

# HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP FUND

## PROJECT CONCEPT FORM (BRIEF)

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| <b>Implementation partner</b>  | <b>Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport (UT-HCMC)</b>   |
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### Title of the project:

**Founding sustainable basement for internationalization through UK-Vietnam collaboration on University Governance and Autonomy**

### Main objectives of the project:

The following objectives will guide the project:

- O1: To initiate a sustainable partnership between the UK partner and UT-HCMC based on mutual understanding both context and having clear insights of UK and VN higher education system.
- O2: Give suggestions for a better Higher Education Reform in Vietnam, increasing institutional autonomy, taking UT-HCMC as a case study.
- O3: To jointly develop a training course with comparative and international approach on leadership, especially for middle managers informed by experiences from the partner and other UK institutions.
- O4: to provide regular opportunities for staff in both institutions to engage in practice-focused internationally comparative scholarly and research activities focused on the field of university governance that support quality assurance and other issues of higher education.

### Project description

The core for a university's development is the right of autonomy but how to tap into the autonomy fully and effectively depending so much on how good its governance.

Indeed, it is encouraged by the VN Government that public universities have to raise their autonomy but it seems uneasy for universities. It is partly because the limited competence of each institution's governance (leadership, management, structure, mechanism, etc.). For example, UT-HCMC lack of clear framework for evaluating individual performance leading to low motivation to all employees. Only a small number of top and middle managers, in addition, have long term and sustainable visions. They also find it hard to decide what levels should be considered for centralize and decentralize. Moreover, there is a lack of guidance from the government.

Through the project, UT-HCMC would like to have experiences from the UK partner and other UK institutions to improve its governance and have best preparations to become an autonomy institution. Findings of the co-research between the two institutions would also be publicized and considered as references for VN government.

Through the partnership, the UK partner can not only open their network with Vietnamese institutions but also have lessons learnt for a better model of governance. Besides, with a better competence, Vietnamese institutions can develop and explore fully their partnership

with the UK partner.

**Supposed Activities:**

- Co-research on the current situation of Vietnamese H.E reform and autonomy and give suggestions.
- One training course held both at UK and VN under the format of a series of workshops aiming at: 1) enhancing leadership 2) open networking between UK and VN institutions.
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**Resources / Budget:** It can be further discussed. However, in general each side will contribute the match – funding in alignment with the amount of funding that it receives.

Suggestion:

- Total funding expected from British Council: GBP 15,000 (GBP 7,500 for UK and GBP 7,500 for VN institution)
- Total match-funding: GBP 15,000 (GBP 7,500 from UK and GBP 7,500 from VN institution)