



POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN VIETNAM **with Bloom Microventures**

Information Guide

January 2016

Bloom Microventures: Poverty Alleviation in Vietnam

Bloom Microventures is a non-profit social business established in the United Kingdom and operating in Vietnam since 2011. Bloom is credited with providing micro-credit to small scale farmers thereby helping them harness their own capabilities by facilitating access to resources to participate in markets, thus alleviating their poverty.

Bloom Microventures run a unique day-tour to an ethnic minority community in the rural mountains in Hoa Binh province (70km west of Hanoi). The tour provides students a chance to explore a side of Vietnam very few will ever experience while contributing to the lives of Vietnamese farmers.

Visit the Bloom Microventures website for more information: <http://www.bloom-microventures.org/>



Program Overview

- Unique opportunity to learn about poverty reduction and social entrepreneurship with a local Vietnamese micro-finance provider
- Witness first-hand poverty reduction strategies with a strong focus on micro-credit project management
- Meet with staff to gain a wide understanding of micro-finance and social enterprise business models in Vietnam
- Visit social enterprises and meet the people who run them



- Witness first-hand the inner workings of a range of Innovative social enterprises working towards breaking cycles of poverty
- Gain insight into the frameworks that enable and support successful micro-finance programs

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Program Details

The Poverty Alleviation Program consists of a series of dynamic workshops and field trips that cover a wide range of topics in poverty reduction and social entrepreneurship with a strong focus on micro-credit project management.

The program revolves around diverse case studies of actual happenings in the field, student-led discussions, teamwork, and off-the-beaten-path fun! You will attend 28 workshops- 14 based in Hanoi and the remaining in the field. All workshop sessions are run by Bloom Microventures and topics explored include:

- A sneak peek into contemporary poverty in Vietnam and Microcredit 101
- Case study of Phu Minh commune in Hoa Binh province: Poverty 70km from Hanoi.
- Needs assessment data collection using village transect, interviews with local people
- Access to capital: meeting with the Women's Union, Child Fund microcredit

The opportunity to take part in this program will give you valuable skills, knowledge and understanding of micro credit and how it works, cross cultural awareness and communication, leadership, team work and adaptability.

To those who may be considering going on a BUiLD Abroad Trip to Vietnam – just do it. I absolutely recommend this trip to all. This trip has grown me in more ways than I can imagine, and am still enjoying the benefits of it today. The BUiLD Grants make these trips very accessible and the benefits from these trips are just too irresistible to ignore.

Daniel Choi, BUiLD, Summer 2015



Accommodation in Hanoi will be in a comfortable hotel with internet access, and during field trips students will stay in traditional rustic stilt houses.

Weekends are free to explore and Bloom will help arrange activities to visit places such as Halong Bay, Ninh Binh and Cuc Phuong National Park.

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Program Dates

10-30 January 2016

Program Cost

Travel grants available will cover the full program cost

Travel Grants

BUiLD Travel grants are available for 15 students.

OS-HELP loan

Extra financial support can be gained by applying for an [OS-Help](#) loan if applicable.

Included in Program Cost

- Program site visits and in-country support
- Hotel accommodation on a shared basis in Hanoi and traditional stilt-house in Hoa Binh
- Some meals are provided. In Hanoi a welcome dinner and tea breaks. In Hoa Binh breakfast lunch and dinner during field trips
- Travel and medical insurance through UTS Travel Insurance Policy
- Weekend trips to Ha Long Bay, Ninh Binh and Cuc Phuong National Park



Not Included in Program Cost

- International airfares from Sydney to Hanoi (approx. \$1,000)
- Visa application costs
- Vaccinations required
- Personal expenses



Who can apply

This fantastic trip is open to 15 UTS:BUiLD students with:

- A desire to develop their understanding and practical skills in community development in a micro-finance context
- An understanding of business principles and understanding of micro finance
- A current GPA of 1.5 or over
- An easy going, flexible and independent character with a willingness to take initiative to learn
- A keenness to work hard and adapt to different surroundings and work environments
- Strong team working skills

Requirements

If you are selected you must:

- Attend a pre departure session
- Represent UTS with distinction at all times during the program
- Submit at least two blog posts during the program to UTS to be used on the UTS:BUiLD Abroad Blog
- Submit a reflection piece to BUiLD on your return
- Complete a feedback survey on your return

Next steps

Complete the BUiLD application form online.

Applications close on midnight 30 September 2015

For more information please contact:

Kathryn O'Connor

Project Officer

T: 9514 1970

E: Kathryn.oconnor@uts.edu.au

W: www.build.uts.edu.au

