



## ***UNV HK Universities Volunteer Programme***

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# My UNV Assignment in Hanoi, Viet Nam

This is my first time to work for a UN agency and I am very grateful to have got such a precious opportunity as a university student. For my job, I basically assist with anything with the word gender, from women's empowerment to transgender people's rights. During my assignment, I had the chance to attend many meetings and conferences on gender issues within the UN, and also with other NGOs in Vietnam, as well as the government. That has broaden my horizons and was also a great chance for networking with the organizations in Vietnam that are striving for gender equality and LGBTI rights. I have also got the opportunity to involve in the work of UNDP gender focal team, as well as UN Women, to learn more about their projects on gender-based violence and domestic violence against women and girls.

My first task in UNDP, drafting the Gender Action Plan, was quite a challenge for me as I was new in the UN and I still have not familiarise myself with the structure of the organization. But with my supervisor's support, I was able to complete it after consulting staff members from different units in UNDP. Because of the Gender Action Plan, I have spent a lot of time studying the Gender Equality Seal and then I started to understand the UN's approach towards gender equality. Also, helping to modify the Gender Induction for new comers has raised my awareness on how to be gender-responsive and gender-sensitive, such as using gender-sensitive language at work and also in my daily life.



# My UNV Assignment in Hanoi, Viet Nam

I am also grateful that HR colleagues in UNDP have given me chances to involve in their work and organize events for the staff, while trying to include the element of gender in it. For example, I organized a Mid-Autumn Festival event and I have learnt a lot from that. I was invited to some meetings with the Vietnamese government too. Opportunities are everywhere and it is important to be proactive in the UN.

Although the I have faced many difficulties while organizing the events and they might not be as successful as expected, that was still a valuable experience for me to learn from. My supervisor has given me freedom and support on engaging in a variety of projects that I was interested in, which I really appreciate a lot.



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I was very happy with my work, as that was exactly what I was passionate in and I really felt that what I have learnt in the university was useful for my work. I consider myself quite lucky to have this opportunity. It is not easy to find a job that is related to gender in Hong Kong.

Working in the UN was very enjoyable. People were friendly to each other and things were flexible. I felt that I have achieved work-life balance there. Getting a job in the UN is extremely competitive and I felt so blessed to have this precious opportunity as a starting point of my career. I really appreciate the effort of AVS and HKBU in promoting this meaningful programme. 😊

