11 scoping studies conducted in 2021 (including Viet Nam) to inform programmes designed to support the empowerment of adolescent girls in communities that are remote and/or socio-economically marginalised.
Stakeholder engagement		
Virtual ELT mission was held in September 2020 with representatives from more than 150 UK and Vietnamese educational organisations. Organised by the British Embassy, MOET and NFLP, this hybrid event outlined the opportunities for partnership and cooperation to help further Viet Nam's vision to develop the capacity for English language teaching and learning for all.	NFLP Collaboration Plan signed in June 2021, outlining key areas of collaboration between British Council Viet Nam and NFLP in English language teaching, learning and assessment, with a vision for collaboration until 2024–2025.	Viet Nam Language Assessment Symposium (VLAS) March 2023: In preparation for the return of New Directions in Language Assessment conference in October 2023, the British Council partnered with the National Foreign Languages Project to host the Viet Nam Language Assessment Symposium (VLAS) in March 2023. This was a flagship event of the UK/Viet Nam Season 2023 focusing on two key themes: - Teaching, Learning and Assessment in education systems: Empowering teachers. - Assessing young learners, spanning grades 6 to 12
		Collaboration activities with VietTESOL Association: For the past three years, we have sponsored key speakers from the UK and Viet Nam to present at this annual convention (both online and face-to-face). Also every year, we have supported VietTESOL Association with their participation in PRELIM (Partnered Remote English Language Improvement) project, in which they partner with a UK ELT provider in developing different programmes on teachers' CPD.

Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Apr 2022 – Mar 2023
Capacity building and CPD		
Teacher development – Over 392 English language teachers from Nam Dinh, Can Tho and Ha Noi developed their teaching and language skills, and studied new methods, approaches and techniques as part of our Teaching for Success approach. In Ha Noi, teachers were supported with their digital literacy by being introduced to a series of remote teaching tips developed specifically to support teachers in response to Covid-19.	In response to Covid-19 and to support teachers during this period, we provided two series of free webinars: Partners in Innovation series features webinars and events for teachers, educators and researchers in Viet Nam. ASEAN teacher webinar series features teachers from the region, including Viet Nam, discussing specific topics of relevance to teachers in the region.	Teacher Activity Group (TAG) project As one form of CoP (Community of Practices), TAGs provide teachers and teacher educators with opportunities to learn collaboratively, over time, and in a manner which is more teacher-driven and linked to what happens in classrooms. Five pilot projects of partnership between VN and UK institutions/organisations were funded and implemented TAGs over a 12-month period, spanning the north, centre and south, including some remote and more disadvantaged areas, benefiting directly more than 1,600 teachers across 11 of Viet Nam's 63 DOETs.
Teacher educators – Some 52 key English teachers in Nam Dinh and Can Tho provinces have been identified by their DOETs and participated in British Council training events to become teacher educators and mentors.	Teacher Educator Programme online pilot – From May to July 2021, participants from NFLP's ten key teacher training universities participated in a 60-hour online pilot of the professional development programme to develop their professional practices and skills as teacher educators.	
Curriculum, resources and assessment		
Resources in response to Covid-19 – British Council colleagues from around the globe created a Digital Task Force to design and disseminate online resources to support teachers and teacher educators coping with remote teaching. Research has revealed a high level of participation among Vietnamese teachers and learners e.g. 400,000 followers from Viet Nam on TeachingEnglish website and LearnEnglish Facebook pages.	Learner resources on radio – Over a six-year period, between 2015 and 2021, Voice of Viet Nam (VOV2 and VOV5) has broadcasted three different British Council learner radio series (<i>Obla Air</i> , <i>Middleton Hall</i> , and <i>Merton Mysteries</i>). For VOV, the British Council programmes are regarded an essential part of their English language programming.	Language Assessment Literacy Toolkit – A direct result of the research by Huddersfield University with ULIS, a set of six toolkits have been created to support teachers with aspects of assessment and testing. This is also accompanied by an online Community of Practice Facebook group.

Teaching Centre

Aims

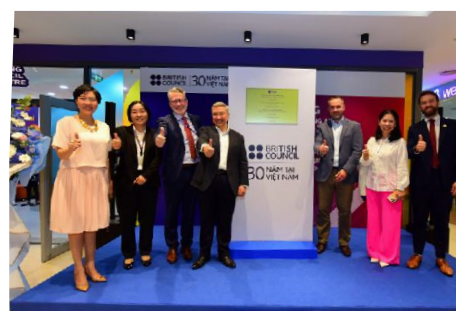
- Service the growing demand for effective English language learning from children and adults, especially in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and to support the Vietnamese Government's vision for English language development.
- Enable learners enrolled on our courses to develop their English language skills, life skills, soft skills and familiarity with international cultures and make meaningful progress towards their life goals.
- Represent a benchmark for best practice in English language teaching in Viet Nam and help raise teaching quality across the sector.

Partners

- Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)
- Ministry of Defence (UK)
- Ministry of National Defence (Viet Nam)
- British Embassy in Hanoi
- British Council global English teaching network
- Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City Departments of Education and Training
- Brendon School (Hanoi)

Highlight

- Successful operation in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City with full compliance with the authorities' directives and regulations on centre operations, staff and teacher employment and teaching curriculum;
- Despite serious impact of Covid-19 pandemic, teaching centres succeeded of providing alternative online learning options for student while applying strictly sanitisation, disinfection, distancing as instructed by local authorities;
- All teachers have the required qualifications and experience to deliver British Council's global standard programme and are following effective on-going professional development programme.
- Regular and timely submission of reports to DOET and DOLISA as required
- Implement British Council's Safeguarding, Health and Safety policies and procedure to ensure mental and physical safety for students and customers
- Improving students' learning progress through various activities inside and outside class, for example: Our Connecting Culture programme provide students with opportunities to connect virtually with students in other countries in the same class time so they can exchange their knowledge with international students and learn from other cultures.



Examinations

Aims

Promote the UK as a high-quality assessment provider supporting the needs of policymakers and educators on English language assessment to help people gain access to trusted qualifications to support their career and study prospects.

Partners

- National Foreign Languages Project, Ministry of Education and Training
- Departments of Education and Training
- State-owned, private and international schools
- State-owned, private universities
- Foreign language schools and education agents.



IELTS – the world's most popular English language test



Aptis ESOL – a computer-based English language test developed by the British Council and is regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)



British Council Partner Schools – a community of over 2,100 schools delivering UK international qualifications



Viet Nam Language Assessment Symposium (VLAS) – part of a New Directions Series of language assessment events.

Achievements

- 1,300 educators, lecturers and teachers participated in assessment conference and workshops on teaching methodology.
- 19,600 students attended workshops and orientation sessions on effective learning and preparing for examinations.
- Offered continuing professional development (CPD) workshops on teaching methodologies to improve and benchmark English levels for students and teachers.
- Organised CPD workshops to help partner organisations improve their teaching capability and standardise their approaches, all tailored to the needs and operational contexts of partners.
- Offered British Council IELTS Prize scholarships for students to attend international study programmes (running since 2011).

1,300

educators, lecturers, and teachers participated in assessment conference

19,600

students attended workshops and orientation sessions on effective learning and preparation for examinations



More about our programmes

British Council IELTS Prize scholarship

IELTS Prize is the British Council prestigious scholarship programme designed to help fund outstanding individuals' undergraduate or postgraduate studies in any disciplines they desire. The annual competition supports IELTS test-takers with up to £5,000 towards tuition fees in both domestic and international universities accepting IELTS in their admission requirements.

Since 2011, the British Council IELTS Prize has enabled nearly 360 IELTS students across East Asia to pursue their studies at any chosen course in higher institutions in Viet Nam and around the world, in disciplines ranging from Medicine, Engineering, Education, and Business Management to Public Communication, Media, Performance, and many more.

What lies beyond IELTS Prize's financial support is a chance to be part of a global network of forward-thinking individuals. At the same time, being a recipient also means that I can make positive impact towards a wider audience. The opportunity has taken me places, because I owe everything that I have achieved up to this moment to having taken the IELTS.

Ngo Phuong Anh, one of the 2022 IELTS Prize Winners from Viet Nam, currently an MSc Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages (TESOL) in University of Bristol, UK said



Aptis ESOL

With the aim to contribute to the improvement of Aptis ESOL test preparation in Viet Nam, the British Council have been organising teacher training workshops in Viet Nam for some past years. It is one of our key activities that we offer to educators, academic leaders, and teachers to provide them with insights of how Aptis ESOL are marked and practical skills of teaching Aptis ESOL to help the students reach their full potential in the real exam.



Viet Nam Language Assessment Symposium VLAS 2023

Over 200 teachers, lecturers, and language assessment professionals from across Viet Nam gathered in Ho Chi Minh City's Van Lang University for the third Viet Nam Language Assessment Symposium (VLAS 2023). VLAS was previously held in 2017 and 2019, and is part of the New Directions series of language assessment events, leading up to the New Directions East Asia conference in October 2023

– a flagship event in the UK/Viet Nam Season, which celebrated 30 years of our presence in Viet Nam.

Following an opening speech by National Foreign Languages Project Deputy Director, Dr Nguyen To Chung, a series of research results, discussions, and practical activities were delivered around the two themes of 'Teaching, Learning and Assessment in Education Systems: Empowering teachers' and 'Assessing Young Learners'.



Viet Nam – The global winner of Your World competition 2022–23

The British Council wrapped up yet another successful Your World video-making competition this year at the Melia Hanoi hotel on 12 May 2023. From Viet Nam, Cau Giay secondary school has been announced as the global winner, beating more than 750 video entries from over 3,500 students from the British Council Partner Schools across the global network, all of whom are studying the UK school curriculum. This is a history-making moment as it is the first time a school from the East Asia region has won the global award. It is Viet Nam's first school with triple winning titles for Country, East Asia Region and Global.

Iain Frew – British Ambassador to Viet Nam, Donna McGowan – Director of the British Council in Viet Nam and Steve Adams – Regional Exams Manager, British Council in South East Asia congratulated Cau Giay secondary school as the global winner of Your World competition 2022–23



The Your World video-making competition is a flagship activity for British Council Partner Schools across the global network. The theme for Your World 2022–23 was Good Health and Well-being, linking directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number three. This is the third year that Viet Nam has participated in the competition. Apart from Cau Giay, four other secondary schools from Viet Nam took part; Chu Van An, Hanoi Amsterdam, Ta Quang Buu and Trung Vuong.

Open to students aged 14 to 17 years studying in British Council Partner Schools, Your World is a great opportunity for students to use their creativity, problem-solving and digital skills to compete globally while also providing a window into their own lives, communities, and experiences.



Administrative Management

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) are at the heart of British Council cultural relation ambition. They contribute to the mutual trust, respect and understanding we strive for on behalf of the UK. They are integral to the British Council brand, reputation, success and cultural relations impact.

EDI affects all British Council staff worldwide and we ensure that diversity as part of what we do, who we are and the value we uphold to.

We, like all other organisation, faced an unprecedented crisis resulted from lockdowns and social distancing practices and changing laws in trying to combat the spread of Covid-19 worldwide. In the Covid -19 years, the situation changed daily as new data emerges and that had to be evaluated and responded to, followed often, by rapid decisions and actions requiring quick implementation, alongside the wider and overarching need to ensure our cultural relations work and the positive impact it makes is preserved for the future.

Covid-19 has further emphasized the importance of our Equality Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy. We place importance in listening to our staff need, concerns and offering them with practical support to manage their work and life effectively. Globally, we have offered staff with an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) offers practical information and support for work and personal issues that impact any aspect of your life. This is a 24/7 confidential counselling and free support services that is available in multiple languages to all employees and their immediate family members. The support continues beyond Covid-19 years as we are fully aware of its long-term impact on individual staff. The programme has provided our staff with personal support in managing their well being and those of their management.

We take our 'duty of care' towards staff seriously and takes steps to ensure that their wellbeing is not adversely affected by the work they do. All our managers are tasked to manage staff with health or wellbeing issues.

Throughout the years, we have designed and delivered a number of on-line events to enable staff sharing their concerns, challenges, to support them with managing a good work-life balance and to overcome negative impacts of Covid-19. We continue with a policy to provide staff with equipment to support their home working not only during Covid but as a long-term policy, providing staff with

flexibility to balance work requirements and family commitment.

In addition, our Equality Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy sets out how we approach the challenges of mainstreaming equality, diversity and inclusion internationally ensuring that EDI is central to all our programmes, projects, services as well as internal procedures and ways of working. We have developed a range of organisation-wide tools and initiatives to help us build diversity into our work.

The Diversity Assessment Framework is our overarching diversity measurement tool. It is used worldwide to assess the progress our business areas, country offices, and regional teams are making in mainstreaming diversity. It contains a series of indicators that help measure performance across important areas. All parts of the organisation submit evidence of action taken against these indicators which is centrally reviewed and assessed and given a score, plus a detailed report. The report helps us measure our progress in equality, diversity and inclusion as an organisation.

In Viet Nam, we have achieved a score of 8/10 in the Diversity Assessment Framework for the period 2018-2020, exceeding in three indicators, including leadership and developing a comprehensive approach to making adjustments across our offices in Viet Nam to respond to the needs of those with different abilities.

We designed and delivered a series of activities with our staff as well as made efforts to mainstream into our programmes and activities with stakeholders to raise awareness and ensure buy-in on EDI. This included organising various team-building and social activities, involving traditional dress festivals, team fruit carving and decoration competitions ensuring gender-balanced teams to encourage male engagement in a popular Vietnamese activity usually led by women.

We are committed to further mainstreaming EDI across our work in Viet Nam in the coming years for the benefit of individual staff as well as the whole organisation.

Our commitment to safeguarding in Viet Nam

Safeguarding is a key priority across all business processes, practices, and services at the British Council Viet Nam. We understand that children and adults can be extremely vulnerable for socio-economic, geo-political and other reasons, including the increasing use of technology as a vehicle for abuse and exploitation. For that reason, we invest in and promote robust policies, ethos, and structures, to guarantee that all children and adults that come into contact with the British Council are safe and have access to a quality network of support.

Business-as-usual approach to safeguarding and safeguarding risks in particular contexts have been communicated to all staff and sector teams. Together, we work towards building a transparent and open environment where everyone's well-being is guaranteed and sharing concerns is encouraged. Safeguarding framework documents and guidelines have been localised and delivered to relevant stakeholders. To achieve the best provisions and outcomes in relations to safeguarding, our standards and procedures are consistently informed by and respond to legal and other external requirements in Viet Nam.

Resources proportionate to safeguarding risks are made available to support policy implementation, with a National Safeguarding Manager on board, Safeguarding Focal Points assigned for each teaching centre and premises, and an active Safeguarding National Working Group with representatives from all SBUs. Local support agencies have been mapped out and accordingly engaged in our safeguarding awareness raising and case management.

Thematic training and workshops for staff, partners, and customers have been facilitated across the country, with focus on positive discipline, mental health support, and assistance for children and women subjected to violence. Safeguarding principles are included in first lessons and frequently reminded to all students and parents. Staff who work directly with children, partners and customers are provided with relevant resources and advisory support.

Safeguarding obligations for partners are strictly complied with, including risk assessment and due diligence prior to the design, development and delivery of all programmes, projects, and activities.



A safeguarding MOOC and online briefing sessions have been provided for all external partners, including our grantees, grassroots beneficiaries, and service providers.

Digital presence across the British Council has increased over the last few years, accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Appropriate safeguarding measures aiming at digital delivery have been put in place, with dedicated digital safeguarding resources and tools. Despite challenges and burden caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, students at teaching centres have been moved between methods of educational delivery with different safeguarding parameters in a safe and sufficient manner.

Besides, to prevent appointing people who may pose a risk to children and adults, pre-appointment check and post-appointment measures have been set up, in accordance with our Background Screening Policy.

Safeguarding Analysis Reports for 2021–22, and 2022–23, along with Action Plan for 2022–23 have been generated with the engagement of all functions and the Safeguarding National Working Group. A variety of action points and timeframes are set out to guarantee a holistic approach to compliance with our core safeguarding standards.

Our staff

As of 10 October 2023, the British Council employed a total of 370 staff at its main Hanoi office and its branch in Ho Chi Minh City, including two UK-appointed staff, 223 local staff and 147 foreign staff (mainly teaching staff).

Throughout its presence and across its operations in Viet Nam, the British Council maintains a strong and consistent commitment to full compliance with the local regulations regarding the selection, appointment and management of its staff. For all foreign staff who are recruited or appointed to work in Viet Nam, their applications for visa and work permits are compliant with local regulations on foreign employees. All statutory contributions to social funds (social insurance, medical insurance, unemployment insurance) for local and foreign staff are made in line with current laws. The British Council also ensures that the tax liabilities of staff are correctly and promptly calculated, withheld and paid to the State budget.

2

UK-appointed staff

223

local staff

147

foreign staff

Annex

List of our partners

Ministries and Agencies

Ministry of Education and Training

Ministry of Science and Technology

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), National Center for Technological Progress (NACENTECH)

Bac Giang Department of Education and Training

Can Tho Department of Education and Training

Department of Science and Technology, Tra Vinh province

Nam Dinh Department of Education and Training

National Foreign Languages Project

Cinema Department

Viet Nam National Assembly Committee for Culture and Education

Ninh Thuan Department of Culture and Sports

Vinh Phuc Department of Education and Training

Department of Transportation in Can Tho City

Dong Thap Department of Education and Training

Bac Ninh Department of Education and Training

Phu Tho Department of Education and Training

Office of the Ministry of Public Security

Research Institutions

The Research Laboratories of Saigon High Tech Park, Ho Chi Minh City

Viet Nam Rural Industries Research and Development Institute (VIRI)

Viet Nam Institute of Geosciences and Mineral Resources

Viet Nam Academy of Social Sciences

Viet Nam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)

Viet Nam Film Institute

Chăm Cultural Research Centre

Institute of Health Science and Technology (iHEAT)

The Viet Nam National Institute of Education Sciences

Universities and Educational Organisations

VIET NAM

Can Tho University

Can Tho University of Medicine and Pharmacy (CTUMP)

Danang University of Architecture

Danang University of Technology, University of Danang

Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Tay Nguyen University (TNU)

Foreign Trade University

Hai Duong Medical Technical University

Hanoi Industrial Textile and Garment University, Viet Nam

Hanoi Medical University

Hanoi University

Hanoi University of Industry

Hanoi University of Mining and Geology

Hanoi University of Public Health, Hanoi

Hanoi University of Science and Technology

Hanoi University of Science and Technology, School of Environmental Science and Technology

Ho Chi Minh City University of Education (HCMCUE)

Ho Chi Minh University of Finance and Marketing

Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City

Hoa Sen University

Hung Yen University of Technology and Education (UTEHY)

Le Quy Don Technical University, Hanoi

Mien Tay Construction University

Nam Dinh University of Nursing

National Economics University

National University of Civil Engineering

Hue University

University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue University

Thai Nguyen University of Economics and Business Administration

Phenikaa University

Viet Nam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology, The University of Danang

Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry

University of Languages and International Studies, Viet Nam National University, Hanoi

Duy Tan University

VinUniversity

Nguyễn Hữu Huân High School

Nguyen Tat Thanh University

Nguyen Trai High School

Nha Trang University

Saigon University of Technology

Tay Nguyen University (TNU)

Thai Nguyen University of Science (TNUS)

Tra Vinh University

University Medical Center, HCMC

University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City

University of Education – Viet Nam National University

University of Engineering and Technology, VNU Hanoi

University of Languages and International Studies – Viet Nam National University, Hanoi

University of Sciences – Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City

University of Social Sciences and Humanities – Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City

Van Lang University

Hanoi Pedagogical University No 2

University of Technology, Viet Nam National University – Ho Chi Minh City

Nguyen Quang Dieu High school for the Gifted, Dong Thap province

Do Cong Tuong High School, Dong Thap province

Sa Dec High School, Dong Thap province

Nguyen Du High School, Dong Thap province

Suoi Hoa Secondary School, Bac Ninh province

Tien An Secondary School, Bac Ninh province

Nguyen Dang Dao Secondary School, Bac Ninh province

Ho Town Secondary School, Bac Ninh province

Han Thuyen Secondary School, Bac Ninh province

Van Lang Secondary School, Phu Tho province

Gia Cam Secondary School, Phu Tho province

Nong Trang Secondary School, Phu Tho province

Tho Son Secondary School, Phu Tho province

Lam Thao Secondary School, Phu Tho province

Sadec City High School, Dong Thap province

Nguyen Du High School, Dong Thap province

Nguyen Dinh Chieu High School, Dong Thap province

UK

Aberyswyth University

University of Aberdeen

Aston University

Birmingham City University

Cardiff Metropolitan University

Coventry University

Manchester Metropolitan University

Middlesex University

Queen's University, Belfast

The University of York

University of Birmingham

Bournemouth University

University of Cambridge

University of Cardiff

University of East Anglia

University of Leeds

University of Newcastle

University of Northampton

University of Portsmouth

University of Salford

University of London South Bank

University of South Wales

University of Southampton

University of Swansea

The Open University UK

Glasgow Caledonian University

Goldsmith, University of London

University of Brighton

University of Chichester

Enterprises

An Phuc International Engineering and Construction Company Ltd

BIDV South Central Insurance Company (BIC)

GTO Media Corporation (GTO)

HCMC Bookstreet Company

Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House

Hoang Gia Real Estate Tourist Joint Stock Company (HGR)

IFI SOLUTION Co., Ltd, Viet Nam

International Professional Development Association (IPDA)

Korea Vietnam Incubator Park (KVIP)

Me Trang Coffee Joint Stock Company (MTC)

Microfabrication Laboratory at Hoa Lac High-Tech Park (MPH)

MT Nha Trang Joint Stock Company (MTL)

Nanotech Green Technology Development Joint Stock Company

National Hospital for Tropical Diseases (NHTD), Viet Nam

Nha Trang Vaccines and Biological Products Joint Stock Company (BIOPHARCO)

NTP 24/7 Co. Ltd. (NTP)

Southern Consulting and Services Co. Ltd. (SCS)

Van Phong Investment and Development Joint Stock Corporation (VPC)

Khang Thinh Irrigation Technology JSC

FIA Foundation

AIP Foundation

Forbes Viet Nam

BK Holdings

Cultural and Creatives Organisations

VIET NAM

VICAS Art Studio

Green Grape Company Limited (Hanoi Grapevine)

Heritage Space

Danang Business Incubator DNES

Sàn Art Hub

Autumn Meeting

EdLab Asia Social Enterprise

Think Playgrounds Social Enterprise

The Centre for Assistance and Development of Movie Talents

Dom Dom The Hub For Experimental Music & Arts

The Fly on Dust Trade and Communications Co.Ltd (Len Ngan)

Thanh Viet Production Ltd. (Monsoon Music Festival)

Luu Chu

Nha San Collective

Hanoi Rock City

Viet Nam National Space Center

Matca

Kilomet109

Life Art Social Enterprise

Pho Ben Doi

Hozo International Music Festival

Saigon Theatreland

Nha Nam Publishing and Communications JSC

Other Organisations

VIET NAM

Women Association in Sadec City, Dong Thap province

Live&Learn

National Studio for Documentary Scientific Film (DSF)

Tay Nguyen Centre for Rural Development

Young Business People Association of Ho Chi Minh City (YBA - HCM)

Vietnet Information Technology and Communication Center

UK Alumni Association in Viet Nam

Pacific Links Foundation

INTERNATIONAL

Global Wales

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

Universities UK International

Universities Wales

Quality Assurance Agency

International Migration Organization

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Micro:bit Educational Foundation

The Raspberry Pi Foundation

British Geological Survey

The UK–EA Social Innovation Linkages for Knowledge Exchange Network (SILKEN)

International House Belfast

International House London

British Chamber of Commerce Viet Nam

Goethe Institute

Institut Francais Hanoi

Living Culture Development, UK

Mereka Connect, Malaysia

Unboxed: Creativity in the UK

Pop Up Project CIC

The Sensoria Festival Ltd

Hackney Archive

AC Projects/Alternative Currents: Counterflows Festival, Glasgow

Cryptic (Sonic.a festival)

Nerve Centre

Astrophysics Research Centre, Queen's University Belfast

National Museums NI

IC Visual Lab

Wax Aterlier

Live Cinema UK

PAN Intercultural

D-Fuse

Music Ally
