



EDUCATION FOR THE POOR



Applicant Informational Packet
Summer English Program

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ABOUT US

Education for the Poor (EFTP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded to serve the poor in Vietnam. With the realization that education is the best vehicle for eradicating poverty and the most effective way to promote quality of life in the long run, EFTP is dedicated to bring to the underprivileged an opportunity to start, continue or further their education through the regular academic or vocational school system. EFTP strongly believes that its educational assistance not only benefits those that receive its help, but also the many generations to come—their children and their children's children because their success will end the intergenerational transmission of poverty that they have previously endured. In the course of its operations, EFTP will not discriminate anybody on the basis of race or religion. Needy people of all races and religions residing in Vietnam are eligible for help from the organization.

MISSION

EFTP aims to help underprivileged students in Vietnam unlock their potential and overcome poverty through education. We intend to provide more than financial assistance to the poor; we also want to help them gain up-to-date knowledge of the 21st century in order to catch up with the technological advancement of the world.

PURPOSE OF THE SUMMER ENGLISH PROGRAM

In light of the recent influx of foreign investments into Vietnam and the increasing globalization of the world's economic order, English has become crucial to forging a better future. In regard to improving the English skills and education of underprivileged students, EFTP has started to send volunteers to teach English in Vietnam during the summer since 2006. This will be a good way to quickly assist Vietnam out of poverty and will also make a direct impact on the underprivileged college students who are unemployed upon graduation. Helping them acquire the highly valued job skill of speaking English will help them become more competitive and ease their process of getting a job with a steady income. This will in essence give them an opportunity to escape the cycle of poverty and change their lives.

The program benefits many students, especially during the last few years when approximately 1500 students were able to take part in the session every summer. In addition to English, we also hosted a short session in Accounting to further improve our students' chance to find a job with foreign companies.

*“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”
-LaoTzu*

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers will be carefully selected by EFTP to ensure that they would be dedicated to helping students and achieve the main goal of the program. All individuals from diverse educational and professional background with various levels of experience are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be at least 18 years old to partake in the program.

Teaching English to foreign students requires much dedication and hard work. Though many volunteers possess various qualities and skills that can be beneficial to the students in Vietnam, the most important ones that EFTP looks for in the selection process are:

1. Volunteers who are dedicated and diligent.
2. Volunteers who are genuinely interested in helping the Vietnamese students improve their English skills.
3. Volunteers who are proficient and fluent in the English language.

Before applying, we encourage applicants to look at various factors, including, but not limited to:

1. Weather conditions – Vietnam has a tropical climate where it is quite hot and humid.
 2. Cultural Adjustments – Parts of Vietnam are very conservative. For example, certain clothing appropriate in the U.S. would not be so in Vietnam.
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STRUCTURE OF THE TEACHING PROGRAM

TRAVEL DATES

The program is exactly 5 weeks. Teaching begins on the last week of June and ends on the last week of July. We ask our volunteers to arrive at least one day before the first day of class and stay at least one day after for the Closing Ceremony.

In previous years, some volunteers have arrived a few days earlier or even stayed a few days after the program ended. Special arrangements can be made for a day or two, before or after the program, as long as the volunteer communicates their plan with the Program Coordinator.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday: Volunteers will be teaching two classes per day. The morning class is from 8:00AM – 10:30AM, while the afternoon class is from 2:00PM – 4:30PM. There will be a 15-minute break approximately half way through each class session. To accommodate those students in Vietnam who work during the day, we will be adding an evening class (the tentative time being 7-9PM), where volunteers are expected to teach one extra class, but only ONE evening per week.

Most weekday afternoons and evenings outside of class time, volunteers have free time to spend. This time can be spent using the internet at cafes, eating, making lesson plans, or going out with other volunteers and students.

Weekends: The Program Coordinator hopes to provide volunteers with a broad experience and wants to ensure that they are also enjoying their time in Vietnam. During the weekends, volunteers are free to plan group trips with students and other volunteers or go out on trips planned by the Coordinator. Please note that the Coordinator does not plan a trip every weekend, but there are many things that volunteers can do.

STUDENTS IN VIETNAM

Each volunteer is assigned a class level before they arrive to Vietnam. Students in Vietnam are tested on their level of English proficiency and are placed in one of the three levels: Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced.

Rosters with student names are pre-arranged for volunteers and a student teaching assistant will be available to help. The age of students generally range from 8-25 years old. Depending on the assigned class level, there are generally younger students at the

Beginning Level, while there are more college-aged students at the more Advanced Level.

The number of students can range from 20-60 students per class. Class size of more advanced level is generally smaller, allowing for more group work and discussion that help fine tune the students' English skills. On the other hand, the Beginning Level class is generally larger, allowing for more focus on pronunciation, which helps set the foundation for their English proficiency.

LESSON PLANS

The main goal of the English program is to help students sharpen their English proficiency and communication skills so that they can advance in their academic and job-hunting activities while Vietnam is entering into the global trading environment. In order to meet these goals, the English program emphasizes conversational and pronunciation skills. The daily activities for the students consist of:

- a. Phonetic Activities – The teachers work directly with students to teach them how to correctly pronounce words based on international phonetic signs so that they can properly learn new words after the program has ended.
- b. Conversational Activities – The teachers assign a conversational topic, divide students into small groups, and let their students converse with each other while they rotate among the groups to coach them.
- c. Pronunciation Activities – The teachers lead students through reading exercises. These activities help students develop pronunciation and intonation skills.

Teaching materials will be provided to volunteers. Volunteers are given the flexibility to be creative in their lesson plans and are encouraged to incorporate other activities besides those listed above. Please note that creating lesson plans for each day takes a lot of time and commitment and we do not want volunteers to overlook this very important aspect of teaching. Preparation is not only vital to helping students better learn English, it also maintains organization and efficiency in the classroom.

VOLUNTEER ACCOMMODATIONS

FOOD

Volunteers are provided with three meals per day, every day. Breakfast is generally around 7AM, lunch at noon and dinner at 6PM. However, the scheduling may be adjusted.

The type of food that is served follows what local Vietnamese people generally eat.

LODGINGS

Housing is pre-arranged and provided for all volunteers. Volunteers' safety is always the #1 priority for EFTP and necessary arrangements are made to ensure that volunteers feel comfortable and secure. As a result, EFTP has worked with the local Catholic churches to make those arrangements. Although EFTP works with the Catholic Community in Vietnam, the organization is non-denominational and welcomes all religions. EFTP has had many volunteers of various backgrounds.

Two or three volunteers are assigned per room and will be sharing a bathroom. Rooms are air-conditioned, although the teaching facility is not.

The internet connection at the lodgings can be unreliable; however, more reliable internet can be found at nearby coffee shops.

LOCATIONS

Teaching locations are situated either in Vinh or Hue. Usually the lodgings are located within 20 minutes (walking distance) from the teaching facilities.

COSTS/EXPENSES

The only expense that volunteers are responsible for is their round-trip airfare from the U.S. to the teaching destinations. The international flights land mainly in either Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

International Airfare to Vietnam in previous year ranges between \$1200 to \$1600, depending on when you book. The Domestic Airfare from Hanoi/Saigon to Vinh or Hue ranges from \$150-\$300.

All other expenses such as food and housing are taken care of for the volunteers. Additional personal expenses such as souvenirs, going out, calling home, travels

outside the city and other foods/cafes are dependent on each volunteer. Generally, most volunteers have commented that they spend only an extra \$250-\$300 for personal expenses for the whole 5 weeks.

Volunteers are also responsible for obtaining or renewing their passports and visas beforehand. If you do not already have one, please account for the additional costs. More information can be found on: <http://travel.state.gov/>

Volunteers are also expected to provide a doctor's health clearance and obtain all the necessary immunization shots before going to Vietnam.

HOW DO I APPLY?

SCREENING PROCESS

An application will be sent out to interested individuals; it also can be downloaded from Education for the Poor's website. Directions for submission are detailed within the application.

The deadline for the application will be announced each year. We hope to fairly review all applications after the deadline and invite a select group to interview at a later date.

AFTER ACCEPTED

After applicants are accepted into the program, there will be 1-2 mandatory training dates where further details about the program are given. The training dates will be determined after acceptance.

CONTACTS

EMAIL ADDRESS

All correspondence from applicants should be sent to eftp.vietnam@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 1128, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

LINKS AND WEBSITES

Official website: www.educationforthe poor.org
