Scaling Social Enterprises in Vietnam

December 2016

Program

The Remote and Rural Enterprise (RARE) Program is offering selected students at the University an opportunity to study social enterprise in Vietnam as part of an action research project in the unit IBUS6023 in December 2016. Successful students will be offered a scholarship from the Endeavour Program to support their travel and accommodation in Vietnam.

Interest in the concept of social entrepreneurship has been sparked over the last two decades due to frustration with inefficient, ineffective and failed action of government and philanthropic bodies, as well as the socially destructive behaviour of many businesses. An explicit and central social mission, innovation, creativity and a strong market orientation are the distinguishing features of the social entrepreneurship phenomenon. In this intensive unit of study you will spend 10 days working in collaborative teams to understand social entrepreneurship in the Vietnamese context. Each team will work with a Vietnam-based social enterprise to provide insights on how they can scale their operations and enhance their social impact.

The action research projects will focus on the following themes:

- understanding the environment of social enterprises in Vietnam
- exploring the challenges of scale and financial sustainability
- juggling the duals goals of financial returns and a social mission

There are a number of components to this course:

- Pre-departure program: Before travelling to Vietnam, you will participate in two workshops that will cover background on these Vietnamese context and basic information about social entrepreneurship and action research.
- In-country action research project: During this unit of study you will work alongside a Vietnamese social enterprise and develop an actionable plan for how they can scale their activities and enhance their impact. The action research project will involve conversations with the entrepreneur and other stakeholders, meetings with industry professionals and attendance at lectures and workshops.
- Post-program reflection: Upon return to Sydney you will be required to attend a post-program workshop and write a reflective essay on your experiences in Vietnam.

Benefits of participating

In addition to cultivating your understanding of the challenges and impact of social entrepreneurship, this program will enhance your negotiation and communication skills and allow you to develop insight into the challenges associated with critically analysing a real-world problem.
Eligibility criteria

To be eligible you must be:

• a postgraduate student
• an Australian citizen or permanent resident
• enrolled in a postgraduate degree program at the University of Sydney

Students that do not meet the above eligibility criteria may still apply if willing to support their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Anticipated costs

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<th>Anticipated costs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Language training</td>
<td>$ 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airline travel</td>
<td>$ 800-1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>$ 50-80/night</td>
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<td>Day-to-day costs within Hanoi</td>
<td>$50/day</td>
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Scholarships and funding opportunities

$2000 is available per eligible student to assist with accommodation, travel and incidentals.

Students can also apply for additional funding through the OS-HELP scheme. For more information and to apply, visit the OS-HELP program website.

How to Apply

To be considered for the program you will need to complete a RARE Student Application form, and submit a copy of your academic transcript and current resume.

Applications and/or Expressions of Interests should be sent to Melanie Feeney (RARE Coordinator) - Melanie.feeney@sydney.edu.au.

Applications close 11:59pm Sunday 14th August.