VYLA and the Community
VYLA students play critical roles in IU’s Vietnam Student Association (VSA), contributing to a dynamic community for Vietnamese students in Bloomington and sharing Vietnamese culture with others. Activities include organizing coffee hours, international nights, and soccer matches.

Students also integrate with local communities through volunteering and social activities at SPEA and IU.

VYLA participants have many opportunities to network with fellow students who will lead public sectors in Vietnam.
Vietnam Young Leader Awards (VYLA) is a full scholarship program supporting outstanding Vietnamese state employees and researchers in earning a master’s or Ph.D. from the world-class program in public policy at SPEA – the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. The program, co-sponsored by Vietnam’s Ministry of Education and Training and IU Bloomington, provides the analytical and managerial skills necessary to succeed in all branches of government.

The master’s program under these Awards includes two years of coursework, research, and internship opportunities, and field trips to government agencies, NGOs, and private organizations in Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, and other U.S. cities. After completing the master’s program, awardees may apply for the Ph.D. program under VYLA scholarship. To apply directly to the Ph.D. program, applicants need a master’s degree from a world-class university and significant research experience.

VYLA offers annual scholarships to 20 talented state employees through a highly competitive selection process. Applicants are generally required to: (1) have at least 12 months of state-related work experience, (2) have excellent TOEFL/IELTS and preferably GRE scores, (3) meet general requirements for Vietnamese government scholarships, and (4) show exceptional ability to contribute to Vietnamese society.

"Good and sound public policies are key to help nations excel in this changing world. The goal of VYLA is to prepare outstanding Vietnamese talents to spearhead Vietnam’s growth."

Nguyen Xuan Bang
Director General
Vietnam International Education Development

What Makes VYLA Unique?

Summer Study Trip
Every summer, upon completion of the first academic year, VYLA students take a two-week study trip to Washington, D.C., New York, and other U.S. cities.

In 2011, students visited and met with representatives from a variety of non-profit, government, academic, and other institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations, the United States Congress, Harvard and Georgetown Universities, The New York Times, the Asia Foundation, GMIB Watch, and Bank of America.

The Summer Study Trip aims to:
- Provide opportunities for hands-on learning in public administration at different levels of the U.S. government;
- Give participants a chance to meet and speak with policymakers in major government agencies, universities, and the private sector;
- Enhance students’ ability to apply their learning to various policy areas in Vietnam.

Monthly Workshop
VYLA organizes monthly workshops where participants are encouraged to share ideas and initiatives regarding Vietnamese public affairs.

Research and Publication
VYLA participants have valuable opportunities to publish their papers in an international journal edited by leading U.S. and Vietnamese scholars.

The School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University Bloomington is at one of the most beautiful campuses in the United States. In 2013, U.S. News & World Report magazine ranked SPEA’s public affairs program among the country’s very best, tied with the Harvard Kennedy School. SPEA has over 2400 students taught by more than 240 faculty and annually awards approximately 680 bachelor’s degrees, 160 professional degrees, and 12 doctoral degrees.

VYLA participants can choose from the following degree programs:

1. Master’s Programs

   - Master of Science in Environmental Science
   - Master of Public Affairs/Master of Science in Environmental Science
   - Various Joint Degrees

2. Doctoral Programs

   - Joint Ph.D. in Public Policy
   - Public Affairs Ph.D.
   - Environmental Science Ph.D.

To learn more about these programs, please visit the SPEA Website at http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/prospective_students/index.shtml