

Revised 12/1/10

Goals for the May 2011 Vietnam Immersion

The primary goals of this immersion are (1) to support Loyola faculty in their personal and professional exploration of Vietnamese peoples and their many cultures and (2) to assist Loyola University in developing its Vietnam Initiatives.

As you know, Loyola University is committed to building a Center for Educational Programming in Vietnam. Loyola is the only university in the US to have taken this step. We are very excited about the prospects this initiative offers our students and faculty and believe that both our Vietnamese partners and Loyola will benefit from this partnership.

Each faculty member participating in the immersion will develop a set of individual personal and professional goals for the immersion. Along with an orientation session to prepare for the trip, participants will be asked to participate in several discussions to help focus their goals for the immersion. This will help trip coordinators to fine tune the itinerary and the participants to develop measurable outcomes.

There is no predetermined goal or outcome that any particular faculty member must identify or reach. There are a variety of ways in which Loyola faculty can support Vietnam initiatives. Outcomes that come to mind are course preparation, research for publications, and preparation for teaching or other activities in Vietnam, but these are only examples. The goals developed will be depend largely on the expertise, creativity, and ingenuity of immersion participants.

The nature of the Loyola Vietnam initiative is itself fluid but is beginning to take a clearer shape as we get to know the country, its culture, and develop deeper relationships and partnerships with local individuals and institutions. Faculty immersion participants will be invited to collaborate with each other and with university leadership on the development of the initiative. The launch of a study abroad program has taken almost two years, for example, but we anticipate that benefits from a good relationship with a leading local university will generate a need for Loyola faculty expertise and their involvement on a regular, consistent, and long-term basis.

Upon acceptance into the immersion program, each participant will:

- (1) Identify a set of personal and professional goals for the immersion program. This will require some preliminary reading and investigation prior to identifying topics of interest.
- (2) Investigate the topic in Vietnam through cultural visits, interviews, resources such as local newspapers, etc.
- (3) Share findings with the other immersion participants after returning to Loyola.

The OIP office will assist participants with orientation sessions to prepare them for the Vietnam Immersion experience and will help participants clarify their individual goals and research topics.

This immersion experience is rooted in the belief that participants are well suited to identify their individual and collective needs. We are there to help you articulate your needs and provide the resources needed to meet your stated objectives. The collective learning gleaned from this and future trips will build the capacity necessary for Loyola University to help build sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships with our colleagues in Vietnam.

We hope you will join us!