

Vietnam

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

The Ministry of Education and Training, through its Higher Education Department, is responsible for defining national policies in higher education.

Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- 2012 Higher Education Law (came into effect January 2013). The Law is under revision; the amended Law should come into effect by the end of 2018.

Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- "Implementing the preferential policies on subjects of social policies, subjects in ethnic areas, areas with poor socio-economic conditions and the subjects learning special profession satisfying the workforce demand for socio-economic development; achieving sexual equality in higher education."
- The 2012 Law on Higher Education provides for equitable treatment and services.
- Decree 86/2015/NĐ-CP defines policies of tuition exemption, reduction and support for studying costs.

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Low-income students
- Minority groups (ethnic)
- Students with disability
- War orphans or children of war invalids or martyrs

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

Vietnam has a clear target for the enrollment of ethnic minority students. By 2020, ethnic minority students should be at 130 to 150 per 10,000 persons from the ethnic minorities (Resolution 52/NQ-CP).

Vietnam does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

Monetary Policy Instruments

- All public universities in Vietnam charge substantial fees. Tuition fees reduction is available for tightly-defined equity groups, including disabled students, ethnic minorities, war orphans or children of war invalids and martyrs, and students with parents who were public-sector staff but now receive assistance due to an occupational accident, poor students. Universities are expected to devote 15% of their tuition fee income to the support of merit scholarships.
- Needs-based grants: students among the above groups may receive a grant to help with their living expenses.
- Student loans:
 - A small number of student loans are available from the Social Policy Bank.

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

- Outreach and bridge programs:
 - One-year intensive programs for students who have alternative admissions procedures (see below)
- Reformed admission procedures / Affirmative action programs:
 - Priority in University Recruitment policy: lower University Entrance Examination Cut-Off Score for students with parents who are ethnic minorities or war invalids, for students from remote, rural or mountainous areas.
 - Quotas for students from disadvantaged groups (with a priority for ethnic minority students)

Financial Resources

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?
Not available.

Financial support for eligible beneficiaries is equivalent to 60% of the minimum wage (Decision 66/2013/QĐ-TTg). In 2018, the minimum wage was 1,390,000 VND per month (equivalent to 60 US\$).

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Department of Undergraduate Studies within the Ministry of Education is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the tuition fee reduction / exemption policy.

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

Vietnam does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Sources

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