IIP-IN UBelong: Teaching English in Hanoi (Vietnam)
ABOUT ME:

- Arianah Hanke
- Sophomore
- English Literature w/ Creative Writing & Comp Lit
- Why teach English in Vietnam?
  - I wanted to go somewhere I’d never really considered going before and experience a world truly different from that which I was used to, as well as do a bit of good along the way.
My ‘Internship’ Placement

- Sent through UBelong but work with an organization called Volunteers for Peace Vietnam (VPV)
- Live with other international volunteers in the VPV house where meals are prepared daily; the VPV office is located downstairs
- VPV sends volunteers to different projects and locations; some teach English or French, some work with disabled children
  - I teach English 🤗

- Responsibilities include:
  - Being to class on time and prepared to lead the day’s lesson
  - Helping to edit and improve lesson plans that the Vietnamese volunteers create (there are usually at least one or two Vietnamese volunteers per class who help teach & translate when necessary)
  - Giving feedback about the program biweekly and being willing to offer and implement new ideas
Daily Life

- Wake up around 7am to be ready to walk (~30 minutes) or Uber (~10-15 minutes) to Nghia Tan Primary School by 7:20/7:30am
- Teach high school/university level students on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8-10am and teach younger students (aged 6-12) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-11am
- Walk or Uber back to VPV house for lunch & break time
- Walk or Uber back to Nghia Tan around 1:20/1:30pm
- Teach high school/university level students on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2-4pm and teach younger students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4:30pm
- Four different class sections per week
  - Varying levels of English fluency
  - Different Vietnamese volunteers
  - Different lesson topics and plans
Working Conditions

Very few resources were available at the school, so we had to be creative with games and activities. Sometimes this included walking to the park across the street or going outside to do activities.
Worst Parts of Vietnam

← Traffic (motorbike mania; crossing the road is a full-sensory experience)

Weather (suffocating heat to torrential downpour in 30 seconds flat) →

Pollution

Uncomfortable attention as pale, blonde foreigner

Sickness (stomach problems from food/water, Dengue fever)
Best Parts of Vietnam: Places
Best Parts of Vietnam: Food
Best Parts of Vietnam: People
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Academics:</th>
<th>Future Plans:</th>
<th>Personal Growth:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Before: English major pursuing creative writing</td>
<td>Before: Aspirations of becoming a writer and/or teacher</td>
<td>Before: Understood little about true diversity. Was excited to discover the world and different cultures</td>
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<td>After: Considering Comparative Literature instead, in order to pursue a more world literature based education</td>
<td>After: Still want to pursue professional writing.</td>
<td>After: In love with the world and eager to explore and understand more. Inspired to not only embrace diversity and cultural differences but to revel in them</td>
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<td>Definitely would like to teach abroad again, perhaps in an administrative position or perhaps starting my own program at some point</td>
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