COURSE DESCRIPTION
City infrastructures can now rely on a wealth of new information and technologies, enabling them to sense and respond intelligently to the needs of their growing populations. This intensive Spring elective is an opportunity to work in multidisciplinary groups with students based in Melbourne and Ho Chi Minh to address complex environmental challenges in these two very different cities. Students from Computer Science, Media and Communication, Architecture, and Landscape Architecture and suitable candidates from other disciplines, will work together to gather real world data and information, find rapid ways to analyse it, compelling ways to represent it and use the insights to make design proposals in two contrasting contexts. This course is within the IBM Smarter Planet/Smarter Cities objectives.

DATES
Introductory seminar:
Wednesday 29th August, 2pm - 4pm
Follow up seminar:
Thursday 11th October, 2pm - 4pm
One week in Vietnam: 1st - 9th December (TBC)
Spring semester, 2012:
Three week intensive in December

Format: Two half-day seminars with follow up individual and group work + One-week intensive workshop based in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Note: Students will fund their own return travel to Ho Chi Minh from Melbourne.

HOW TO ENROL
As numbers in each discipline and institution are strictly limited, you will be asked to submit an application for a selection process at www.rmit.edu.au/architecture/lectures/twocities

Computer Science Programming Project 3:
COSC1268 (undergraduates)
COSC1476 (postgraduates)
COSC2223 (Vietnam students)

Master of Architecture elective:
ARCH1338, ARCH1339, ARCH1340

Landscape Architecture Design Research Seminar:
ARCH1359, ARCH1360, ARCH1362, ARCH1366

Media and Communication elective:
GRAP2257, GRAP2256

If you are not enrolled in the courses listed above, you may still be eligible. Please submit an Expression of Interest, or email us directly.

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Computer Science:
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Media and Communication:
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Frequently Asked Questions

How much is the airfare to Ho Chi Minh?
Cathay Pacific, Singapore, China Eastern, China Southern, and Malaysian Airlines have flights to Ho Chi Minh from approximately AUD1400. This is just an indicator, more economical fares are available through other carriers. Note: December is a peak travel period for Vietnam and the sooner tickets are organised the more economical they would be.

Do I require a visa for Vietnam?
Yes, please arrange a visa through the travel agent, or visit smartraveller.gov.au. Visa application fee is approximately AUD75.00.

Do I require travel insurance?
Travel insurance is essential for all students participating in this elective. No student will be allowed to participate in the study intensive without travel insurance. You should discuss your individual travel insurance needs with the travel agent at the time of booking flights.

Where do I stay?
To foster a collegial atmosphere, students are required to stay at one of the RMIT nominated hotels. Students are to be notified by course administrator.

How do I get to class in Ho Chi Minh each day?
TBA.

Can I bring my partner?
Partners are welcome to attend but cannot participate in the academic program. Anyone who is planning to travel with a partner must inform the organisers so that the appropriate accommodation can be organised.

Are these expenses tax deductible?
Whilst we strongly advise you to consult with your financial advisor it is our understanding that for postgraduate students who are not using FEE HELP, the course fee, travel, accommodation, meals and incidentals should be tax deductible expense. If you are using FEE HELP, then only the travel related expenses are tax deductible.

Where are classes held?
Melbourne: RMIT 97.3.2, 10.11.24 – there may be variations to this TBC nearer to the time. Vietnam: TBC.

Must I attend all classes?
Yes, unless you are unwell. You will be required to notify the RMIT staff member and provide a medical certificate as evidence of your illness.

What resources should I bring with me?
1. Laptop / tablet
2. Camera
3. Power converter, multipoint
4. A more detailed list will be supplied

What happens after class in the evenings?
Whilst some of the after class time will be dedicated to study and group work, there will be opportunities to explore Ho Chi Minh restaurants and night life as a group with the RMIT Vietnam staff and students.

Weather
RMIT Vietnam campus staff advises that afternoon showers can be expected (wet season), hot and humid.

What determines if I am offered a place?
Offers will be made to students who satisfy the university criteria which broadly speaking requires students to be making satisfactory progress in their degree. All applications will be considered and offers will be made on the basis of student’s capability to undertake the course. In the event that a destination is oversubscribed, a grade based criteria may apply. Upon receiving an offer of a place, you will have one week to accept your place in the course.

When will you notify me that I have a place in the elective?
Please allow 2 working days to receive notification of the outcome of your application.

Can I still graduate in December if I enrol in this elective?
If you plan to finish your program by completing a Spring Semester course in 2012 you will not be able to graduate at the Melbourne Graduation Ceremony on 12 December 2011. Instead you will need to either graduate in absentia or at the 2013 Melbourne Graduation Ceremony. This is because the official results for Spring Semester are published after the graduation date.