

The Pitzer in Vietnam Summer Program is done in collaboration with Hue University. On the program students study Vietnamese language, history, culture, political structures, and environmental issues.

Program Dates: Six weeks from Saturday, May 20 through Friday, June 30, 2023

Courses

Modern Vietnam (1 course or 4 semester units)

This course provides an overview of culture and society in Vietnam. It includes lectures by Hue University faculty and specialists from organizations, site visits, and reading and writing assignments that allow students to explore a variety of topics in Vietnam, including but not limited to, the legacy of colonialism, war and conflict in Vietnam, health care, minority communities, political structures, women's issues, and environmental issues. An extended family stay for the duration of the program is an important part of the course, providing a human face to the ideas presented in readings and lectures. Students also complete a capstone research project on a topic of their choice supervised by local experts.

Vietnamese Language (1 course or 4 semester units)

Intensive Vietnamese is offered at the beginner level through Hue University. With a maximum of six students per teacher, the course employs a highly communicative, interactive curriculum that emphasizes both spoken and written Vietnamese and is closely connected to the homestay experience, the core course, and other field activities. Students attend language classes for 12 to 14 hours a week for a total of roughly 60 hours of in-class instruction. Students already fluent in Vietnamese may audit content courses at Hue University or pursue an independent study in Vietnamese on a topic of interest (culture, history, literature, etc.).

Prerequisites: Introductory Vietnamese

At a minimum, completion of an introductory college-level course in Vietnamese or a demonstrated equivalency. Students without a background in Vietnamese will take a 2-3 week online introductory course in the spring semester.

Family Stays

Students are in single placements with their own bedroom with local families so they can maximize their language learning and participate fully in community life.

Study Trips

To deepen students' understanding of topics covered in the core course, they participate in several site visits in or near Hue and one major fieldtrip. Study trips may vary each summer but could include visits to the Imperial City of Hue, The Imperial Tombs, minority communities in the mountains west of Hue, the vibrant commercial center of Danang, the beautiful early modern trading town of Hoi An, and the ancient Champa ruins of My Son, one of the foremost Hindu temple complexes in Southeast Asia. Halfway through the program, students travel north to the booming city of Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. In addition, the program visits the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Halong Bay, a region of extraordinary beauty.

Cost

We are hopeful that the total cost of the program will be set at or around \$11,000, which is approximately the cost of two summer courses at Pitzer. This amount will cover tuition for two courses worth of credit, all program activities and study trips, full room and board, and round-trip flight. Financial Aid will be available for Pitzer students who normally receive financial aid.

Application Process

Students who cannot attend an information session should sign up for an advising appointment. Otherwise, students may email the Office of Study Abroad and International Programs at studyabroad@pitzer.edu to request an application.

Application Deadline: December 1, 2022. If interested in the program post the deadline, please email the study abroad office to see if there is space available.