



From Hanoi to Viterbo: Academic Exchange Connects Vietnam and Italy Through Education and Sustainability



From left to right Prof Nguyen Linh Chi; Prof Chu Quang Binh; Prof Toni Urbani

As part of the GPS Education project, the University of Tuscia (Unitus) welcomed two lecturers from Hanoi University (Vietnam) for an incoming academic mobility experience from 21 May to 4 June 2026. **Dr Nguyen Linh Chi** and **Dr Chu Quang Binh** took part in a programme of teaching activities, workshops, seminars and classroom observations, further strengthening the institution's international profile.

The GPS Education Project and Incoming Mobility

The GPS Education programme promotes the internationalisation of higher education through academic exchanges between European and Asian institutions. The incoming mobility at the University of Tuscia offered the visiting academics the opportunity to observe Italian pedagogical practices, share disciplinary expertise, and engage actively in the academic life of the university.

Activities During the Mobility

The programme included a diverse range of activities: a workshop on contemporary Vietnam, classroom observation sessions involving secondary school students, round-table seminars on sustainability and responsible tourism, and intercultural exchanges with master's students enrolled in the European Studies programme.

Both visitors were particularly impressed by the Italian approach to teaching, characterised by experiential and outdoor learning, student-centred methodologies, and a strong emphasis on active participation and collaborative reflection.

Nguyen Linh Chi - Sustainability and Community-Based Tourism Development

A lecturer in Sustainability, Tourism Development and Higher Education Pedagogy at Hanoi University, Nguyen Linh Chi participated in a round-table seminar on sustainable tourism and community engagement, bringing Vietnamese models and experiences into dialogue with Italian ones. In the workshop on contemporary Vietnam, co-delivered with colleague Chu Quang Binh, she introduced master's students to the history, culture and ongoing transformation of Vietnamese society.

She also observed an inspiring class in which learning extended beyond the traditional classroom into outdoor spaces, and gained insights into the concept of *slow tourism* as a sustainable practice transferable to the Vietnamese context. A particularly meaningful outcome of her visit was the reflection on women's active roles in community-based tourism management and their contribution to preserving cultural heritage.

Chu Quang Binh - Intercultural Communication and Cross-Cultural Dialogue

A lecturer in Intercultural Communication and Cultural Studies at Hanoi University, Chu Quang Binh delivered a three-hour seminar for master's students at the University of Tuscia, entitled *Vietnam in Transition: History, Culture and Contemporary Change*. Using visual materials, video clips and comparative discussion, participants explored Vietnamese cultural identity, economic development, education and international integration.

Student engagement was consistently high throughout the session. The curiosity and active contributions of participants demonstrated the value of introducing underrepresented cultural perspectives into academic curricula. The experience reinforced Dr Chu's conviction in intercultural dialogue as a tool for developing globally aware and critically reflective citizens.

Impact and future prospects

Both academics returned with significant methodological enrichment: new tools for more participatory and interdisciplinary teaching, a deepened intercultural awareness, and concrete ideas for innovating the educational offer at Hanoi University. The practices observed and shared during the mobility - from experiential learning and responsible tourism to gender inclusion and global citizenship - hold strong potential for transfer across diverse educational settings.

This experience consolidates the academic partnership between the University of Tuscia and Hanoi University, paving the way for future collaborative teaching and research initiatives within the GPS Education framework.

For further information on the TNE GPS project and the internationalization activities of the University of Tuscia, please contact the University's International Relations Office and consult the project web pages:

<https://gpsedu.org/>

<https://www.unitus.it/internazionale/studiare-all-estero/progetti-pnrr-tne/progetto-green-education/>