Colibri Boston

in association with

University of Massachusetts – Boston
College of Education and Human Development
School for Global Inclusion and Social Development
College of Advancing and Professional Studies
Institute for International and Comparative Education

sponsors

A Comparative Study Tour:
Educational Reform and Inclusion in
Vietnam with Optional Thailand Extension

January 2 – 10, 2018
with optional extension
January 11 – 14, 2018

This comparative study tour will provide students with opportunities to explore educational practice and inclusive policy reforms in Vietnam with an optional extension to Thailand. Designed for educators, researchers, and professionals, this study tour will allow participants to translate their local knowledge to an international setting through a comparative framework that focuses on community engagement and inclusive education. Participants will have the opportunity to observe and study the leadership, educational structures, and delivery methods of education from preschool through higher education.
Overview

Vietnam: To meet the demands of its growing economic landscape, Vietnam has made efforts to overhaul its education system. In the summer of 2005, the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam approved the country’s new education law promoting inclusion by stating that learning is the right and obligation of every citizen and that every citizen has equal rights of access to learning opportunities.

Thailand: After the passage of the National Education Act in 1999 in Thailand, the education policy of the government was shifted to achieve the goal of Education for All. Yet inclusive education has been a longstanding challenge. Thailand is home to a diversity of languages and a large percent of the population does not have access to education in a language they can speak or understand. Children with disabilities continue to be educated primarily in specialized settings.

An academic program is combined with a carefully designed 9 day study abroad experience in Vietnam with an optional 4 day extension to Thailand. During the trip, students will

- Meet with representatives of Vietnam’s and Thailand’s education systems;
- Engage with the people of Vietnam and Thailand and their culture;
- Examine how the nations’ history, culture and context shaped the Vietnamese and Thai approaches to educational policies and practices;
- Visit historical and cultural sites in Vietnam and Thailand.

Goal

The goal of this study tour is to engage students in a local-global framework of inclusion through a study tour of inclusive social and education reforms in Vietnam and Thailand.

Objectives

1. Develop intercultural knowledge and competence.
2. Explore historical legacies and traditions of tolerance as precursors to inclusion.
3. Expand local educational theory and knowledge to complex issues in global contexts (e.g., inclusion, education, policy analysis).
Learning Outcomes

- Deeper self-awareness
- Better understanding of a different culture, belief system, and worldview
- Greater tolerance for difference and ambiguity
- Broader perspective on special education and inclusion
- Fuller grasp of the mechanisms of system change
- Richer international knowledge-base to apply to educational issues at home

Tour Operator: Colibri Boston

Faculty

Felicia L. Wilczenski, EdD  Professor and Interim Dean.
College of Education and Human Development
School for Global Inclusion and Social Development

Gerardo Blanco-Ramirez, EdD,  Assistant Professor
Higher Education Administration
College of Education and Human Development

Program Fee

Participants will pay Colibri Boston directly for travel services and UMass Boston for tuition. Early application and deposit is recommended.

Academic Credit

Participants can register for an independent study to obtain course credit with consent of the study tour faculty. Tuition for 3-credit course is $1000.

Participants not seeking course credit will be registered as an auditor. Tuition for non-credit professional development is $500.

Vietnam study tour

$2395 double occupancy includes RT airfare from Boston, all lodging, most meals, ground transport, tours, guides, and insurance

$2795 single occupancy
Thailand extension

$795 double occupancy includes flight to Thailand all lodging, most meals, entrance fees, and ground transport

$895 single occupancy

Non-refundable deposit $750 due upon registration payable to Colibri Boston

Final payment due October 15, 2017

*Payment by check is preferred. A $35 processing fee will be charged for credit card payments.

For study tour information and to obtain an application, please contact:

Felicia L. Wilczenski, Ed.D.
Felicia.Wilczenski@umb.edu

Enrollment is limited. Early registration is recommended.

**Note:** Please be advised that international programs are subject to change, minor or major, at any time due to circumstances beyond our control, this includes any and all fees, dates, itinerary, and program activities. We will inform participants of any changes in as timely manner as possible.