



BRITISH VIETNAMESE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
HA NOI

WELCOME TO HANOI





WELCOME TO HANOI

INFORMATION FOR NEW TEACHERS 2014

After you have spent a short time adjusting to your new surroundings we are sure you will find Hanoi an interesting and exciting city to live in and we very much hope that you enjoy your experience teaching at the British International School Hanoi.

We hope this information booklet will answer some of the many questions you will have about living in Hanoi and make you feel better prepared for your move.

The British International School Hanoi is a friendly working environment and you will find everyone is supportive. When you arrive please do not hesitate to ask any of your new colleagues for help, information or advice. We will do everything we can to make sure you settle in and feel comfortable as soon as possible.

We are all very much looking forward to working with you.



Mark Sayer
Principal - BVIS Hanoi

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE IN HANOI



Passport

If your passport is nearly full or will have less than 6 months validity on it when you arrive in Vietnam you need to get a new one as a matter of urgency. Bring at least 6 passport size photographs with you. Passport size photos can also be made in photo shops in Hanoi, of which there are many.

IMPORTANT: If you renew your passport while you are in Vietnam please ensure you keep the expired passport in a safe place. You will need to show your first Vietnamese visa when you depart from the country and request a Police Clearance certificate for your time in the country.

Please note that the UK is in the process of changing passport renewal procedures which makes obtaining a new passport when you are living overseas more time consuming and difficult. Specific requirements can be checked on this link: <https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports>.



Vaccinations

It is sensible advice to get your vaccinations up to date before you arrive in Vietnam. If that isn't possible then you can get them done here in Hanoi and probably at a significantly lower cost. However, this will mean that you may not have sufficient protection during your first few weeks in Vietnam. Attached to this booklet is a "Suggested Immunisations for Vietnam" information sheet produced by one of the international clinics in Hanoi. We recommend you seek advice from your own GP if you have any questions about vaccinations.



What to Bring

To a large extent this has to be your own choice – you could travel light and buy what you need when you get here, or you could freight all your worldly goods by sea or air, but remember that there is only a limited relocation allowance from the school. Your apartment will have air conditioning, cooker, fridge, basic furniture including easy chairs, curtains, dining table and chairs, beds and bedside tables, adequate storage in kitchen and bedrooms. (We will send you typical inventory lists after Easter – exact details may vary from apartment to apartment). You may wish to consider bringing small electrical appliances like hair dryers with you – the availability and range of quality products is limited.

US dollars are widely accepted but it is worth changing some dollars into VND at the airport as most money changers are in the Hoan Kiem district. There are a number of 24 hour- ATMs in the city where you can withdraw money in Vietnam Dong. Many ATM machines have a limit of 2 million VND. ANZ bank on the west side of the Hoan Kiem Lake and 3 locations on Xuan Dieu Street in Tay Ho lets you withdraw larger amounts.

It is possible to buy most things you are likely to need in Hanoi. However, you may wish to consider bringing the following personal items with you, to at least see you through the early weeks while you source your preferred supplier:

- Prescription medications – at least 3 months supply to tide you over until you find out what is available here. Most medications are available at the international clinics, but they are more expensive there than at the local pharmacies.
- Contact lens equipment
- Preferred cosmetics, shampoo, conditioner, women's personal products (Tampons)
- Cosmetics – big established brands such as Lancome and Clinique available but smaller and lower end brand items i.e. rimmel, max factor, benefit are not.
- Good novels can be hard to find although many teachers order through Amazon
- Large sizes of shoes (size 7 and above) and under garments for women can be hard to find (size 14+)
- Warm clothes for the winter. It gets cold from November-December until March, so you will need sweaters, jacket and scarf, and also woollen hat and gloves if you are going to ride a motorbike.
- Strong insect repellent.



International Movers

If you do decide you wish to ship some household belongings to Hanoi, be prepared for bureaucratic delays and don't ship anything you will need immediately! Before making a decision please read the guidance sheet "Shipment of Personal Possessions into Vietnam" which gives more detailed information.

Below are some relocation companies with offices in Hanoi you can contact for information:

Crown Worldwide Movers

www.crownrelo.com

Allied Pickfords

<http://vn.alliedpickfords.com>

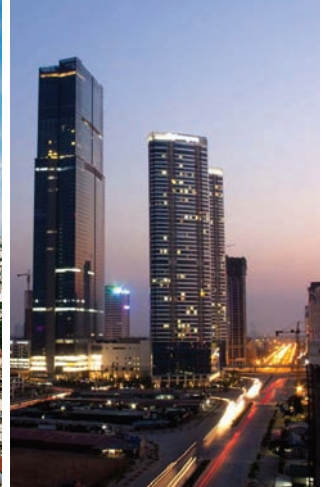
Asian Tigers

www.asiantigersgroup.com

Santa Fe Relocations Services

www.santaferelo.com

If you are not shipping furniture, but have personal belongings beyond your baggage allowance many teachers have recommended the use of www.excess-baggage.com





Useful Information

Currency	Vietnamese Dong. 1 GBP = approx. 35,000 VND, and 1 USD = approx. 21,000 VND (USD are widely accepted.)	
Local Time	Vietnam is GMT + 7 hours	
Language	Vietnamese is the official language. English is increasingly spoken around the city.	
Climate	Hanoi has hot summers with high rainfall and dry cold winters. The city also receives a large amount of sunlight and a relatively high humidity all throughout the year. Although the weather is divided into two main seasons: rainy season (from May to September) and dry season (from October to April), thanks to the transition months, Hanoi still experiences all four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter.	
Electricity	The electricity supply in Hanoi is 220/240V AC with standard European 2 pin sockets. Adapters for conversion to UK three pin plugs are easily and cheaply available, although you may want to bring some with you.	
Clothing	Light-weight summer clothing (and a water-proof anorak) is suitable for casual wear during summer. You will need warm clothing, like sweaters, cardigans, winter jackets, scarf, etc. during winter. There is a formal dress code for school, which is in the staff handbook and has already been emailed to you.	
Sun protection	Good sunglasses, hat and sunscreen are essential – bring large bottles if you have children. High factors (above 25) are difficult to get.	
TV and radio	A variety of cable and satellite packages are available	
Internet	Broadband is now widely available, but slower than in the UK.	
Newspapers	The Vietnam News and Hanoi Times are two local English language newspapers.	
Magazines	The Word and Asia Life are two local magazines specifically aimed at the expat market. They contain interesting articles about life in Hanoi as well as listings of restaurants, bars and various types of shops.	
Water	The tap water is not drinkable. You will need to buy a water dispenser on arrival and use large 5 litre bottles of water available from La Vie. Apartment reception can arrange delivery for you.	
Post	Mail between the UK and Vietnam is slow (2 – 3 weeks) and not always reliable. Mail can be delivered to your house/apartment or school. Please note that all mail is routinely opened and inspected.	
Good web sites	www.asialifehcmc.com www.expats-advisory.com http://hanoitimes.com.vn	www.newhanoian.com www.wordhanoi.com

One of the many Vietnamese language schools, ILA Vietnam, has a good section on living in Vietnam that is worth browsing - <http://www.discoverelvietnam.com/page.php?p=9>

YOUR FIRST FEW DAYS IN HANOI

The International Terminal at Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi is fairly modern and usually relatively hassle free.

On arrival you will be met by a colleague from school. As you step out of the Arrivals Building look out for the British International School Hanoi, Vietnam sign.

If for any reason you arrive without an appointment to be picked up by the school, take a taxi from the official taxi rank outside the arrivals terminal. Do not go with one of the taxi drivers who may approach you inside the terminal building or immediately outside, as they tend to take advantage of foreigners who are new to Hanoi.

You will be taken to your accommodation in one of the school buses and given your 13 million VND relocation allowance. There will be some basic food supplies like milk, tea, sugar, coffee, bread and fruit in your apartment or house.

The last day for the arrival of new teachers in Hanoi is **Thursday 14th August**. We recommend that you arrive in Hanoi between **Monday 11th and Thursday 14th August** although it is possible to arrive earlier by negotiation. Most new staff arrive earlier than the 14th August in order to give a few days acclimatisation before the more formal introduction to school. The first day for New Staff Induction is **Monday 18th August 2014**. There will be some social events shortly after your arrival to help you settle into life in Hanoi and to meet new colleagues. A detailed programme for the start of term will be sent to you when it is finalised.

LIVING IN HANOI

Hanoi is Vietnam's capital city, and also its second largest city. It is a fascinating blend of East and West, with Chinese influence from centuries of dominance, and French design from its colonial past. It is largely unspoiled by modern architecture of the 1970s and 80s, and is now going through a modernization that is making it a rising star in Southeast Asia. Its exotic chic of old Asia blends with the dynamic face of new Asia, where the medieval and modern co-exist. A city with a blend of Parisian grace and Asian pace, an architectural museum piece evolving in harmony with its history, rather than bulldozing through like many of the region's capitals.

It is a languid, friendly and very safe city. It is expanding and developing rapidly, but without compromising its history and architecture. This makes life interesting and varied.



Personal Safety

Vietnam is probably one of the safest countries you could possibly live in. However, Hanoi is like any big city in that it is not crime free. Please don't tempt fate, especially when in tourist areas, and always use common sense. The last couple of years have seen an increase in "bag snatches" from motor bikes as they drive close to pedestrians. You are therefore advised not to carry handbags on your shoulder on busy streets where they can become a target.



Getting Around Hanoi

Most teachers get around the city either by a small motorbike or by taxi. Small 125 cc motorbikes are inexpensive to buy or to hire. Many staff use a xe-om (motorbike taxi) to get around the city. It is recommended that you bring your UK driving licence with you. It is easier to convert your UK licence to a Vietnamese licence than it is to undergo a Vietnamese driving test for motorbikes.

It's not difficult to find a taxi on the street at most times, but sometimes it is easier to call for one. Some of the largest and most reliable taxi companies are the following:

Mai Linh Taxi	Phone 04-38222222 or 04-38616161
Hanoi Taxi	Phone 04-38535353
CP Taxi	Phone 04-38262626

Taxis usually cost approximately 20.000-30.000 dong for short journeys. It is usually better to choose a well known cab company as the smaller cabs often have metres that start very cheap but rise rapidly.

All taxis should have a meter. If the meter "isn't working" get out of the taxi. Another one will soon be available.

If you are going to or from the airport, its best to choose one of the three taxi companies that serve only this route. They are Airport Taxi, Noi Bai Taxi and Viet Thanh Taxi. They have fixed prices, so they don't use meters. The current prices are:

City to Airport USD 12, or about VND 250,000
Airport to City USD 16, or about VND 330,000

If you have to go to the airport, call the taxi company in advance, and the taxi will be waiting for you when it is time to go. If you have to fly early in the morning, call for the taxi the day before.



Food Shopping

Hanoi has several supermarkets scattered around the city.

The supermarkets that are closest to the type of what you are used to at home are the Fivimart, Citimart and Big-C supermarkets. These are chains and have several locations. The addresses for some of the locations are as follows:

BigC Supermarket	Address 1: 222 Tran Duy Hung Street, Cau Giay District Address 2: Savico Shopping Center, Sai Dong, Long Bien District
Citimart	Vincom Towers, 191 Ba Trieu Street, Hai Ba Trung District
Citimart	Hanoi Tower, 49 Hai Ba Trung Street, Hoan Kiem District
Fivimart	Serena Towers (Fraser Suites) – second floor, Tay Ho

There is a couple of small grocery shops in Xuan Dieu Street, Tay Ho District, which offer a variety of western specialties. One of these is Veggies, which offers imported meats and cheeses and organic vegetables.

There are also hundreds of small local grocery shops throughout the city.

Markets - Wet markets are good for buying fruit and vegetables, as well as other grocery items. If you are buying meat or fish from the markets it is best to get there very early in the morning. It is suggested that for washing vegetables you use Vegy-wash, which is available from stores like Fivimart.

Bread

One of the great things about eating in Vietnam is that the French bread making tradition has remained. French-style baguettes are the most common type of bread available, but it is also possible to buy sliced white and wholemeal breads. Most supermarkets stock a range of bread and there are also quite a few individual bakeries to choose from. Good quality French pastries can be bought at a number of patisseries.

Water

It is not advisable to drink the tap water. It is advisable to buy a water dispenser on arrival and use large 25 litre bottles of water. You can arrange with a local grocery shop to have it delivered to your home.

You can use tap water for cooking and making coffee as long as it is boiled first.



Clothing

Cotton-based clothing is practical for the climate in Hanoi. There are a number of outlets selling local and imported clothes, including larger western sizes. There is a chain of shops called Made in Vietnam, which sells surplus clothes in western sizes made by the Vietnamese garment industry for export. The large shopping malls also sell clothes and shoes in western sizes, but they are almost as expensive as in Europe.

Quite a few outlets offer a 'made to order' service for clothes. Dressmakers are reasonably priced and will make almost anything you request, but standards vary. Shop around and find a tailor that suits you.

You may find a tailor who will come to your home. This is usually the cheapest option. You will need to buy the material yourself and have items to be copied or pictures of what you want made. The Cho Hom market in Pho Hue Street, Hai Ba Trung District, has a wide range of materials, and there are several fabric shops just outside this market.

If you want to make a really good bargain, visit Ninh Hiep, the northern region's largest textile market, and probably the cheapest in the country. It is located about 20 km north-east of Hanoi, and about 6 km from the school.

There is a newly opened shop in the Old Quarter named Springfield Man and Woman which does sell larger sizes following the British and European size guide line. The address is 19-21 Đinh Tiên Hoàng Street (Đin Tiên Huang), Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi.



Hairdressing

There are numerous local barbers and hairdressing outlets of reasonable standard in Hanoi. Some of them include a face, head and neck massage as part of their inexpensive service.

Most salons also provide full facials, manicures and pedicures, and sell hair care and beauty products, on request.

Some salons have 'international' stylists working for them, but they are much more expensive.

It is very hard to find someone who can cater for blond hair but there is one hair dresser that seems better than most - Toni's on Au Co Street - Mobile: 01263580028.



Banks And ATMS

You are required to open a local bank account in Vietnam into which your salary will be paid. Most teachers choose Standard Chartered or HSBC. You will be provided with more information during the Induction Week and will have the opportunity to meet representatives of both banks.

Once you have opened your bank account the details must then be submitted to the Chief Accountant for salary payment. Salaries are paid into accounts in VND.

There are a large number of ATM's located all around the city.



Dining Out in Hanoi

There are a large number of restaurants to choose from in Hanoi. The range is from street vendors to expensive 5 star hotels and top notch restaurants with menus in US dollars. It can be very inexpensive to dine out each evening if you wish. Here are just a few suggestions to start you off:

OLD QUARTER

Little Hanoi 1

A tiny little restaurant with a big personality. Speciality: do-it-yourself fish spring rolls.
9 Pho Ta Hien. Tel: 04 3926 0168

Pho 24

Fast pho, Vietnamese style. This is part of an expanding chain specialising in Vietnamese noodle soup.
1 Pho Hang Khay.

69 Bar-Restaurant

Located in a beautifully restored old Vietnamese house and serving predominantly Vietnamese dishes.
69 Pho Ma May. Tel: 04 3926 0452

Hanoi Garden

This restaurant is very popular with Vietnamese diners, which is always a good sign. It serves southern Vietnamese and spicy Chinese dishes, and has an open courtyard.
36 Pho Hang Manh. Tel: 04 3824 3402

Cha Ca La Vong

This place has been run by the same family for five generations, and serves only one dish: Cha Ca, filleted fish slices grilled over charcoal.
14 Pho Cha Ca. Tel: 04 3825 3929

HOAN KIEM

Lean and Green Vegetarian Restaurant

This is an excellent vegetarian restaurant with lots of dishes to choose from. It is also very reasonably priced.
15B Trang Thi Street, Hoan Kiem District. Tel: 04 3936 8462

Le Petit Bruxelles

This is an excellent restaurant to sit and relax on a quiet back street behind St. Josephs Cathedral. You can sit on the roof top and see the Cathedral whilst enjoying great European food.
1, Au Trieu, Hoan Kiem. Tel: 04 3938 1769

CENTRAL HANOI

Restaurant 1,2,3

Very popular inexpensive Vietnamese eatery, serves a range of Vietnamese favourites in double-quick time.
55 Pho Hue. Tel: 04 3822 9100

Quan An Ngon

Street food experience in a more organised setting.
15 Pho Phan Boi Chau. Tel: 04 3942 8162

GREATER HANOI

Highway 4

Bringing the fabled food of the mountains to the city, this popular chain of restaurant has five locations in Hanoi. Specialities include catfish spring rolls with wasabi dip and Son La smoked pork. The restaurant makes its own Son Tinh brand of rice wine.

3 Hang Tre, Hoan Kiem

25 Bat Su , Hoan Kiem

31 Xuan Dieu, Tay Ho

54 Mai Hac De , Hai Ba Trung

575 Kim Ma, Ba Dinh

Tel: 04 3212 8998

Many restaurants have a 'take-away' and delivery service. Ask for their menus when you dine there.

TAY HO

Al Frescos

Italian

3 Truc Bach Tel: 04 371 52433

98 Xuan Dieu Tel: 04 371 95322

Ceilo

Italian and Vietnamese - 172 Xuan Dieu Tel: 04 371 80680

Daluva

Wine Bar and Int. cuisine - 33 To Ngoc Van Tel: 04 371 85831

Don's Place

Italian - 16/27 Xuan Dieu Tel: 04 3719 2828 (Reservation) - 04 3719 3719 (Delivery)

Highlands Coffee

Coffee Shop - Serena Centre (Fraser Suites) Tel: 04 3829 2140

Joma

Expat Coffee Shop - 54 To Ngoc Van Tel: 04 3718 6071

Sen Tay Ho

Vietnamese buffet - 614 Lac Long Quan Tel: 04 3719 9242

Tay Tap Bar & Grill

Asian and Western - 100A Xuan Dieu Tel: 04 371 86917

Tracy's Sports Bar

Burgers - 40 Xuan Dieu Tel: 04 667 59838



Bars And Nightclubs

Hanoi is not rich on nightlife, but there are a few options. Below is a small selection:

Bia Hoi Places

All around the city you will see signs for “Bia Hoi”. This basically means home brewed beer. They are usually outdoor beer gardens, crowded with Vietnamese men. Bia Hoi is not strong, but very cheap, typically 3,000 – 5,000 dong per glass. They often have snacks and barbequed food.

The most popular place for foreigners to drink Bia Hoi is the intersection of Ta Hien Str. / Luong Ngoc Quyen Str. in the old quarter, where Bia Hoi is served on all four corners.



Recreation And Leisure

Cinemas

There are several cinemas in Hanoi. The new multiplex cinemas which have only recently opened show current releases in English with Vietnamese subtitles. One of the best is in Vincom Tower, which also houses a modern shopping mall with supermarket and restaurants and cafés. 191 Ba Trieu Street, Hai Ba Trung District.

Hanoi Cinematheque is a members-only film club hosted in a private auditorium. Membership is required, but this is cheap and well worth it, and members receive a regular email newsletter. It shows special films that would otherwise not be seen in Hanoi, including some classics and some art house films. Sometimes authors and others involved with a film come and talk about their work.

Located in a secluded courtyard with a cosy café at 22A Hai Ba Trung Street, Hoan Kiem District.
Tel: 04-39362648

Golf

There is a number of good standard golf courses around Hanoi, but membership and green fees are expensive. Hanoi Club has a driving range on the edge of West Lake, where balls are shot into the lake.

Live Music

Hanoi Opera House is a small scale replica of Paris' Palais Garnier, the smaller of Paris' two opera houses. It was built in 1911 by the French, and has been restored to its former glory. There are periodical performances of classical music and sometimes opera and ballet. The atmosphere is incredible, and must be experienced, even if you not that much into classical music.

<http://www.ticketvn.com/> shows what's on and how to buy tickets.

1 Pho Trang Tien street, Hoan Kiem district.

You can also become part of the performance by joining The Hanoi International Choir, which is always looking for new members. Rehearsals: Monday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm at VNOB (Nha Hat Nhac Vu Kich) 11 Ngo Nui Truc. For more information contact grahamhn@fpt.vn

Minh's Jazz Club is the place to go if you like jazz. The owner, Quyen Van Minh, teaches saxophone during the day and jams here at night with various musicians. Great atmosphere.

31-33 Pho Luong Van Can, Hoan Kiem district.

The open terrace atop the Press Club is a place with great views of the city. This is the place to see and be seen on Friday nights. Expatriate bands jamming and Latino DJs mixing wide ranging styles of music to keep the chic on the move. A gorgeous and affluent crowd dresses to kill. Expect nothing less.

59 A Ly Thai To St., Hanoi

Hanoi Hash House Harriers

This is a walk/run that is held on Saturday afternoons. It's a good way to see the countryside and meet people socially. Hashers meet at the American Club, 19-21 Hai Ba Trung, at 1:30 pm. You can contact them through their website <http://www.hanoi3.com/>

Aspara Dance Studio

This is an excellent dance studio offering a variety of dance styles from Salsa and Zumba to Ballet and Hip Hop. asparastudio@gmail.com

Vietnamese Language Classes

Overseas hired teachers are encouraged to learn some Vietnamese language, especially given the dual language nature of the school. The school will provide the opportunity for this by holding classes on site using our Vietnamese colleagues from school.



Bringing Children to Vietnam

We believe that giving your children the experience of living in another culture is enriching and advantageous. Of course we can all experience culture shock, but remember that children adapt far easier than adults and happy parents will make for happy children!

You will find that the International Medical Clinics are helpful and thoughtful if you need to attend them with your child.

Your children will enjoy the wide variety of cuisine offered out here and they will be able to find things that they enjoy and also sample new delights! Eating out with children is fun and restaurants make them feel welcome.

Framing is inexpensive in Hanoi and bringing in your suitcase a few photos of friends and family to put in your child's room can make them feel at home. Also a new pillow case and quilt cover or an old favourite

can quickly bring a child's room to life and make them feel good about their new bedroom. It's natural to feel concern bringing your child/children to a new culture but in our overall experience they will survive and, far more than that, they will thrive!

Finally, at risk of stating the obvious, they will get the opportunity to attend a first class school and be taught by great teachers in the company of other motivated children who all want to do well.



Churches, Temples and Mosques

The majority of Christian churches in Hanoi are Catholic, with the main one being the St. Joseph Cathedral at the end Nha Tho (Church) street. Built in 1886 in the Neo-Gothic style, it is also a tourist attraction, and holds several masses throughout the day and is usually crowded on weekends and religious holidays.

Hanoi International Church holds services in English every Sunday at 10:30. It is located at the Hanoi Club, 76 Yen Phu street, at West Lake





Medical Services

There are several international clinics for expatriates, but below are a few of the most commonly visited. These clinics provide a range of medical services and they can arrange evacuation to Singapore or Bangkok for treatment in the event of a medical emergency or serious illness.

Family Medical Practice

Van Phuc Compound, 298 I Kim Ma Street, Ba Dinh District

Tel: +84 4 3843 0748

<http://www.vietnammedicalpractice.com/>

The school health insurance company will help to cover the cost of health care. More details will be sent to you at a later stage.

HOSPITALS

There is one hospital of international standard:

Hanoi French Hospital

No.1 Phuong Mai street, Dong Da district

Telephone: 84-4-35771100

<http://www.hfh.com.vn>



Dental Services

Family Medical and International SOS also provide dental care.



Pharmacies

“Nha Thuoc” means pharmacy.

You will find plenty of pharmacies throughout the city selling drugs at very low prices. Check expiry dates on these before you buy.

The expat medical clinics (see above) also have their own pharmacies although these are much more expensive.

OPTICIANS

Vietnam Optical

138B Giang Vo,

Ba Đình, Hanoi

If you stand around looking perplexed enough in this sizeable opticians, an English speaking member of staff will come up to you and enquire about your needs. Good for running repairs and inexpensive glasses.



Technology in Hanoi

Mobile phones

You can purchase a mobile phone from any of the many mobile phone shops that are just about everywhere. Prices are similar to UK or USA and the latest models are available.

We strongly recommend that you unlock your current mobile phone before arrival and bring it with you so that it can use the 3 available networks here. You should speak with your provider before you leave the UK. You can get your phone unlocked in Hanoi but it is more expensive, time consuming and difficult.

Vietnamese SIM cards are easily available. The school will provide you with a local SIM card in your welcome pack. You can buy pre-paid top-up cards just about anywhere, and these are good for local as well as international dialling. To make regular topping up easier, keep your original top-up card.

Internet Phone

You can use Skype in Vietnam which will drastically reduce the cost of your telephone bills to home. Using My Private Network or similar VPN services back to your home country can make Skype even cheaper and is also useful as it makes you 'appear' to be in the UK.

Computers

Hanoi has a thriving computer market and prices are cheap. Numerous shops sell complete PCs and accessories and many will build you a computer to your personal specifications at a good price. A decent laptop can be bought here at a reasonable price, which is always open to some negotiation.

The school is fairly well equipped with IT and every teacher is given a school laptop. Each classroom has an, LCD projector and printer. The computers do not have floppy drive or CD ROM access, so you will either need to email documents between home and work or purchase a USB flash drive or external hard drive. These can be bought here at competitive prices. Ly Nam De, Hoan Kien, is an example of a street that is overflowing with computer stores selling all manner of accessories and offering repairs.

Internet Connection

Both broadband and dial up connections are available, inexpensive and reliable. If your laptop has a wireless card, more and more cafes and bars have free WiFi.

Software

Vietnam has very relaxed copyright laws and piracy is the norm. It is actually much harder to find legitimate copies of software. There are many shops specializing in general software and games for playstation and x-box. You can buy a pirated version of any software for under USD 1. Quality is generally fine, you may get occasional glitches. If you have any problems you can usually exchange for another copy.

DVDs

The very latest cinema films and a huge range of British and American TV series are easily and inexpensively available all over the city. Prices vary, but a film should cost no more than 30,000 VND each.



Useful Phone Numbers

British International School Hanoi:	04-6266 8800
International Direct Dialling Access Code	00 or +
Country Code for calls to Vietnam	84
Area code for calls to fixed line phones in Hanoi	04
International Telephone Service	110
Phone number enquiries	116
Police	113
Fire Brigade	114
Ambulance	115

Addresses

British Vietnamese International School Hanoi (BVIS Hanoi): 72A Nguyen Trai Str., Thanh Xuan Dist., Hanoi



