Takao KAMIBEPPU

1. Regulations and accreditation activities of the government concerning credit system, grade calculation system, etc.

(1) Summary of the higher education system of the country as a whole

At the beginning of the 21st century, the movement of globalization brought both opportunities and challenges to the education system of Vietnam. Education was not only reaffirmed to play an important role in the development of Vietnam as a nation, but also became the highest priority in Vietnam’s social and economic development policies. As a result, the education system of Vietnam has developed rapidly in both quantitative and qualitative aspects. Various issues in management and administration have emerged along with the development of education in Vietnam, especially the issues of applying the academic credit system and improving the evaluation method in higher education.

Higher education courses consist of programs to grant Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees. Associate’s programs take 2 to 3 years for students who have completed upper secondary education, and 1.5 to 2 years for those who have completed the vocational secondary education curriculum, depending on the field of study. Bachelor’s programs are for secondary school graduates, and they take 4 to 6 years, depending on the field. Master’s programs are for the holders of a Bachelor’s degree and take 1 to 2 years. Doctorate programs are for the holders of a Master’s degree and take 4 to 5 years. Based on the rules decided by the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) of Vietnam, these periods may be extended.

Recently, universities have begun to offer “cooperate programs” in which students can enroll in two departments or two universities at the same time, and graduate with two degrees after studying for five years. For example, if a student with excellent grades passes the entrance exam of a different department, the student can attend the classes of that department as well. The student can earn two degrees if he/she fulfills the conditions of both departments. A student can enroll in two Bachelor’s courses at the same time, if (1) the second academic course is not the same as the first major, (2) the student has already completed the first semester of the first year, and (3) the student’s academic achievement in the first program is not bad. If the student’s grades in the second program are not good, the student cannot continue to take the classes of

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1 This article is a part of Hotta, Taiji. et al (2010)「ACTSと各国の単位互換に関する研究」(Study on the ASEAN Credit Transfer System and Credit Transfer Systems in Asian Nations) [The Report of Mission Research by the Promotion Fund of Leading University Reform, The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan (MEXT), 2009], Hiroshima University, 403 pp.
the second program from the next semester.

Aside from these educational institutions and courses, continuing education is offered as a part of the national education system. The system of continuing education provides an opportunity for lifelong learning, of which the main purposes are improving the quality of life, responding to the demands of an ever-changing society, and advancing the capacity, knowledge and skills of employees and workers who seek better employment. The government of Vietnam has enacted the policy of promoting lifelong learning, education for all, and a society of learning.

The education systems in Vietnam fall into three principal categories: public, people’s initiative, and private. Public educational institutions have been established by the government of Vietnam and are financially supported by the government in terms of infrastructure, facilities, and the various costs of management. Educational institutions with the people’s initiative are established and supported by each community. Private educational institutions are established and supported by some kind of social, vocational, or economic groups or individuals. The Vietnamese government is supporting public educational institutions so that they can be the core of the country’s education system. Furthermore, there are boarding and semi-boarding schools for minority students, college preps for students from a disadvantaged environment, special classes and schools for students with disabilities, and rehabilitation facilities for delinquent youth as well.

The academic year in Vietnam begins in September, but most higher education institutions, such as universities and junior colleges, begin in August. The first semester ends around the beginning of January, and the second semester is from February to May. Usually, universities have a semester system consisting of two semesters, and each of which has 15 weeks. Some institutions, such as Hanoi University of Technology, have three terms, including a five-week summer session from June to July, but there are not many of such institutions.

(2) Summary of credit system

An experimental credit system was introduced at several universities in Vietnam in 1993, and on June 30, 2001, it was decided to introduce a credit system in curricula, exams, and graduation on a trial basis. MOET announced “Regulations for Training according to Credit System (43/2007/QD-BGDDT)” on August 15, 2007.

In Vietnam, the credit system is gradually implemented as a substitute to the rigidly systematized subject-oriented system. In the traditional subject-oriented system, all the students in the same academic course had to take the same subjects until they graduated. In the new credit system, each subject is assigned a certain number of credits, and students have to earn the prescribed number of credits to graduate. One credit consists of one hour of lectures and one hour of self-study per week for fifteen weeks (= a semester). There were two reasons for the introduction of this system. One
was to let students learn subjects outside of their specialized fields more flexibly, and the other was to make it possible for students to transfer to other educational institutions or study at other universities. In accordance with the government’s regulations on the credit system, universities and junior colleges are adjusting their curricula.

Theoretically speaking, students should be able to take electives at any one of these universities and the earned credits should be able to be transferred for exchange. However, in reality, most universities do not offer electives and do not assign instructors for them, so credit transfer is not happening among universities. In addition, the present credit system in Vietnam does not allow a student to earn credits from a class of a different department at the same university, even if the subject of the class is related to the student’s major. Also, in most universities in Vietnam, the required number of credits from electives is less than that from compulsory subjects. Therefore, even though the curriculum offers electives, since there is only a small number of electives to begin with, electives are actually the same as compulsory subjects. These are the reasons why all the students in one curriculum end up taking exactly the same subjects until graduation.

As for the required number of credits for graduation, a MOET provision regulates as follows: “The minimum numbers of credits are 180 for a 6-year university, 150 for a 5-year university, 120 for a 4-year university, 90 for a 3-year junior college, and 60 for a 2-year junior college. Deans at universities and junior colleges are to make decisions on the amount of knowledge for each curriculum.” The number of credits required for graduation varies between universities, departments, and courses. For example, at the University of Languages and International Studies of Vietnam National University, Hanoi, 140 credits are required for general courses, 155 credits for “High Quality” programs, and 155 credits for “Double Diploma” programs. At Hanoi University of Technology, the Department of Foreign Languages requires the lowest number of credits, 165, and other departments require between 170 and 180 credits for graduation.

A Master’s program in a graduate school requires 53 credits. Meanwhile, the completion of a Doctorate program is based on writing, presentation and an evaluation of the student’s research, so the academic credit system does not apply. Instead of participating in lectures, Ph. D. candidates are required to conduct their own research and present their dissertations. The number of credits for each class is written in the course catalog and timetable, as well as on the “online” course catalog and the timetable on the website. The number of credits is written in each syllabus and is recorded in transcripts as proof of learning.

Basically, one credit in a Bachelor’s program, or in a Master’s or Doctorate program in a graduate school, corresponds to 15 hours of lectures in a semester. In Vietnam,
student workload includes not only lectures at school but also self-study. Generally speaking, the workload of a full-time student is 60 credits per year, that is, 30 credits per semester for the semester system or 20 credits per term for the trimester system. Usually, exchange students and visiting students take somewhat fewer credits per semester than regular students.

According to MOET’s “Regulations for Training according to Credit System (43/2007/QD-BGDDT),” the academic credit system can be summarized as follows.

A curriculum of higher education at a university is based on the academic credit system. This curriculum consists of a program in general education and a program in specialized education. Most of the classes are worth 2 to 4 academic credits for the semester in which they are offered. The contents of each class should be suitable for the school year the students taking the class are in. All the classes should follow the policies set by the university. There are two kinds of classes: compulsory and elective. In compulsory classes, students mainly learn the knowledge necessary for each program, whereas elective classes supplement and diversify that knowledge. It is also possible for students to choose these classes based on their own interests, in acquiring the academic credits.

Academic credits are used to measure student workload. One credit is worth 15 lecture periods, 30 to 45 practice, experiment, or discussion periods, 45 to 90 training periods, or 45 to 60 periods of writing a paper. In addition, a student has to conduct at least 30 hours of self-study in order to earn one credit. Curricula regulated by MOET set the number of class periods required for completion, and one class period is 50 minutes.

Also, the government sets the study periods required to complete an undergraduate course and a graduate program. For undergraduate courses, the Department of Medicine requires six years and other departments require 4 to 5 years. For graduate programs, a Master’s program requires 2 to 3 years and a Doctorate program requires at least four years of study. One academic year consists of two semesters, 15 weeks for each. Also, each semester includes three weeks of final exams.

The minimum number of academic credits to be earned in each semester is clearly set by the government as well. Students with above-average grades need to earn 14 credits per semester, and students who earned below-average grades in the previous school year need to earn 10 credits per semester (except in the final semester of the course). As for the institutions with summer sessions, there are no regulations on the minimum or maximum number of credits for the summer session. A student who received a failing grade of F in a class has to retake the class until he/she earns a passing grade.

At the end of the first semester, students are allocated to a corresponding school year based on the number of credits they have earned.
The first year: less than 30 credits
The second year: 30 or more but less than 60 credits
The third year: 60 or more but less than 90 credits
The fourth year: 90 or more but less than 120 credits
The fifth year: 120 or more but less than 150 credits
The sixth year: 150 or more credits

(3) Summary of grade calculation system

For academic evaluation in the education system of Vietnam, a system with a 10-point scale is used. The regular passing grade is 5 points. MOET has clearly defined the grade and evaluation in its regulations concerning the curriculum based on a credit system. Tests and exams are also marked on a 10-point scale. The final judgment is based on the general calculation of all the points of grading items, and then converted into A to F, following the grade calculation system shown below.

Pass
A (8.5–10) Excellent
B (7.0–8.4) Good
C (5.5–6.9) Average
D (4.0–5.4) Less than average
Failure
F (4.0 or lower) Not good

If necessary, universities can give a GPA evaluation as follows:
A corresponds to 4
B corresponds to 3
C corresponds to 2
D corresponds to 1
F corresponds to 0

Grade calculation is usually based on class attendance, class participation, paper writing or a written exam. Exam coverage may include not only the class content but also outside research. Some classes provide two hours of lectures per week, but others may have several hours of classes per week for a shorter period. Also, some of the classes give an evaluation of only pass or failure. Failed classes are not recorded on transcripts.

Regarding credits that meet the passing standard, the final evaluation is given according to the grade calculation system with alphabetical notation. The final evaluation for the academic credits consists of the number of credits and the average evaluation.
Student evaluation is left to the discretion of the instructor. At all universities and other higher education institutions, absolute evaluation is used, regardless of the overall grade distribution of the students who took the class.

Generally, the learning goal of a class is clearly stated in the syllabus. As a rule, instructors evaluate the students based on the learning goal. In most cases, students are evaluated by how well they can demonstrate the knowledge and skills set by the learning goal.

After the final exam, to submit the final judgment of the grade, the instructors are given one week at Industrial Art University, two weeks at Hanoi University of Technology, and three weeks at Vietnam National University. However, there are no regulations concerning cases where this deadline is not kept, and instructors usually take one to four weeks to do this work. At some universities, such a delay affects the evaluation of the instructor at the end of the school year, but at other universities, there is no penalty for delay, so the instructors are merely reminded of the deadline by university staff.

At most universities, there is no difference between the evaluation standard for undergraduate programs and that for graduate programs. However, a few universities have some differences. As an example, GPA (Grade Point Average) is shown in MOET’s regulations on the credit system.

In order to calculate GPA, it is necessary to digitize the grade evaluation in iteration: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, and F=0. GPA can be calculated using the formula below.

\[
A = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i \times n_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} n_i}
\]

A: GPA of one semester

\(a_i\): grade for class i

\(n_i\): number of credits of class i

\(n\): the total number of classes taken by the student

GPA is used for the judgment concerning a student’s final grade and scholarships. GPA has an important influence on the student’s employment or advancement to a higher education institution.

There are only a limited number of universities that have a cooperative system with other domestic universities in Vietnam. In many cases, these universities have adopted a common grade calculation system. For example, both the University of Foreign Languages and International Studies and the University of Economy have adopted the grade calculation system of Vietnam National University, Hanoi, so there are no problems in credit transfer.
The standards of grade calculation for study abroad programs vary. In general, if the name of the class, the number of credits, and the number of class hours are similar or the same at two universities, the earned credits can be acknowledged.

Universities that have a website disclose their grade calculation system on it. Also, the grade calculation system is written in the university's Training Regulation.

Usually, a syllabus does not include an explanation on the standard of grade calculation, but the nature and weight of the tasks are shown. Table 1 below is an example of a syllabus for the Pedagogical Techniques class in the English Language Teaching Methodology Division at the University of Languages and International Studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Weight of grade</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student teaching</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Each student teacher conducts a 30-minute class, including such elements as lesson planning, distribution of learning, providing instruction and advice, motivating students, proper teaching behavior, appropriate use of the black board, and language teaching.</td>
<td>To judge the student teacher’s skill of exhibiting knowledge on language learning in the classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer evaluation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Student teachers evaluate the class contents of other student teachers in a critical and constructive manner based on a worksheet.</td>
<td>To evaluate the student teacher’s powers of observation and judgment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOET’s “Regulations for Training according to the Credit System” summarizes the credit calculation system as below.

The final evaluation is given by either of the following methods, in accordance with the standard of each class.

- Oral examination: The results are to be used as the final evaluation of the whole class.
- Developmental evaluation: The evaluation is based on a comprehensive consideration of the degree of a student’s class participation, performance for assignments, and the results of the final exam, etc. The weight of the final exam should be less than 50%.

The choice of the method needs to be approved by the president and written in the syllabus. If the developmental evaluation is chosen, the instructor of the class should design the required tasks, projects, and exams. As for the contents of the final exam, the instructors of each department should construct it together.
Conditions concerning graduation and acknowledgement

A student who earned the prescribed number of credits shown above and whose GPA in the whole course is 2 or above, will be ranked at graduation as follows:
Excellent: GPA is 3.6 or higher but lower than 4.0.
Good: GPA is 3.2 or higher but lower than 3.6
Fair: GPA is 2.5 or higher but lower than 3.2.
Average: GPA is 2.0 or higher but lower than 2.5.

(4) Summary of student exchange programs, credit transfer, etc.

Credit transfer can be permitted only when all the standards are met for exchange. Credit transfer within a university is comparatively easy, but transfer between universities requires careful examination. Both the home university and the accepting university should have the same department, and the transfer has to be accredited by both universities. Moreover, the student has to meet the following requirements.
・The student’s performance in the entrance exam of the home university was good enough to enter the accepting university.
・The student is not enrolled in the first year of university.
The government does not regulate the upper or lower limit of the number of credits to be exchanged.

Many universities, including Hanoi University of Technology, do not admit the exchange of credits earned at a foreign university. Even in the universities that admit such exchange, each department and major has its own rules. In the case of the University of Languages and International Studies of the Vietnam National University, Hanoi, a student who studied at a Chinese university for one year and earned credits can graduate from the university in Vietnam, in the same way as the other students who remained enrolled at the home university for the year.

At almost all the universities in Vietnam, no rules on credit transfer with foreign educational institutions have been established yet, and the process of credit transfer is on a case-by-case basis.

There are international degree courses taught in English. For example, Hanoi University of Technology has a cooperation system in science research and training programs with more than 100 universities, organizations and enterprises both at home and abroad. In contrast, at many universities, it is still difficult to establish an international training system.

(5) Summary of accreditation and evaluation system

At the moment, MOET is reviewing the academic credit system and credit transfer system of each university as a representative of governmental organizations. When the recognition system becomes more prevalent in the future, accreditation organizations
are supposed to conduct these reviews on behalf of MOET. At the review, each university conducts self-inspection first, and submits the results to MOET. After that, MOET conducts external audits. As the number of these education institutions is growing, MOET is now able to perform the audit for only about 10% of the institutions that require it. The rest of the institutions to be audited are supposed to be inspected in the next few years. The external audit group consists of MOET's experts in quality assurance (QA), experts from foreign countries, and experts in QA who belong to domestic universities. MOET is mediating the establishment of independent accreditation organizations. They are planning to establish three such organizations by 2010 or 2011.

At famous universities in Vietnam, the academic credit system has been used since around four years ago. However, at many comparatively new education institutions, the transition from the school year system to the academic credit system is just starting. Accordingly, there are differences between universities in terms of the maturity of their academic credit systems and evaluation systems. Although the academic credit system is a regulation set by the government of Vietnam in 2007, it is only recently that this system became widely spread among many universities. MOET has decided that all universities should use the academic credit system by the end of 2010. It is also mediating the external audits for universities. In the next few years, Vietnam will make a complete change in the credit system, evaluation system, credit transfer and acknowledgement, etc.

The quality of learning and education is at a lower level than it should be, and the maintenance of quality in education is still poor. Also, there are still serious financial problems. The ratio of instructors with Master’s or Doctorate degrees is low, and students tend to concentrate on a few kinds of departments, such as Economics and Commerce.

As a successful emerging country, Vietnam is facing a dilemma between rapidly increasing university students and the quality assurance of education. In Vietnam, the credit system is merely a clerical means to complete a degree program. In order to make the credit system more beneficial, university management should clarify the educational perspective of this system. Without the establishment of a consistent policy on the university education level, the credit system is only a threat to the present system in the eyes of many management teams of universities in Vietnam. These management teams will receive the credit system only as an imposed reform based on a foreign standard that will not bring any profits to their universities or students.
2. Examples of individual universities

(1) University of Technical Education Ho Chi Minh City

1) Background

The University of Technical Education Ho Chi Minh City (UTE) was developed from the Committee of Technical Education and established on October 5, 1962. It has 14 departments and offers undergraduate and graduate courses.

2) Academic credit system

UTE uses the semester system. The first semester is from September to early January, and the second semester is from February to May. It takes 4 to 4.5 years to complete an undergraduate course, and it takes at least two years to complete a graduate course. The completion of an undergraduate course requires the earning of at least 210 credits in four years or 240 credits in 4.5 years. On average, students need 150 credits from compulsory subjects and 60 credits from electives.

The most common number of credits per class is three or four. This number does not vary between departments. The number of credits is decided based on the class hours and amount of assignments, and that of a newly-introduced class is decided based on the MOET standard. The items to be considered in the review are the class, discussion, and research.

No students have ever transferred credit from a foreign university. UTE is not planning to admit credit transfer from the classes that it does not offer. There is no difference in credit transfer between departments. Each department has to follow the standard that the university has decided on in all cases.

The number of credits of each class is written in the course catalog and syllabus, but is not on UTE's website yet. An example of a syllabus, which shows the number of credits, is available through the link below. This example is for the Electronics and Telecommunication Technology Major in the Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

3) Evaluation system

A student’s evaluation is shown with a point system from 0 to 10. From 9 to 10 points means excellent, 8 or more but less than 9 points means good, 7 or more but less than 8 points means fair, 6 or more but less than 7 points means upper average, 5 or more but less than 6 points means average, 4 or more but less than 5 points means weak, and less than 4 points means failure. The university uses absolute evaluation, so the overall grade distribution of the students who took the class is not taken into consideration.
Instructors are required by the university to clearly write the learning outcomes expected of students taking the class. However, the evaluation of a student’s outcome is often only based on the results of the mid-term exam and final exam. Whether the student can really demonstrate and reflect the knowledge and skills gained from the class tends to be overlooked. UTE gives the instructors 2 to 3 weeks after the final exam to submit the final grade. If the final grade is not submitted during this period, an appropriate means will be taken according to the judgment of the president. UTE does not use the GPA system. Therefore, GPA does not have a major influence on students’ job hunting or the advancement to a higher education institution. Undergraduate students are graded using a point system from 1 to 10, and graduate students are evaluated using a letter grading system.

At present, UTE does not have any partnership agreements with other universities in Vietnam, but it does have a cooperative system with foreign universities, such as Heriot Watt University and Sunderland University in the U.K.

The evaluation system is explained on the university’s website. However, the syllabus itself does not refer to the evaluation system.

(2) An Giang University

1) Background

An Giang University was established on December 30, 1999. The university has six undergraduate departments. So far, 5,500 students have graduated from the university. Regarding students from foreign countries, five Laotian students and seven Cambodian students are enrolled now. The university has an International Development Office that provides a study abroad program for students, but the credits earned at the foreign universities the students are sent to cannot be transferred. At present, there are no classes offered in English, except some undergraduate classes in English Education.

2) Academic credit system

An Giang University uses the semester system. The first semester is from September to January, and the second semester is from February to May. Four years of enrollment and at least 130 credits are required to complete an undergraduate course. On average, students need 87 credits from compulsory subjects, which is equal to two thirds of the number of credits required for graduation, and 43 credits from electives. The most common number of credits per class is three or four. This number does not vary between departments.

The number of credits is decided based on the class hours and amount of assignments. The number of credits of a newly-introduced class is decided based on the MOET standard, and the items to be considered in the review are the class, discussion, and research.
There have been no students who transferred credit from a foreign university. The university has not expressed any definite policy on credit transfer from foreign universities. There is no difference in credit transfer between departments. Each department has to follow the standard that the university has decided on in all cases.

The number of credits for each class is not listed on the university’s website, but it is available in the course catalog, and it is also written in the syllabus. The following link is an example of the syllabus of International Economics in the Department of Economics and Business.\(^4\)

3) **Evaluation system**

The evaluation of a student is shown with a letter grading system from A to F. From 8.5 to 10 is A, 7 or higher but lower than 8.5 is B, 5.5 or higher but lower than 7 is C, 5 or higher but lower than 5.5 is D, and lower than 5 is F. The university uses absolute evaluation, so the overall grade distribution of the students who took the class is not taken into consideration. Just like the university above (UTE), instructors are required by the university to clearly write the learning outcomes expected of students taking the class. Although the purpose of the class is written in the syllabus, the actual evaluation of the student’s learning is based only on the results of exams.

The instructors are required to submit the results of exams to the Final Examination Office of the university within 1–2 weeks after the final exam. If the final grade is not submitted during this period, an appropriate means will be taken according to the judgment of the president. An Giang University does not use the GPA system.

At present, the university has only undergraduate courses, so a comparative review with graduate courses is not possible.

An Giang University has partnership agreements in joint educational programs with Hue University, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Dong Thap University. An Giang University follows the evaluation system of these affiliated schools.

The evaluation system of An Giang University is written on the university’s website.\(^5\) However, the syllabus itself does not refer to the evaluation system.

**International curriculum and international research programs**

At the moment, An Giang University does not offer any international programs or programs taught in a language other than Vietnamese.

3) **Tra Vinh University**

1) **Background**

Tra Vinh University (TVU) is a public university and the biggest educational institution of Tra Vinh Province, in the Mekong Delta. TVU was established on June
19, 2006, under Article No 141/2006/QĐ-Ttg issued by the government of Vietnam. No foreign students are enrolled at the university now. Although it has a foreign branch office, no study abroad program is offered.

2) Academic credit system

TVU uses the semester system. The first semester is from September to January, and the second semester is from February to May. In most departments, four years of enrollment and at least 130 credits are necessary to complete an undergraduate course. The average number of credits of compulsory subjects required for graduation varies among departments.

The most common number of credits per class is three or four. This number does not vary in particular between departments. The number of credits is decided based on the class hours and amount of assignments, and that of a newly-introduced class is decided based on the MOET standard. The items to be considered in the review are the class, discussion, and research.

No students have ever transferred credit from a foreign university. Right now, TVU is running a program in association with Vancouver Island University. This program offers the students in the Department of Management an overseas training program. It is called the “2 + 2 program” because, in this system, a student who is enrolled in the Department of Management and has earned the prescribed number of credits in the first two years can earn the rest of the necessary credits at Vancouver Island University in the remaining two years.

Regarding credit transfer, there are no differences between departments. Each department has to follow the standard that the university has decided in all cases. The number of credits for each class is available in the course catalog and class timetable. The number of credits for each class is not written in the course catalog or on the website. The number of credits for each class is clearly written in the syllabus and recorded in the transcript as a record of learning.

3) Evaluation system

The evaluation of a student is shown with a letter grading system from A to F. From 8.5 to 10 is A, 7 or higher but lower than 8.5 is B, 5.5 or higher but lower than 7 is C, 5 or higher but lower than 5.5 is D, and lower than 5 is F. The university uses absolute evaluation, so the overall grade distribution of the students who took the class is not taken into consideration. Just like the examples above, instructors are required by the university to clearly write the learning outcomes expected of students taking the class. However, as a standard to measure the learning outcome of the students, many instructors tend to overlook how much (or whether) the students have learned in terms of the purpose of each class, and whether they have learned the knowledge and skills taught in the class as their own experience.
The instructors are required to submit the results of exams to the Final Examination Office of the university within 2–3 weeks after the final exam.

At present, the university has only undergraduate courses, so a comparative review with graduate courses is not possible.

TVU does not use the GPA system. Therefore, GPA does not have a major influence on students’ job hunting or advancement to a higher education institution. At present, TVU does not have any partnership agreements with other universities in Vietnam or study abroad programs.

4) International curriculum

TVU does not have any international curriculum taught in a language other than Vietnamese. Therefore, language barriers are expected in starting such international curricula.

4) Summary of other universities

1) Vietnam National University, Hanoi, University of Languages and International Studies

This university was established in 1955. It has nine departments and offers Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctorate courses. The present numbers of students are 5,450 in the Bachelor’s course, 800 in the Master’s course, and 41 in the Doctorate course. 425 foreign students are enrolled at the university. It has International Offices in Japan, U.S.A, Australia, and New Zealand, and offers an international exchange program as well. Some classes are taught in a foreign language, such as English, French, Chinese and Russian.

2) Hanoi University of Technology

This university was established in 1955. It has 25 departments and offers Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctorate courses. The present number of students is about 40,000. It has an International Office and offers an international exchange program. Some classes are taught in English.

3) Vietnam Forestry University

This university was established in 1965. It has five departments and offers Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctorate courses. The present numbers of students are 7,200 in the Bachelor’s course, 610 in the Master’s course, and 29 in the Doctorate course. Eight foreign students are enrolled in the university: four in Bachelor’s, three in Master’s, and one in a Doctorate course. It has an International Office and offers an international exchange program as well. Some classes are taught in English.
4) Vietnam National University, Hanoi University of Engineering and Technology

This university was established in 2005. It has four departments and offers Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctorate courses. The present numbers of students are 2,000 in the Bachelor’s course, 460 in the Master’s course, and 55 in the Doctorate course. It has an International Office and offers an international exchange program as well. There are some classes taught in English in the Computer Major, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering.

5) Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology

This institute was established in 1997. It has 11 departments and offers Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctorate courses. The present numbers of students are 1,200 in the Bachelor’s course, 80 in the Master’s course, and 10 in the Doctorate course. Regarding foreign students, 38 are enrolled at the institute: 34 in Bachelor’s and four in Master’s courses. Some classes are taught in English and Lao.

References

An Giang University Website (http://feba.agu.edu.vn/?q=vi/node/43)
MOET (2007) Regulations for Training according to Credit System
Tra Vinh University Website (http://www.tvu.edu.vn/en)
University of Technical Education-Ho Chi Minh City Website
(https://www.hcmute.edu.vn/feee/DT_VienThong.html)

Notes

1 As an example, see http://www.coltech.vnu.edu.vn/
2 See http://www.hcmute.edu.vn/feee/DT_VienThong.html
3 See http://www.hcmute.edu.vn/phongdaotao/quiche.asp
4 See http://feba.agu.edu.vn/?q=vi/node/43