

Welcome Pack

New Directions in Language Assessment East Asia 2023

27-29 October in Hanoi, Viet Nam

Dear Delegate,

Chào mừng and welcome to the 11th New Directions in Language Assessment conference in Hanoi, Viet Nam!

Ten years ago, we embarked on a journey that has grown into a global forum for language assessment experts, educators and policymakers. This year, as we are looking back on a decade of our East Asia flagship language assessment conferences, we are also exploring the future of assessment as a driver of learning and education system reform.

Partnering with the National Foreign Language Project, we're proud to host this event in Hanoi for a second time.

Get ready for an engaging conference filled with insights and ideas. Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey!

The conference convenes as a **three-day event from Friday to Sunday 27-29 October** in Hanoi, Viet Nam, across two major conference venues:



Friday 27 October: Opening plenary by Dr Quynh Nguyen

📍 *Nguyen Van Dao Auditorium, Vietnam National University (VNU)*

Saturday 28 October & Sunday 29 October: Conference proceedings

📍 *British University Vietnam (BUV)*

Registrations will be open:



- 16.00-17.00 on Friday 27 October at VNU
- 07.30-08.30 on Saturday 28 October at BUV

For registration and daily conference check-in, please have your QR code ready. It will be sent to you via email in the week before the event.



The **Networking Dinner** will take place on the evening of Saturday 28 October from 19.00 (doors open from 18.30) – *for those registered for the dinner only.*

📍 *Vietnam National Museum of History*

We look forward to seeing you in Hanoi!

Best wishes,

Sheryl Cooke

New Directions Conference Chair



Contents

1. Travel to Hanoi.....	3
1.1 Visa (incl. information on e-visa).....	3
1.2 COVID-19 rules.....	3
1.3 General travel advice.....	3
2. Venues	4
2.1 Main conference venues	4
2.2 Networking dinner.....	4
2.3 Access map.....	5
3. Conference shuttle busses	6
3.1 Schedule	6
4. Local travel.....	7
4.1 Taxi services and ride-sharing apps	7
4.2 Airport transfer.....	7
5. Registration and check-in.....	8
6. Conference programme.....	8
7. About Viet Nam.....	9
8. Contact details.....	10

1. Travel to Hanoi

1.1 Visa (incl. information on e-visa)

If travelling from outside Viet Nam, please familiarise yourself with the **visa and entry requirements** to Viet Nam applicable to you before your departure. Information is available [on the webpage of the Viet Nam National Authority of Tourism](#).

According to our research, most conference attendees will be able to enter Viet Nam either without any visa due to visa exemption, or by obtaining an electronic visa (e-visa) prior to travel.

Please note that Viet Nam has recently changed some of their visa requirements (effective from 15 August 2023). Whether a visa is required or not generally depends on individual circumstances, including the length of stay in the country. The information provided in this section should be considered as guidance only, and conference attendees are highly recommended to carry out their own research into these requirements.

Visa exemption

[You can check here](#) whether you might be exempt from needing a visa to enter Viet Nam (temporary stay for up to 45 days for any entry purpose).

E-visa

[You can check here](#) whether you might require an e-visa to enter Viet Nam. An e-visa is valid for 90 days, and multiple entry. As of 15 August 2023, Viet Nam's e-visa is available to most nationalities.

[Visit the Viet Nam e-visa Official Website](#) to apply.

1.2 COVID-19 rules

According to our research, there are no COVID-19 testing or vaccination requirements to enter Viet Nam for most nationalities. We highly recommend that all conference attendees arriving from outside Viet Nam do their own research prior to departure.

1.3 General travel advice

For further travel and security advice, please also consult the [Viet Nam page of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office \(FCDO\)](#) as well as any guidance issued by your home country and/or country of departure.

2. Venues

2.1 Main conference venues

We are pleased to announce that the three-day conference will take place across two major venues in different parts of Hanoi.

Vietnam National University (VNU)

We are pleased to be working with VNU as one of our main conference venues and are grateful for their support of the conference by hosting the opening plenary by Dr Quynh Nguyen on the evening of Friday 27 October.

VNU is located in western Hanoi, approximately 9km/25min by car or taxi from the centre.

Friday 27 October: Opening plenary by Dr Quynh Nguyen

📍 *Nguyen Van Dao Auditorium, Vietnam National University
144 Xuan Thuy, Cau Giay District, Hanoi*

British University Vietnam (BUV)

We are delighted to announce that Day 2 and 3 of conference proceedings will take place at the British University Vietnam in eastern Hanoi. We extend our gratitude to the university for hosting our event.

The venue is located approximately 16km/30min by car or taxi from the centre. Shuttle busses will be provided for attendees to travel between central Hanoi and the venue. Please see section [3. Conference shuttle busses](#) for more information. Pick-up and drop-off in the centre will be the Hanoi Opera House.

Saturday 28 October & Sunday 29 October: Conference proceedings

📍 *British University Vietnam
BUV Ecopark Campus, Ecopark Township, Van Giang, Hung Yen province*

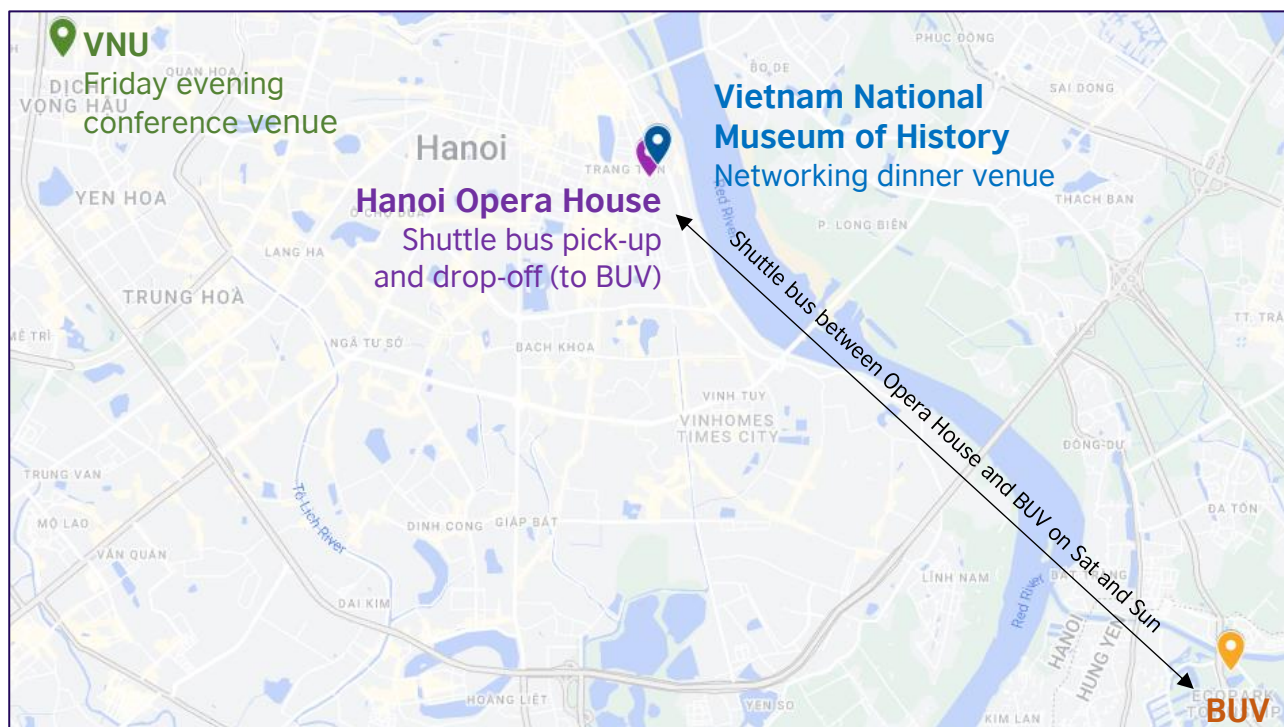
2.2 Networking dinner

We look forward to welcoming those who have registered to the networking dinner at the Vietnam National Museum of History. The venue is in walking distance from the Opera House where the shuttle bus will drop off attendees.

Saturday 28 October: Networking dinner from 18.30

📍 *Vietnam National Museum of History
216 Đ. Trần Quang Khải, Tràng Tiền, Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội 110000, Viet Nam*

2.3 Access map



3. Conference shuttle busses

Shuttle busses have been organised to accommodate local transport between central Hanoi and the campus of BUV for Days 2 and 3 of the conference (28 and 29 October).

If you have not already done so, please complete the registration form below to indicate if you wish to use the shuttle bus service:

[Register to use the conference shuttle bus!](#)

3.1 Schedule

For the full shuttle bus schedule, please visit our website (to be updated during the week of the conference).

www.britishcouncil.vn/en/new-directions-2023/useful-information/conference-shuttle-bus



Central Hanoi to BUV (morning)

Pick-up	📍 Hanoi Opera House 1 Tràng Tiền, Phan Chu Trinh, Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội, Viet Nam
Drop-off	📍 British University Vietnam Ecopark Campus, Ecopark Township, Van Giang, Hung Yen province

BUV to Central Hanoi (afternoon/evening)

Pick-up	📍 British University Vietnam Ecopark Campus, Ecopark Township, Van Giang, Hung Yen province
Drop-off	📍 Hanoi Opera House 1 Tràng Tiền, Phan Chu Trinh, Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội, Viet Nam

4. Local travel

4.1 Taxi services and ride-sharing apps

The easiest way around Hanoi will be by **taxi**. These can be pre-booked, for example through your accommodation or through taxi service applications.

Other popular services include **ride-hailing apps** like **Grab**, **Gojek** or **Be** as a convenient and cheap mode of travel in Hanoi. In order to use their service, download the app and enter your mobile phone number to register. Payment is made online with a credit or debit card.



You can download **Grab** here: [Apple/Android](#)

You can download **Gojek** here: [Apple/Android](#)

You can download **Be** here: [Apple/Android](#)

4.2 Airport transfer

Hanoi's international airport (Noi Bai Airport (HAN)) is located in the Soc Son District about 28km north of Hanoi's city centre. It is about a 40-50-min taxi ride to/from the Old Quarter.

Public transport is available to travel between the airport and the city centre, e.g. by public bus or airline shuttle bus.

The quickest way to get into town from the airport is likely **by taxi**. There are many services through which you can pre-order a taxi for pick-up and drop-off at the airport, including Grab. There are also taxi stands outside the arrival terminals; it is advised to use a taxi from the official area only.

Make sure to check with your **accommodation** in advance as many offer **airport drop-off and pick-up services**.

5. Registration and check-in



In advance of the conference, you will receive a **QR code** from the conference team, which will be required for registration/check-in. Please remember to check your junk/spam folders.



When arriving at the venue, you can move to the **check-in area** where you will be asked to present the QR code for registration/check-in.

Please note that check-in might be required on each day of the conference.



When checking in for the first time, you will receive your **conference pack**.



Registration desk opening hours:

- 16.00 – 17.00 on Day 1, 27 October, at VNU
- 07.30 – 08.30 on Day 2, 28 October, at BUV

6. Conference programme

The full conference programme is now available for download on our website.

[Download our conference programme now!](#)

At a glance

Day 1		Friday 27 October
16.00 – 17.00	Registration - Please ensure you have registered online and you bring your QR code for check-in.	
17.00 – 19.00	Opening plenary by Dr Quynh Nguyen, Vietnam National University, followed by a discussion chaired by Mina Patel, British Council	
From 19.00	Refreshments	
Day 2		Saturday 28 October
07.30 – 08.30	Registration - Please ensure you have registered online and you bring your QR code for check-in.	
08.30 – 09.15	Opening ceremony	
09.15 – 16.30	Conference proceedings	
16.30 – 16.45	Closing	
From 18.30	Networking dinner at the Vietnam National Museum of History	
Day 3		Sunday 29 October
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome	
09.15 – 15.00	Conference proceedings	
15.00 – 15.45	Closing ceremony	

7. About Viet Nam

Welcome to Viet Nam, a land of breath-taking landscapes, rich history, and a vibrant culture that seamlessly blends tradition with modernity. In the heart of this captivating country lies Hanoi, the bustling capital and the second-largest city of Viet Nam. Hanoi is a place where history whispers through the ancient streets of the Old Town, where the allure of the colonial French Quarter enchants, and where time-honoured temples and landmarks tell tales of a bygone era. This dynamic metropolis is a true gem in the crown of Southeast Asia.

The conference takes place in the enchanting autumn months, from September to December. During this time, Hanoi welcomes you with its temperate climate, characterised by cooler and drier weather, with average temperatures around a comfortable 25°C. Hanoi's autumn is famous for green sticky rice, the special aroma of milk flowers and for its typical yellow daisy. It is also considered the season of romance, of literature, and of past memories.

Time zone	Hanoi uses Indochina Time (IC). This is 7 hours ahead of GMT/UTC.
Country code	+84
Finance	<p>Currency: Vietnamese Dong (VND)</p> <p>Approximate conversion (subject to change): USD 1 = VND 24,405.01</p> <p>Most payments are made in Vietnamese Dong, but US dollars can be directly used for some hotels, restaurants, tours, or other services.</p> <p>Foreign currency can be exchanged in major cities at banks as well as airports. Many hotels have money changing facilities.</p> <p>Although credit and debit cards of well-known brands are generally accepted in major cities or main tourist areas, carrying local currency in sufficient amount is advisable, e.g. for smaller purchases and street vendors.</p> <p>Exchanging or buying currency locally will likely be cheaper than doing so at home.</p> <p>More information on cash withdrawals and credit card payments.</p>
Plugs and electricity	<p>Standard voltage: 220V</p> <p>Standard frequency: 50Hz</p> <p>Power plugs and sockets: type A, B and/or C</p>

Emergency services	Police: 113 Fire: 114 Ambulance: 115
Assistance for British nationals	Consular services in Viet Nam are available at the British Embassy in Hanoi . Urgent assistance is available via: +84 (0) 24 3936 0500.

Further general information on Viet Nam is available [on the official website of the Viet Nam National Authority of Tourism](#).

8. Contact details

If you have any questions or queries ahead of or during the conference, please consult our website or contact us via the email address below.



NewDirectionsEastAsia@britishcouncil.org



www.britishcouncil.vn/en/new-directions-2023