

INVESTING IN A KNOWLEDGEABLE VIETNAM



Dr Dang Thi Anh Thu, graduate of the Queensland University of Technology, worked with the University of Sydney to conduct joint research with Hue University, 2022.

Through Australia Awards Scholarships, PhD alumni from Australian universities are making lasting contributions to Vietnam's development and prosperity. They work mainly across higher education and research in fields as diverse as agriculture, public health, environmental management and medical science. Their links with Australia continue to thrive, often evolving into a range of mutually-beneficial professional and community connections and activities.



368

PhD scholarships for study in Australia since the early 1990s, half female graduates



94%

successful completion rate



90%

alumni employed in Vietnam's higher education or research sector



100%

alumni agree that their PhD experience helped them make positive contributions at work and in the community



95%

alumni maintain links with Australia



“ I learned a lot of new statistical techniques, and now guide my colleagues to use these. I conduct workshops on research techniques, assist my colleagues to plan papers and write. I'm supporting my workplace to transition from a clinic to a hospital – the planning skills I learned in Australia are very useful! ”

Dr Pham Thi My Hanh
University of New South Wales, graduated in 2018



“ I underwent a change in mindset and values. I try to bring the best from my supervisor and teachers in Australia to Vietnam. I treat my students the way I was treated. In Australia, I saw the standards set by professor – very open and friendly, but just enough boundaries with the students. ”

Dr Luu Minh Duc
The University of Sydney, graduated in 2018

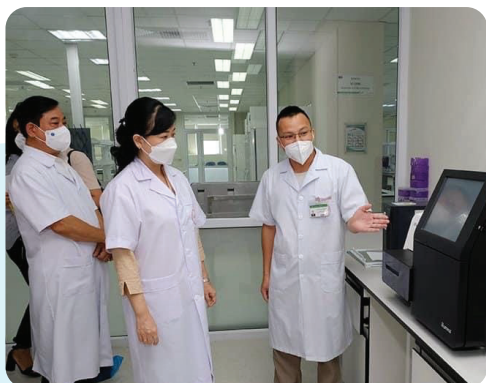


“ I still keep in contact with my supervisor at Queensland University of Technology. We have collaborated on research papers, and she has provided me with contacts with other Australian universities to build collaboration, for example, exchange programs with my university. We also collaborated on an Australian Alumni Grant Fund project to support patients and increase health literacy in Vietnam. ”

Dr Nguyen Thi Nguyet
Queensland University of Technology, graduated in 2018



ALUMNI STORIES



VIETNAM AND AUSTRALIA – GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

In his role as Head of Microbiology at the National Hospital of Tropical Diseases **Dr Van Dinh Trang** has maintained a strong professional relationship with his PhD supervisor, Professor Dominic Dwyer, since graduating from the University of Sydney in 2019.

Dr Trang and his research team collaborated with Professor Dwyer and his team to implement genome sequencing procedures which have supported the rapid identification of new COVID-19 variants in Vietnam. Their ongoing connection has also resulted in joint research publications linked to COVID-19 as well as other areas of genome-sequencing. Dr Trang's team is also developing research links with the University of Queensland around the development of effective antibiotics for multi-resistant bacterial strains.

MAKING A CONSIDERED DIFFERENCE FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES

Dr Tran Thi Quang Hong says her PhD experience at Monash University fundamentally changed the way she goes about analysing problems and researching new topics, and she wants to share this with others.

Returning to the Ministry of Justice after completing her PhD in 2016, Dr Hong used her newly developed knowledge and skills to engage in research into ethnic minority customary law and how it interacts with state laws. She and her team travelled to remote regions to speak with ethnic minority representatives and learn of their viewpoints. Her team's report included recommendations on how customary law can be factored within the mainstream legal system. It has been referenced by several local government bodies considering the possible local level implications of such developments.

Continuing her efforts to break down community silos, Dr Hong set up *Legal Connect* to support the Vietnamese legal community to form support networks and share information.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR BEST

As Lecturer at the College of Medicine and Pharmacy at Hue University, **Dr Dang Thi Anh Thu** has introduced new ways of interacting with students, adapted from her study experience at the Queensland University of Technology. Dr Thu's PhD research assisted her refresh her framework for teaching topics around environmental health. She incorporated perspectives on both climate change and disaster management as she became aware of their increasing impact on the health sector.

She encourages her students to take on personal responsibility for their performance – they need to decide how much time and effort they commit and she will support them to succeed but not 'carry' them. Dr Thu remembers clearly an Australian lecturer handing back good work to her and encouraging her to aim for a higher level.

