

**UNIVERSITY APPLICATION ORIENTATION
COHORT 2016**

Applications and Admissions to Graduate Programs in U.S. Universities: Process and Procedures

October 2, 2015

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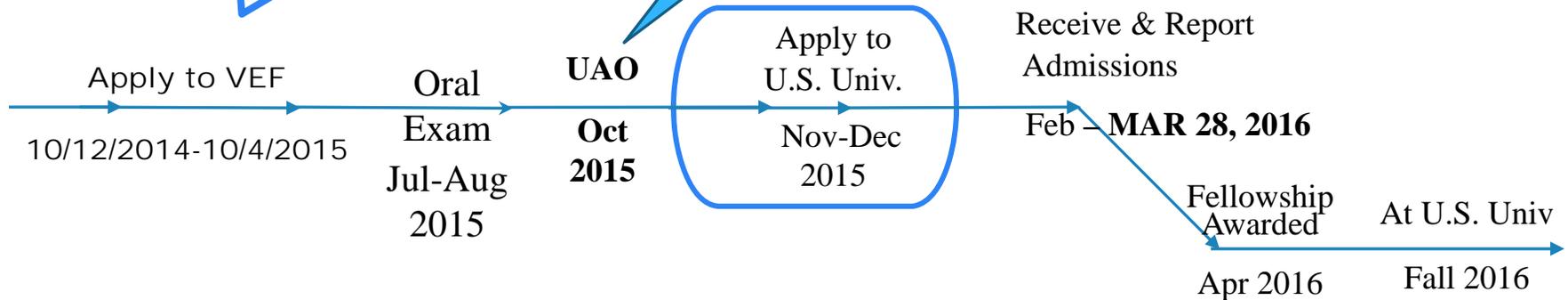
CONGRATULATIONS!

Where are You in the VEF Fellowship Program Process?

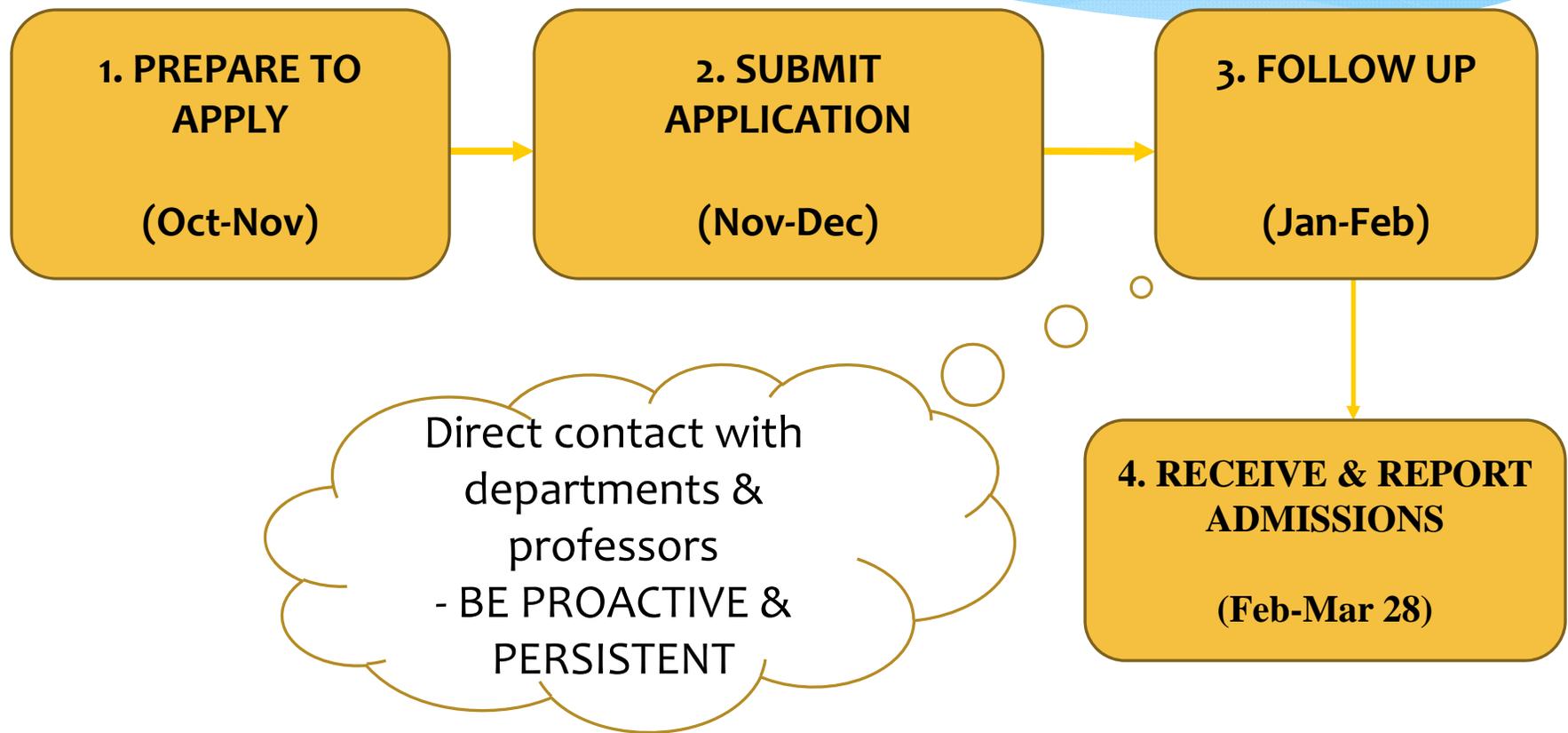
Alternates

Fellows

YOU ARE HERE!



Application Action Plan



YOUR GOAL UNTIL MAR 28, 2016

- * To get admission, with financial aid, into highly regarded U.S. graduate programs that accept VEF financial terms.
 - * 5 universities recommended by U.S. professors or VEF
 - * Other universities of your choice, including safety school(s)

Application Timelines

- * Application season: Late September to mid December
 - * Different from university to university, from discipline to discipline
 - * Weekly reviews of complete applications or review of all applications at one time
- * Apply early
- * Admission decision: December 15 to early March
- * Deadline to inform VEF: March 28, 2016

Application Documents

- * **Application form**
- * **Statement of purpose (SOP)**
- * **Letters of recommendation (LOR)**
- * **Supporting documents**

Application Form

- * IMPORTANT to state that
 - * **For Fellows**: “I am a Fellow for a Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) fellowship and I am seeking supplementary financial support from the school.” (with the VEF letter of financial support included in your application)
 - * **For Alternates**: “ I am an Alernate for a Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) fellowship and I am seeking full financial support from the school if I am not awarded a VEF Fellowship. However, if I am awarded a VEF Fellowship I would only require supplementary financial support from the school. I will inform you if my status changes.”
- * check (✓) boxes asking if you request financial support* from the university.

Letters of Recommendation (LOR): What makes a good LOR?

- * **There is no substitute for great letters of recommendation**
 - * **Reasonable:** recommender knows you and your work well and has the qualifications to evaluate you; the title of the person is less important than the depth of what is written
 - * **Specific:** cites examples, provides specific information, contains details of your preparation and your potential, demonstrates your breadth, and tells little stories about you.
 - * Example: What was your rank in class? What is the outcome of a project you have done? How do you relate to others?
 - * **Personalized:** gives insight into what kind of person you are and believes in your potential by providing information about you and your program (program you are applying to; field/area of study/research; future goals, etc.)
- ⇒ **Contents of LOR should match SOP** (research, teaching, and/or work experience)

Supporting Documents

- * Certified transcripts: translated, Vietnam's grading system (available from EducationUSA)
- * University diplomas
- * Evidence of financial resources (VEF financial support letter)
- * Evidence of English proficiency (TOEFL & GRE) (sent directly by ETS)
- * Awards and merits (certified English translation)
- * Curriculum vitae
- * Explanation of your Vietnamese name (optional)

Curriculum Vitae

- * Spend time writing and rewriting your CV
- * Make it short (2–4 pages) and sharp
- * Most notable:
 - * GPA
 - * Class rank
 - * Awards/honors
 - * Research experience
 - * Publications
 - * Relevant work experience
 - * Leadership
 - * Special talents/skills
 - * Volunteer work
 - * Extracurricular activities

Key: Your CV should indicate that you are an outstanding student

Follow-up Actions

- * Make sure your application is complete.
- * Review status online.
- * Contact admissions office.
- * Follow up with the professor if you have made contact.
- * Be persistent and proactive.

Formula for Success

4 “Ch”s

- Ch
- Ch
- Ch
- Ch

CHIẾN THẮNG

Formula for Success

- 4 “Ch”s
- Chuẩn bị
 - Chăm chỉ
 - Chủ động
 - Chiến lược

CHIẾN THẮNG

Summary

To enhance your application to highly regarded U.S. graduate schools:

- Be strategic in selecting graduate programs and mentors
 - Study school websites, professor homepages
 - Know application timelines
- Cultivate effective recommendations/LORs
- Start to write a superior SOP **NOW**
- Prepare well tailored application docs (SOP, LORs, CV, standardized test scores, diploma, etc.)
- Follow up & report admissions to VEF by March 28.
- Refer to “**Applying to US Universities**” for more useful tips and advice at <https://www.coursera.org/learn/study-in-usa>
- <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/>



**Thank you
&
GOOD LUCK!**



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