

FFL CONNECT

Issue 1 - 2026

Happy
NEW YEAR
2026



FFL CONNECT

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A NEW BEGINNING, A SHARED JOURNEY

As we welcome the arrival of a new year, we are delighted to introduce the very first issue of the Faculty of Foreign Languages Newsletter (FFL CONNECT). This publication marks a meaningful milestone in our Faculty's ongoing efforts to strengthen academic connection, celebrate cultural diversity, and foster a shared sense of belonging among lecturers, students, and alumni.

The Newsletter is envisioned as more than a source of information. It is a space where voices are heard, experiences are shared, and stories are told—stories that reflect who we are as a learning community in an increasingly globalized world. Through its various sections, this issue brings together updates from the Faculty, reflections from lecturers, creative contributions from students, and practical insights related to language learning, careers, and life beyond the classroom.

The theme of our first issue—Tết, New Year, cuisine, travel, and student life—was chosen with care. Tết is not only a celebration of renewal and hope but also a time for reflection, gratitude, and connection. From traditional Vietnamese Tết to international New Year experiences abroad, from festive food to journeys across cultures, the articles in this issue highlight how language, culture, and personal stories intersect in meaningful ways.

We hope this Newsletter will become a platform that inspires creativity, encourages dialogue, and strengthens ties across generations of the Faculty of Foreign Languages. Every contribution, whether from lecturers, students, or alumni—adds to the collective story we are building together.

As we turn the page to a new year, the Faculty of Foreign Languages warmly wishes all lecturers, students, and alumni a Happy New Year 2026. May the year ahead bring you good health, professional growth, academic success, and new opportunities to learn, connect, and thrive.

Dr. Le Thi Thuy Nhung
Vice Dean, Faculty of Foreign Languages





Story Highlights

As the New Year begins, the Faculty of Foreign Languages would like to send warmest wishes to our readers. May the year ahead bring you happiness, good health, and many moments of inspiration. We hope it will be a year filled with meaningful learning, new experiences, and exciting opportunities to grow and connect. Thank you for being part of our community, and we look forward to sharing another year of learning and stories together.



FFL Updates

Exploring, learning, and growing together - one day, one lesson, and one success at a time!

1. Sound To Sense

The FFL recently hosted Sound To Sense, a well-known academic English dubbing competition, which is designed for students who are passionate about English and cinematic arts. Through three successful seasons with carefully selected film scenes, this event was a popular academic destination for students across the city, where participants can develop pronunciation, emotional expression, and teamwork while experiencing English in a lively and practical learning environment beyond traditional classroom boundaries.

2. Cultural Echoes 2025

Blending academic exploration with cultural discovery, Cultural Echoes 2025, organised by the Faculty of Foreign Languages, offers a dynamic learning space for students from universities across the city. Through diverse and creative rounds, the competition encourages participants to explore history, civilization, and cultural identity while developing critical thinking, global awareness, and a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity beyond the classroom.

3. Conquering Chinese Characters

In the context of increasing global integration, Chinese has gradually emerged as an important language alongside English. "Conquering Chinese Characters 2025" was officially launched by the FFL as an academic platform where students can practice recognizing, memorizing, and applying Chinese characters. Additionally, the competition provides opportunities for students who share a passion for the Chinese language and culture to connect and learn from one another.



4. Your IELTS: Zero To Hero

It officially returned with a renewed focus on personal growth, supporting students in their IELTS preparation journey. Through a realistic mock test, participants could better understand their current proficiency and recognise areas for improvement. More than a practice exam, the programme encouraged reflection, confidence-building, and continuous learning ahead of the official international IELTS test.

5. Mid-Autumn Festival with children

Through small acts of kindness, students from the Faculty of Foreign Languages collaborated with local community organizations to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with children in Linh Chieu. With thoughtful gifts, glowing lanterns, and heartfelt interactions, the event created an evening where joy was shared and meaningful memories were formed. The activity highlighted the importance of empathy and reminded everyone that giving back can bring happiness to both volunteers and those they serve.

6. Thesis/Research Proposal in 5 Minutes

Thesis/Research Proposal in 5 Minutes challenges students to think clearly and communicate research ideas effectively within a strict time limit. Organised by the Faculty of Foreign Languages, the competition offers a supportive academic platform where participants can refine presentation skills, strengthen critical thinking, and build confidence. Beyond the contest itself, the experience equips students with practical communication skills that are essential for academic work and future professional environments.



FFL Updates

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Exploring, learning, and growing together - one day, one lesson, and one success at a time!
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7. Olympic English

Olympic English provides an engaging learning environment for students interested in English, enabling them to grow academically while navigating new challenges. The theme “Rise of the Wise” highlights the importance of strategic thinking and using English effectively in real-world situations. Participants are motivated to move beyond their comfort zones, use English creatively, and build problem-solving skills that extend beyond the classroom.

8. Opening Ceremony 2025

Opening Ceremony 2025 officially welcomed K41 students to the Faculty of Foreign Languages, marking the beginning of their university journey. Beyond celebration, the Wings Up programme conveyed messages of growth and new opportunities, while helping freshmen connect with students and lecturers, creating a supportive environment for meaningful learning experiences at HUB.

9. Development of the English Study Programs

The event provided an important forum for administrators, lecturers, experts, and students to exchange ideas on curriculum renewal in response to changes in higher education and labor market demands. Discussions focused on enhancing practical skills, aligning learning outcomes with real-world requirements, and continuously improving teaching quality to better prepare students for their future careers.



10. Application of AI in Language Testing and Assessment

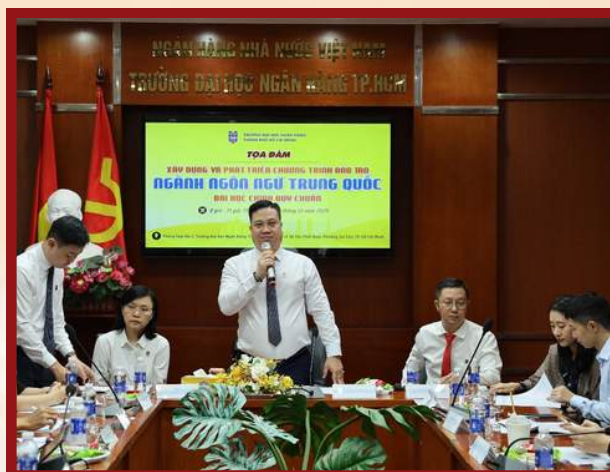
This topic attracted strong interest as speakers explored how artificial intelligence can support language assessment through automated scoring, feedback systems, and adaptive testing. At the same time, the seminar emphasized the importance of ethical use of AI and reaffirmed the central role of teachers in designing meaningful and valid assessments. The event encouraged participants to view AI as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for human expertise.

11. Faculty engagement beyond the classroom

Beyond academic activities, FFL lecturers also actively participated in the university sports event celebrating Vietnamese Teachers' Day (20/11). The event promoted physical well-being, unity, and collegial spirit among staff. Notably, the men's football team with the participation of Mr. Lê Hùng Vũ and Mr. Từ Văn Năm, lecturers of FFL, achieved an impressive Second Prize at the university level. This achievement was a proud moment for the Faculty and a meaningful way to honor teachers' dedication.

12. Development of the Chinese Study Program

Two seminars were organized to discuss the development of the Chinese Study Program and the application of information technology in learning Chinese. These events provided valuable insights into curriculum design, teaching methodologies, and the effective integration of digital tools to enhance learning outcomes.



FFL Updates

Exploring, learning, and growing together - one day, one lesson, and one success at a time!



Through these diverse activities, the Faculty of Foreign Languages continues to affirm its role as a dynamic academic community committed to innovation, research excellence, cultural exchange, and staff-student engagement. We look forward to more inspiring initiatives in the time ahead!

Phạm Khắc Thôi - Lecturer, Faculty of Foreign Languages
Bui Van Anh - DH40AM01

THE NEXT STEPS



When we were young, we may have heard captivating English melodies, seen elegant actors speaking English, or read fairy tales set in England. Gradually, often without conscious awareness, a passion for the English language took shape within us. Eventually, this passion led to a significant life decision: choosing English Language Studies (ELS) as a major and taking the first step on a path that could profoundly influence our future.

Within the university environment, students frequently encounter new subjects and unfamiliar learning methodologies that prompt reflection on whether the chosen path is truly appropriate. At times, subsequent steps may not be the result of careful planning, but rather tentative decisions shaped by uncertainty, speculation, and even anxiety. In such moments, the guidance and encouragement of lecturers and peers play a vital role, providing strong motivation for students to persevere and continue progressing.

Upon obtaining a bachelor's degree, a sense of pride is often accompanied by concern: whether this qualification is sufficient to compete in the labor market, whether the acquired knowledge meets professional requirements, and whether further academic advancement in language studies is necessary.

In the past, when societal demand was lower, securing employment with a bachelor's degree in English was relatively straightforward. However, graduates now must either utilize English as a practical communication tool in conjunction with another professional discipline or pursue in-depth specialization and research in English language studies.

This raises the question of when the next step should be taken. For students majoring in ELS, preparation for future pathways should begin as early as the end of the second year or the beginning of the third year. For instance, students aiming toward economics or finance and banking should consider enrolling in a double-degree program at the start of their third year.

When such steps are taken at an appropriate time, credit transfer and the acquisition of essential knowledge for the second degree can be achieved more smoothly and coherently. Similarly, students who remain passionate about ELS and linguistics should begin preparing for advanced academic programs during this period. This includes participating in academic research activities to develop the necessary knowledge and skills for completing a graduation thesis. Producing a high-quality graduation thesis significantly enhances the opportunity for a seamless transition to postgraduate studies, thereby opening broader and more specialized academic and professional pathways.

Ultimately, every subsequent step must be grounded in careful planning and thoughtful consideration in the present. Although numerous challenges may lie ahead, it is important to remember that we do not face them alone. With confidence and determination, and with the support of mentors, peers, and available resources, each step forward brings us closer to a promising and sustainable future.

Le Nguyen Bao - Lecturer, Faculty of Foreign Languages





In Vietnamese culture, Tết Nguyên Đán is more than the start of a new year—it is the most important time for family reunion. No matter how far people travel for work or study, Tết is the moment they return home, reconnect with their loved ones, and remember where they come from. This tradition reflects core values such as gratitude, belonging, and emotional connection.

The Meaning of Family Reunion During Tết

In Vietnamese culture, Tết Nguyên Đán is more than the start of a new year—it is the most important time for family reunion. No matter how far people travel for work or study, Tết is the moment they return home, reconnect with their loved ones, and remember where they come from. This tradition reflects core values such as gratitude, belonging, and emotional connection.

Coming Home

As Tết approaches, big cities grow quieter as students and workers head back to their hometowns. This journey is not only physical but also emotional. Simple activities like cleaning the house, cooking together, or decorating the ancestral altar bring family members closer and create a strong sense of togetherness.

Honoring Ancestors

Family reunion during Tết is deeply linked to ancestor worship. In the first days of the new year, families gather to offer incense and traditional food, expressing respect and gratitude to those who came before them. Through these rituals, younger generations learn about family history, respect for elders, and shared responsibilities.

Sharing Meals, Sharing Love

Tết meals are at the heart of reunion. Dishes such as bánh chưng, bánh tét, braised pork, and boiled chicken are prepared and enjoyed together. Around the table, families share stories, laughter, and hopes for the year ahead, strengthening emotional bonds in a natural and meaningful way.

Healing and New Beginnings

After a long year, Tết offers comfort and renewal. Lucky money, warm greetings, and small gestures of care create a positive atmosphere filled with encouragement and hope. Family becomes a source of strength, helping everyone begin the new year with confidence.

Family reunion is the heart of Tết. It connects generations, preserves cultural values, and keeps emotional bonds strong. No matter how life changes, the desire to return home during Tết remains a timeless and deeply meaningful part of Vietnamese culture.

Nguyen Khắc Thanh Tung - DH38AM01





CALLIGRAPHY SCHOLARS' STREET: A LIVING TET TRADITION

*"Mỗi năm hoa đào nở
Lại thấy ông đồ già..."*

These famous lines from Vũ Đình Liên's poem Ông Đồ capture a familiar Tết scene: the old calligrapher, red paper, black ink, and a crowded spring street. More than a nostalgic image, it reflects a deep cultural longing to reconnect with traditional values in the rush of modern life.

During Tết, calligraphy scholars' streets appear across Vietnam, where people come to xin chữ (request calligraphy) as a way of wishing for luck, peace, and prosperity. Dressed in traditional robes, calligraphers write blessings such as Phúc - Lộc - Thọ, An khang thịnh vượng, or Tâm an vạn sự an. Visitors of all ages line up to take these words home as symbols of hope for the new year.

In Hanoi, this tradition is closely associated with the Temple of Literature, where the calm, scholarly atmosphere enhances the beauty of the art.



In Ho Chi Minh City, the calligraphers' street at the Youth Cultural House offers a more vibrant setting, attracting many young people and becoming a popular spring destination.

Normally, not only will there be the presence of veteran artisans, but also enthusiastic young calligraphers, helping this ancient craft to be preserved and passed down through generations. The street of scholars is not simply an entertainment activity but also contributes to preserving intangible cultural heritage, educating about the tradition of respecting teachers and valuing education, as well as the significance of written words. From the image of blooming peach blossoms and calligraphers in Vũ Đình Liên's poetry, we see the enduring vitality of this beauty; despite the changes over times, it remains a symbol of Vietnamese spring.

Ho Huynh Phuong Mai - DH39AT02

A JOURNEY ACROSS VIETNAM DURING “TET”

“There’s no place like home.”

Tết Nguyên Đán, or simply Tết, is the most important holiday in Vietnam. More than a new beginning, it is a time for reunion—when people return home after months or years away to be with family, remember their ancestors, and hope for a better year ahead. Although Tết is celebrated nationwide, each region has its own way of welcoming the new year.



Tết in Northern Vietnam

In the North, Tết feels calm, traditional, and deeply ritualistic. As the Lunar New Year approaches, families clean and decorate their homes, preparing to welcome good fortune. Peach blossoms bloom everywhere, symbolizing renewal and prosperity. Bánh chưng, the square sticky rice cake representing the earth, is an essential part of the celebration. Great care is given to the ancestral altar, often with a five-fruit tray to express gratitude and wishes for prosperity. Many families also observe taboos, such as avoiding sweeping the house or saying unlucky words on the first day of Tết.

Tết in Central Vietnam

Tết in Central Vietnam is quieter and simpler, shaped by the region’s harsh climate and modest lifestyle. Celebrations may be less elaborate, but ancestral worship is carried out with deep respect. A few branches of yellow apricot blossoms are enough to welcome spring. Traditional meals are prepared with care, and harmony within the family is highly valued. While the atmosphere may seem understated, reunions with relatives—sometimes after many years—carry a deep emotional meaning that needs no words.

Tết in Southern Vietnam

In the South, Tết is lively, colorful, and cheerful. The festive mood reflects the open and optimistic spirit of the people. Yellow apricot blossoms fill the streets, symbolizing wealth and happiness. Southern families prepare a five-fruit tray with meanings tied to abundance and good fortune. Dishes like bánh tét and braised pork with eggs are staples of the holiday. With fewer taboos and warm greetings everywhere, Tết in the South feels relaxed, welcoming, and full of joy.

Across all regions, Tết may look different, but its heart remains the same: coming home, being together, and starting the new year with hope.

Ma Van Qui - DH37AV04



CÂY NÊU



Long ago, the world was ruled by greedy Devils, and humans were forced to live as tenants, paying unfair rent and following constantly changing rules. The Devils took most of the food, leaving people with very little.

The “Top and Bottom” Game

One year, the Devils declared, “We take the tops of the crops; you keep the roots.” Expecting to win, they were outsmarted when the humans planted sweet potatoes and kept the harvest underground. Angry, the Devils changed the rule the next year: “We take the roots; you keep the tops.” This time, humans planted rice and took all the grain.

Furious again, the Devils demanded both tops and roots. But the humans planted corn and harvested the ears in the middle, leaving the Devils with nothing useful.

The Land Trick

The Devils then tried to drive humans away. Buddha asked them to give humans only as much land as the shadow of his robe could cover. Thinking it was a small area, the Devils agreed. But when the robe was lifted high, its shadow spread across the land, pushing the Devils into the East Sea.

Why We Have Cây Nêu

Defeated, the Devils begged to return to the mainland for a few days during Tết. Buddha allowed it, on the condition that humans could protect themselves. That is why Vietnamese families put up a Cây Nêu during Tết to warn and keep the Devils away.

So when you see a bamboo pole during the Lunar New Year, remember: it stands as a symbol of protection, cleverness, and the victory of humans over greed.

Nguyen Huynh My - DH39AT02



VIETNAMESE BRAISED FISH

- the taste of home -



To make a good pot of braised fish, my mother always chose the freshest snakehead fish—firm, thick, and slightly fatty. But the real secret was not just the fish. It was the seasoning: fragrant shallots, spicy chilies, black pepper, and especially slices of rich pork belly. She often said that without pork fat, the dish would feel incomplete. That richness gives the fish its glossy look and soft, tender texture, turning a simple meal into something memorable.

My favorite moment is when the fish sauce meets the flame. Combined with caramel sauce made from slowly melted sugar, the dish comes alive. The sauce thickens, gently coating each piece of fish and sealing in deep flavors. I also love the clay pot—the *tô*—which holds heat so well that the fish stays hot and comforting on the table, filling everyday meals with warmth.

To me, Vietnamese braised fish is more than a dish, it was my first lesson in patience. My mother always cooked it slowly, keeping the heat low so the flavors could sink in. Over time, I realized that growing as a student is much the same. Real learning takes care, consistency, and time. Whenever I sit down to a hot meal of braised fish with simple boiled vegetables, the tiredness of the day fades away. It is the taste of care, love, and the quiet values that stay with us in everyday life.

In my memories, rainy days are not defined by claps of thunder or puddles on the ground, but by the rich, comforting aroma of braised fish slowly spreading from my mother's kitchen. Among countless modern and carefully presented dishes, Vietnamese clay pot braised fish (Cá kho tô) has always held a special place in my heart. It feels like an emotional “anchor,” gently pulling me back to the calm, familiar warmth of home and family.



Phan Thi Ngoc Thao - DH39AM03

DISCOVERING BIRDS AND NATURE IN AUCKLAND



PhD life in Auckland can sometimes feel a bit stressful and lonely. The long hours of research are demanding, but what helps me most is the environment here. Auckland is wonderfully green, and even a short walk around my block to admire the flowers makes me feel calmer and more balanced.

One thing that has really stood out to me is how much New Zealanders care about their native birds. My flatmate, Anna, volunteers at BirdCare, so she knows all their names and stories. Thanks to her, I've started noticing birds more closely and listening for their songs.

Recently, we visited Tiritiri Matangi Island together. It's a sanctuary where endangered birds are protected, and stepping into its forest felt magical. The air was alive with sound — the clear call of the kōkako, the lively chatter of the tīeke, and the deep boom of the takahē. Bright flashes of feathers appeared among the trees, and we paused often just to watch and listen. What impressed me most was not only the birds themselves, but also the dedication of the volunteers who care for the island. They guide visitors, maintain habitats, and share their knowledge with such enthusiasm.





Along the paths, we noticed wooden boxes marked with “Do Not Disturb” signs — nesting shelters for little blue penguins. I didn’t see inside, of course, because the boxes are kept closed to protect the birds, and I’m sorry I forgot to take a photo of them. Still, the signs themselves felt powerful. They reminded me that these tiny seabirds were resting just out of sight, and that visitors are asked to respect their space.

These experiences remind me that even when research feels demanding, there is joy to be found in everyday life. Flowers blooming along the street, birds singing overhead, and the kindness of people who give their time to protect nature — all of these make Auckland feel like a place where I can breathe, reflect, and keep going.

Vo Bao Chau - Lecturer, Faculty of Foreign Languages





THAI NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

*A vibrant celebration through the eyes of
a Vietnamese PhD student in Thailand*



Living in Thailand as a Vietnamese PhD student has given me the chance to experience cultural traditions that feel both familiar and wonderfully new. Among them, the Thai New Year holiday, Songkran, stands out as one of the most unforgettable celebrations I've ever taken part in. While Vietnam has its own Lunar New Year with family gatherings and long-standing customs, Songkran brings a unique mix of spirituality, community warmth, and joyful chaos that I've truly come to love.



Songkran happens every year from April 13 to 15 and marks the traditional Thai New Year, symbolizing purification and fresh beginnings. As the holiday approaches, the whole country feels more alive. Streets fill with decorations, temples become busier, and families prepare offerings and containers of scented water. People visit temples, offering food to monks, pouring water over Buddha statues, and taking part in the rod nam dam hua ceremony, gently pouring water over the hands of elders to show respect and ask for blessings.





As an international student, I find these traditions both meaningful and heartwarming. Vietnamese culture also values respect for elders, but the gentle water-pouring ritual in Thailand feels especially symbolic. It reflects the Thai belief that water washes away the misfortunes of the past year, making room for a brighter one.

On Songkran, people armed with water guns and buckets stand along the streets, splashing anyone who passes by. At first, I was a bit hesitant to join in, but after a few surprise splashes, I couldn't help laughing and joining the fun like everyone else.

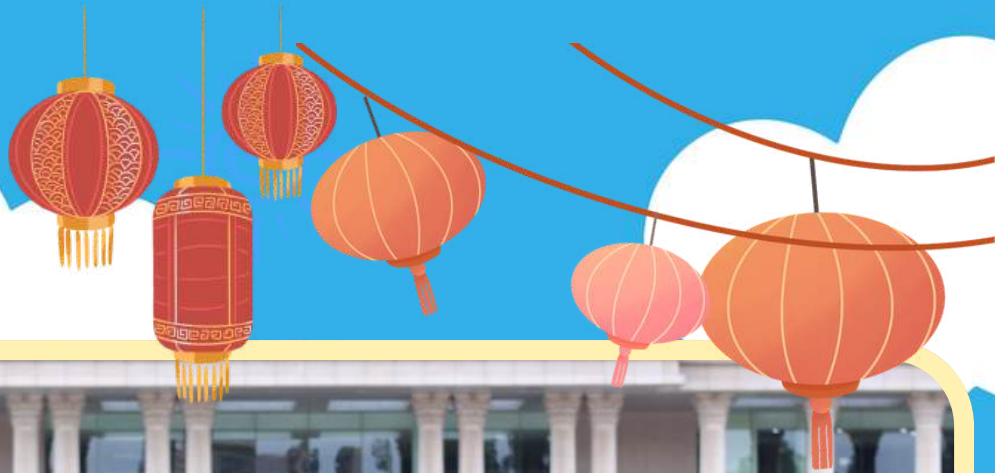
Despite the excitement, there is a deeper meaning behind these water fights. In Thai culture, water represents cleansing and renewal, washing away the old year to welcome the new one. Once I understood this, the fun felt even more meaningful, as if every splash carried a small wish for happiness, good health, and good luck.

Experiencing Songkran as a Vietnamese student in Thailand has helped me understand how cultural celebrations reflect the values of a community. Songkran highlights renewal, kindness, respect, and togetherness, values that feel comforting, even when I'm far from home. To me, it's a reminder of the beauty of cultural exchange and the joy of embracing traditions beyond your own.

Nguyen Van Nguyen - Lecturer, Faculty of Foreign Languages



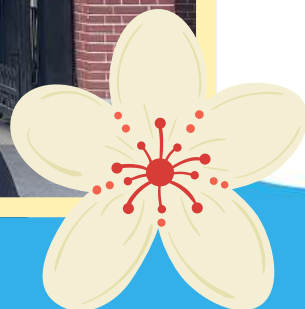
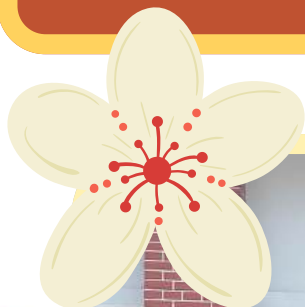
Youth memories



Hai năm thanh xuân tại Thượng Hải, tôi tự hào là một mảnh ghép của Đại học Phúc Đán – ngôi trường danh giá luôn nằm trong Top 3 Trung Quốc và Top 30 đại học tốt nhất thế giới (theo QS World University Rankings). Là nghiên cứu sinh chuyên ngành Giáo dục Hán ngữ Quốc tế tại Viện Giao lưu Văn hóa Quốc tế, điều khiến tôi trân quý nhất không chỉ là kiến thức hàn lâm. Chính những hoạt động giao lưu văn hóa đa sắc màu và các hội thảo quốc tế sôi động tại đây đã giúp tôi trưởng thành vượt bậc. Được học tập cùng bạn bè từ khắp năm châu, tôi không chỉ trau dồi chuyên môn mà còn mở rộng tư duy toàn cầu, học cách thấu cảm và kết nối giữa các nền văn hóa. Hành trình 2022-2024 đã tôi luyện nên một Nguyễn Gia Quý bản lĩnh và tự tin hơn. Đại học Phúc Đán đã cho tôi một môi trường tuyệt vời để phát triển toàn diện, cũng là bước đệm quan trọng để tôi có thể theo đuổi sự nghiệp học tập và nghiên cứu sau này.

Nguyen Gia Quy - Lecturer, Faculty of Foreign Languages

在上海度过的两年青春岁月中，我始终为自己能成为复旦大学的一员而深感自豪。复旦大学作为中国最具声望的高校之一，长期位列中国前三、世界三十强（依据 QS 世界大学排名）。



2022—2024 的求学之旅，锤炼出一个更加坚定与自信的阮嘉归。复旦大学为我提供了一个全面发展的优质平台，也成为我继续追求学术深造与研究事业的重要跳板。



作为复旦大学国际文化交流学院汉语国际教育专业的学生，我所珍视的远不止于课堂上的学术知识。多姿多彩的文化交流活动以及充满活力的各类国际研讨会，使我在专业与视野上都获得了飞跃式的成长。与来自五洲四海的同学共同学习，不仅让我深化了专业能力，更让我拓宽了全球化思维，学会了在不同文化之间理解、共情与连接。

STUDENT STORIES

ĐẠI SỨ VĂN HÓA ĐỌC

LỄ TỔNG KẾT VÀ TRAO GIẢI CUỘC THI ĐẠI SỨ VĂN HÓA ĐỌC NĂM 2025

Hà Nội, ngày 30 tháng 10 năm 2025



I am Hạnh Phúc, a senior majoring in Business English. My decision to join the Reading Culture Contest began with a moment of reflection closely tied to national history. On April 30th, Reunification Day, while thinking about Vietnam's past and the sacrifices made for independence, I came across information about the contest. That meaningful coincidence inspired me to take part.

Motivated by ideas of patriotism and the role of young people in national development, I chose to create a short video for my entry. The work I selected was Nhật ký tuổi 20 by Nguyễn Văn Thạc. Written by a young soldier during wartime, the diary reflects responsibility, dedication, and the ideals of youth—values that strongly resonate with the spirit of the contest and the preservation of national identity.



To deepen the historical and emotional impact, the video was filmed at symbolic sites such as Bến Nhà Rồng and the Independence Palace. The process involved careful reading, thoughtful analysis, scriptwriting, and on-location filming, requiring both academic focus and creative effort.

My entry received First Prize at HUB and later a Consolation Prize at the national level. More importantly, the experience reinforced my belief that reading connects the past with the present. It also strengthened my sense of responsibility to promote reading culture, patriotism, and cultural values among younger generations today.

Huỳnh Thi Hanh Phuc - DH38AM04



A TRIP TO KE GA CAPE, BINH THUAN

Have you ever stopped to truly feel the colors around you? Not just the clothes people wear or the objects around them, but also the picture-perfect scenery of the sky, lakes, or mountains. Every color in the things around you is material that a discerning artist can perceive. “Sometimes the little things in life mean the most” (Ellen Hopkins). In Vietnam, the country’s landscapes are a mix of these colors.

For the Vietnamese, the nostalgic colors of Ke Ga Cape hold deep meaning.

On their way to immerse themselves in the sea in Phan Thiet, visitors can’t miss Ke Ga Cape – a very famous photo spot. The Ke Ga Lighthouse, located in Tan Thanh commune, Ham Thuan Nam district, formerly part of Binh Thuan province (now Tan Thanh commune, Lam Dong province), is famous for its pristine, miraculous seascape and also holds cultural and historical heritage value linked to the passage of time. Having existed for over 100 years, Ke Ga is the tallest and oldest operating lighthouse in Vietnam.

The Ke Ga Cape area has a unique topography, with large, naturally stacked rocks jutting out into the sea, creating a peaceful and distinctive landscape. It not only serves as an important engineering structure but is also a captivating tourist destination, sparking curiosity in visitors eager to experience the fresh air and see one of the most beautiful headlands in South Central Vietnam.

The sea at Ke Ga Cape is clear and blue, with gentle waves. It is especially beautiful in the morning and at sunset. The turquoise water mixes with the gray rocks, the white lighthouse, and the clear sky, creating a peaceful and impressive scene for visitors.



Ke Ga Cape’s beauty is matched by its historical and cultural significance. This area is closely associated with maritime activities, the lives of fishermen, and the coastal development of Southern Central Vietnam. The lives of the local people are clearly reflected in a simple, rustic way, vividly showcasing traditional culture.

If you have the chance to travel, try to visit Mui Ke Ga at least once. You will be filled with awe at the beauty of the country and gain a deeper appreciation for the diverse colors that nature and the earth provide.

Tran Huu Duc - DH40AT01



POWERED BY YOUTH: HUB'S SPRING VOLUNTEERS FOR SOCIETY

With the desire to join hands in building Linh Chieu ward into a "Clean Street - Bright Alley - Beautiful Neighborhood" and to commemorate the 94th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Vietnam (February 3, 1930), the Party Committee, People's Committee, and Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee of Linh Chieu Ward organized a "Launch Ceremony" in a joyful atmosphere with the Spring Volunteer soldiers from HoChiMinh University of Banking.



One day before the ceremony, each soldier was full of excitement and commitment, knowing that our actions would become the motivation that could spread positivity, love, and instill compassion among all students in the local area or even the city. We make careful preparations, including gear, uniforms, drinking water, and even first-aid supplies for injuries.

On the day of the launch, a large number of our volunteers joined hands to clean up the landscape, creating a clean neighborhood. Within a morning, our raid through Linh Chieu ward has crossed off our to-do lists, with the residential areas, the park, and spaces behind the local schools being cleaned and renewed thoroughly, bringing a fresh and orderly appearance to the community.

During the operation of the project, the team is glad to receive constant support and encouragement from the local residents and authorities. By sharing cups of water, tissues for the nonstop dripping sweats, and treatment for minor injuries, the launch is a representation of the community ties, showing solidarity and cooperation between student soldiers and local people.



The volunteer spirit and enthusiasm contribute to reducing pollution, gradually forming a more civilized and responsible lifestyle towards the environment, and building a beautiful and civilized city.



Such activities are not only a way to strengthen community bonds and foster sustainability, but also an opportunity for student soldiers to give back to society and create precious memories during the university years. Therefore, this recurring event will continue its journey to grab more attention and reach out to a growing number of students in the area, promising to become one of the most influential and meaningful campaigns on its merry way to make the world a better place.

Nguyen Gia Bao - DH38AT01

The Self-Discovery Zone

Why Self-Discovery Matters

Life often moves too fast. Between studying, working, and chasing deadlines, we rarely pause to ask a simple but important question: Who am I?

Not in an abstract way, but in everyday life—why crowds drain me while others feel energized, why I need time to think before deciding, or why some skills come naturally while others feel uncomfortable.

The Self-Discovery Zone is a safe space to observe yourself without judgment, understand your patterns, and shape a way of living that fits you—rather than following someone else's template.



What Is MBTI (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator)?

- It is a tool for understanding your natural preferences in thinking, feeling, working, and recharging. It does not rank people or limit potential.
- Think of MBTI as a map. It helps you understand where you are, but you still choose the direction.



The Four MBTI Preference Pairs

MBTI is built on four simple contrasts:

- E / I – Energy source: Extraversion gains energy from people and activity; Introversion recharges through quiet and reflection.
- S / N – Information: Sensing focuses on facts and details; Intuition looks for patterns and big ideas.
- T / F – Decision-making: Thinking values logic and efficiency; Feeling prioritizes values and human impact.
- J / P – Lifestyle: Judging prefers structure and planning; Perceiving values flexibility and openness.



My Journey

- My self-discovery did not come from a single moment, but from many small experiences over time. I came to understand myself as an ISTP, a style I call The Inspire.
- The Inspire doesn't need to be loud. Strength shows through action, calm problem-solving, and consistency—even when it goes unnoticed. I learned that quiet strength is still real.

Everyone Blooms Differently

In 2026, I hope you don't feel the need to become someone else to be accepted or chase a fixed standard to feel enough. You deserve to live in a way that fits you.

And to The Inspire: your strength is not small, your practicality is not dull, and your light doesn't need to be loud—it just needs to appear at the right moment. May the year ahead feel clearer, steadier, and truly yours.

Nguyen Thanh Chuong - DH39AT02



Another Day Goes By, More Knowledge Inside



Four years at university often sound like a long journey, but in reality, they pass by very quickly. Along the way, having meaningful milestones, such as doing research, not only strengthens your résumé but also leaves lasting memories of campus life. My interest in research grew gradually. It felt challenging at first, but I learned that progress is possible with patience and consistency. That is how I developed my habit of “each day a little.”

Rethinking Research

Many students give up on research because they think it is too time-consuming, complicated, or only for experts. In fact, research is simply a way of understanding the world better. It begins with observing daily life, asking questions, reading, and thinking critically. A research topic does not have to be grand, it can come from something you notice, something you enjoy, or a small problem you want to explore. From there, you read, reflect, and try to find answers. Research can be both meaningful and enjoyable.



Small Steps, Big Growth

The idea of “each day a little” means spending just 30 minutes a day reading in your field of interest. Take notes, question what you read, and think about what could be improved. Progress may feel slow, but over time, your knowledge grows steadily. Making mistakes is part of the process, what matters is learning from them and moving forward.

Why This Matters for Students

This approach helps reduce pressure by spreading the workload over time. What you learn also supports your coursework and improves critical thinking. Small daily efforts gradually build confidence, skills, and a stronger academic mindset.

Doing research “each day a little” may seem slow, but meaningful growth takes time. With patience, consistency, and genuine interest, small daily efforts can eventually lead you to your best academic self.



Nguyen Tuong Thien Lac - DH39AM02



ENGLISH ZONE

Word of the Month: RESILIENCE

Meaning

Resilience (noun):

The ability to recover quickly from difficulties, challenges, or setbacks; mental and emotional strength.

Pronunciation: /rɪˈzɪl.i.əns/

Word family:

- resilient (adj.)
- resiliently (adv.)

Why “Resilience” Matters in Language Learning

Learning a foreign language is not only a cognitive process but also an emotional one. Many learners experience moments of frustration: forgetting words, making grammatical mistakes, or feeling hesitant to speak in front of others. These moments are normal, yet they often discourage learners from continuing.

This is where resilience becomes essential. A resilient language learner does not avoid mistakes but learns through them. Instead of seeing errors as failure, resilient learners treat them as evidence of progress and opportunities for improvement.

In academic and professional contexts, resilience also plays a crucial role. Students are expected to read complex texts, produce academic writing, and communicate ideas clearly in English. These tasks require persistence, patience, and the willingness to revise and improve: core components of resilience.

Examples in Context

- Resilience helps learners stay motivated despite repeated challenges in pronunciation and grammar.
- Developing linguistic resilience allows students to participate more confidently in academic discussions.
- Teachers can foster resilience by creating a supportive and non-judgmental learning environment.



Reflection Corner

Take a moment to reflect on your own learning journey:

- Have you ever wanted to give up on learning English? Why?
- What helped you continue despite difficulties?
- How did making mistakes help you improve?

ENGLISH ZONE

Common Mistakes – Smart Fixes

Mistake 1: Using “very” with verbs

✗ I very like this subject.

✓ I really like this subject.

Explanation:

In English, very is used to modify adjectives and adverbs, not verbs.

- very interesting ✓
- very well ✓
- very like ✗

Use really to modify verbs instead.

More examples:

✗ I very enjoy working in groups.

✓ I really enjoy working in groups.

Mistake 2: Confusing “do research” and “make research”

✗ I made research on translation studies.

✓ I did research on translation studies.

Explanation:

In academic English, research is an uncountable noun and collocates with do or conduct, not make.

Correct collocations:

do research

conduct research

carry out research

Mistake 3: Overusing “Because” at the beginning of sentences

✗ Because English is difficult. Many students give up.

✓ Because English is difficult, many students give up.

✓ English is difficult; therefore, many students give up.

Explanation:

Because introduces a dependent clause. It must be followed by a main clause, or replaced with a connector such as therefore, as a result, or thus.

Mistake 4: Using “discuss about”

✗ We discussed about the results.

✓ We discussed the results.

Explanation:

The verb discuss already includes the idea of “about,” so no preposition is needed.



Mini Practice

Correct the following sentences:

1. I very agree with this opinion.
2. The students made a research about motivation.
3. We discussed about the advantages of AI tools.

1. I really agree with this opinion.
2. The students conducted research on motivation.
3. We discussed the advantages of AI tools.

Suggested answers:

Nguyen Van Nguyen - Lecturer, Faculty of Foreign Languages

CAREER & INTERNSHIP

Internship experiences play an important role in bridging academic learning and professional practice. The following stories from students at FFL, HUB showcase diverse internship pathways, practical skill application, and meaningful reflections that support career orientation and long-term professional development.

Dao Thi Nhu Y completed her internship as a Human Resources Intern at TeleStar Co., Ltd.

Throughout the internship, she successfully applied knowledge and skills acquired from her coursework. Communication and teamwork skills developed through classroom presentations supported her daily tasks, while business email writing skills were used in professional exchanges with supervisors and job candidates. In addition, knowledge from Psychology helped her better understand candidates' attitudes and behaviors. Her English listening and speaking skills were used in everyday communication, while reading and writing skills were applied to recruitment postings and CV screening.

From her experience, Nhu Y advises students to identify their career interests early, actively seek suitable internship opportunities, and maintain a positive and proactive attitude during their internship.



Nguyen Khac Thanh Tung completed his internship at the International Relations Office of Saigon International School of Business (SaigonISB).



During the internship, Thanh Tung applied academic knowledge in translation, intercultural business communication, and administrative studies to practical tasks. His responsibilities included translating official documents between English and Vietnamese, formatting administrative materials, managing digital records, and supporting international cooperation events. Through these activities, he enhanced his language accuracy, professional writing skills, and understanding of institutional workflows.

The internship also helped him develop time management, communication, and problem-solving skills in a professional environment. Based on his experience, Thanh Tung encourages students to prepare practical skills early, research internship placements carefully, and maintain a proactive and professional attitude to gain meaningful hands-on experience.

Ngo Le Quynh Nhu completed her internship at UpContent Media Company, where she worked as a copywriting intern.

During her internship, Quynh Nhu applied language awareness and creative thinking to content writing tasks, while reading and writing skills were essential for researching various topics and issues. This experience helped her strengthen her writing flexibility, topic analysis skills, and adaptability in a professional media environment.

Based on her experience, Quynh Nhu advises junior students to go beyond classroom knowledge by developing additional skills in fields such as marketing, sales, finance, and labor law. She also encourages students to focus on learning and self-development during internships rather than financial rewards, as practical experience is key to discovering one's true potential and career suitability.



Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Y completed her internship at Arches Vietnam Co., Ltd.



Working in an international environment allowed Nhu Y to apply all four English skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—on a daily basis. She also made use of intercultural communication knowledge to adapt her working style when collaborating with colleagues from different cultural backgrounds, such as Japanese, Korean, and German teams. In addition, presentation skills played an important role, as she regularly shared ideas and reported on ongoing projects.

From her experience, Nhu Y encourages students to start searching for internships early, prioritize international workplaces to maximize

skill application, and approach internships with a professional mindset, treating them as real jobs rather than short-term learning opportunities.

Pham Khac Thoi, Lecturer, Faculty of Foreign Languages



DID YOU KNOW?



Spain's 12 Lucky Grapes: A New Year's Eve Challenge

On New Year's Eve in Spain, the most important "dish" at midnight is not a fancy dessert, but twelve small grapes. As the clock strikes twelve, people try to eat one grape for each chime, all within a few seconds. This tradition is called las doce uvas de la suerte – "the twelve lucky grapes" – and each grape is believed to bring good luck for one month of the coming year.

The custom dates back at least to the late 19th century and became especially popular around 1909, when grape growers in Alicante had a surplus harvest and promoted grapes as a New Year symbol of prosperity. Today, the most famous place to follow the tradition is Puerta del Sol in Madrid, where crowds gather to watch the clock on the Casa de Correos. The striking of the bell is broadcast live on national TV, and families across Spain prepare their twelve grapes in advance so they can keep up with the chimes.

The practice has also spread to many Spanish-speaking countries and communities around the world, where people eat twelve grapes at midnight to wish for health, love, and financial luck in the new year. Some modern variations – even eating the grapes under the table for extra luck – have gone viral on social media, but the core idea remains the same: welcoming the new year with a fun challenge and a hopeful heart.

Sources:

"Twelve Grapes" – Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_Grapes

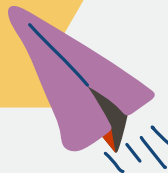
"New Year's Eve in Spain" <https://www.spain.info/en/discover-spain/new-years-eve-spain/>

"Why Do People Eat 12 Grapes at Midnight on New Year's Eve?" <https://www.allrecipes.com/12-grapes-nye-tradition-8759605>

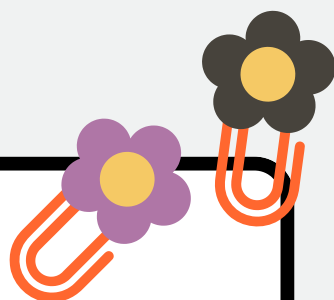


BACK
TO
SCHOOL

FUN CORNER



CROSSWORD



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2									
3									
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FUN CORNER



1. A special day of celebration at the beginning of the year.
2. Table or place where families display offerings and honor their ancestors during New Year.
3. Public event with music, costumes and sometimes lion dances to celebrate New Year.
4. Things you give and receive to show love and good wishes for the new year.
5. A period of twelve months; we say "Lunar ___".
6. Long food, often eaten at New Year in some Asian cultures to symbolize long life.
7. Red packet given with money inside for good luck.
8. Hopes you say to others like "Happy New Year!"
9. A bright color of many New Year decorations and flowers, especially apricot blossoms.
10. The night before New Year's Day.
11. Family members from past generations, who are remembered and honored at Tết.
12. Traditional food made from sticky rice, often in square or cylindrical shape for Tết.

Pham Thi Khai Hoan - Lecturer, Faculty of Foreign Languages



ANSWER
1. HOLIDAY
2. ALTAR
3. PARADE
4. PRESENTS
5. YEAR
6. NOODLES
7. ENVELOPE
8. WISHES
9. YELLOW
10. EVE
11. ANCESTORS
12. RICECAKE

TRUNG TÂM ĐÀO TẠO VÀ ĐÁNH GIÁ NĂNG LỰC NGOẠI NGỮ - CÔNG NGHỆ THÔNG TIN



Quá trình hình thành và phát triển

TRUNG TÂM ĐÀO TẠO VÀ ĐÁNH GIÁ NĂNG LỰC NGOẠI NGỮ - CÔNG NGHỆ THÔNG TIN trực thuộc Trường Đại học Ngân hàng thành phố Hồ Chí Minh. Trung tâm có tiền thân là Trung tâm Ngoại ngữ được thành lập vào tháng 4 năm 2006, đến năm 2014 Trung tâm Ngoại ngữ sát nhập với Trung tâm Tin học và có tên chính thức là Trung tâm Đào tạo và Đánh giá năng lực Ngoại ngữ - Công nghệ thông tin.

Chức năng

Trung tâm có chức năng tham mưu, giúp việc cho Hội đồng trường, Hiệu trưởng trong việc quản trị, giám sát hoạt động, quản lý điều hành về công tác tổ chức đào tạo, tổ chức đánh giá năng lực, tổ chức thi và cấp chứng chỉ ngoại ngữ - công nghệ thông tin thuộc hệ thống quốc dân và quốc tế.



Các chương trình đào tạo và tổ chức thi cấp chứng chỉ tại Trung tâm

Ngoại ngữ

- Tổ chức đào tạo đáp ứng chuẩn đầu vào và chuẩn ngoại ngữ trong quá trình học dành cho sinh viên, học viên Trường Đại học Ngân hàng Tp.HCM.
- Liên kết đào tạo, tổ chức thi và cấp chứng chỉ các chương trình quốc tế TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, ...và các chương trình bồi dưỡng ngoại ngữ, tin học khác.
- Tổ chức các lớp đào tạo và bồi dưỡng tiếng Trung; tiếng Nhật, tiếng Hàn theo nhu cầu.
- Thực hiện các chương trình, đề án ngoại ngữ, tin học theo nhu cầu xã hội và quy định của Bộ Giáo dục và Đào tạo; thực hiện các công việc khác có liên quan đến ngoại ngữ như biên, phiên dịch ...

Tin học

- Tổ chức đào tạo, kiểm tra đánh giá năng lực và cấp chứng chỉ ứng dụng công nghệ thông tin cho các thí sinh và học viên của Trung tâm theo Quy định tại Thông tư số: 03/2014/TT-BTTTT ngày 11 tháng 3 năm 2014 của Bộ trưởng Bộ Thông tin và Truyền thông và Thông tư liên tịch số: 17/2016/TTLT-BGDĐT-BTTTT ngày 21 tháng 6 năm 2016 của Bộ trưởng Bộ Giáo dục và Đào tạo, Bộ trưởng Bộ Thông tin và Truyền thông.
- Tổ chức đào tạo, tổ chức thi và cấp chứng chỉ ứng dụng công nghệ thông tin cơ bản dành cho sinh viên Trường Đại học Ngân hàng Tp.HCM (Chuẩn công nghệ thông tin đầu vào và là điều kiện để được đăng ký từ 13 tín chỉ trở lên từ học kỳ 4).
- Tổ chức đào tạo, tổ chức thi và cấp chứng chỉ ứng dụng công nghệ thông tin nâng cao dành cho sinh viên Trường Đại học Ngân hàng Tp.HCM (Chuẩn công nghệ thông tin trong quá trình học và là điều kiện để sinh viên đăng ký học tin học ứng dụng trong chương trình chính khóa từ học kỳ 5).
- Đào tạo, ôn thi và tổ chức thi chứng chỉ tin học quốc tế: IC3, MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist -MOS) và ICDL (Chứng chỉ chuẩn quốc tế về kỹ năng sử dụng CNTT -International Computer Driving Licence).

NGOẠI NGỮ

TT	Đối tượng	Chương trình đào tạo	Mục tiêu đạt được
1	SV chương trình ĐHCQ chuẩn	Tiếng Anh đạt chuẩn đầu vào (tương đương A2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Được công nhận đạt chuẩn tiếng Anh đầu vào trong chương trình đào tạo.
2	SV chương trình ĐHCQ chuẩn	Tiếng Anh bậc 3/6 theo Khung NLNN 6 bậc dùng cho Việt Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Được công nhận đạt chuẩn tiếng Anh trong quá trình học. Đủ điều kiện đăng ký học phần thực tập cuối khóa.
3	SV chương trình ĐHCQ tiếng Anh bán phần (CLC)	Tiếng Anh đạt chuẩn đầu vào (tương đương bậc 3/6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Được công nhận đạt chuẩn tiếng Anh đầu vào trong chương trình đào tạo. Được miễn một số cấp độ trong chương trình tiếng Anh tăng cường.
4	SV chương trình ĐHCQ tiếng Anh bán phần (CLC)	Tiếng Anh bậc 4/6 theo Khung NLNN 6 bậc dùng cho Việt Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Được công nhận đạt chuẩn tiếng Anh trong quá trình học. Đủ điều kiện đăng ký học phần thực tập cuối khóa.
5	SV chương trình ĐHCQ Quốc tế song bằng	Tiếng Anh bậc 4/6 theo Khung NLNN 6 bậc dùng cho Việt Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Đủ điều kiện theo học giai đoạn 2 của CTĐT Quốc tế Song bằng.
6	Học viên cao học	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiếng Anh bậc 3/6 theo Khung NLNN 6 bậc dùng cho Việt Nam Tiếng Anh bậc 4/6 theo Khung NLNN 6 bậc dùng cho Việt Nam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Đủ điều kiện xét tiếng Anh đầu vào chương trình thạc sĩ. Đủ điều kiện xét tiếng Anh đầu ra chương trình thạc sĩ

TIN HỌC

TT	Đối tượng	Chương trình	Mục tiêu
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SV chương trình ĐHCQ chuẩn. SV chương trình ĐHCQ tiếng Anh bán phần (CLC). SV chương trình Đào tạo đặc biệt. 	Ứng dụng công nghệ thông tin cơ bản (CNTTCB). (Hoặc các chứng chỉ quốc tế tương đương).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Được công nhận đạt chuẩn CNTT đầu vào. Đủ điều kiện đăng ký 13 tín chỉ trở lên từ học kỳ 4.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SV chương trình ĐHCQ chuẩn. SV chương trình ĐHCQ tiếng Anh bán phần (CLC). SV chương trình Đào tạo đặc biệt. 	Ứng dụng công nghệ thông tin nâng cao (CNTTNC). (Hoặc các chứng chỉ quốc tế tương đương).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Được công nhận đạt chuẩn CNTT trong quá trình học. Đủ điều kiện đăng ký học phần tin học ứng dụng, từ học kỳ 5.





LIÊN HỆ FLIC

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