The Vientiane College study program is designed for long-term, systematic development of English language and thinking skills and is the start of the Pathways to the Diploma Program.

There are three trimesters each year designed to fit around local and international holidays. Each trimester is conducted over a period of 12 weeks, with 54 hours of study (162 hours in one year).

Classes are scheduled 3 days per week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday *or* Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday).
To be fair to all students the class times change each term.

Class times are from **5.00-6.30 and 6.45-8.15 in the evenings and 9.00-10.30 and 10.45-12.15 on Saturday mornings**.

2016	Testing & Registration	Term dates	Mid-Term Break	Trimester Break
Trimester 1	January 11 – 13	Jan 14 – Apr 09	March 05 – 08	Apr 10 – May 04
Trimester 2	May 02 – 04	May 05 – Aug 04	June 25 – Jul 03	Aug 05 – Sep 07
Trimester 3	September 05 – 07	Sep 08 – Dec 09	October 23 – 30	Dec 10 – Jan 12 2017

Testing for new students takes place over a three day period before the start of each term.

The **Placement Test** takes approximately one hour and costs **50,000 Kip** – results are usually available within 24 hours. The cost of one trimester (54 hour term) is **3,250,000 Kip** for all Pathways programs.

Vientiane College offers a wide range of programs and levels to suit student needs; classes begin at Pre-elementary level and go all the way to Post Intermediate level in the **Diploma Program**. There is a separate information sheet for the Diploma Program.

The **Young Learner Program** offers class options for Junior (ages 6-12) and Senior (ages 13-16) students. There is a separate information sheet for the Young Learner Program.
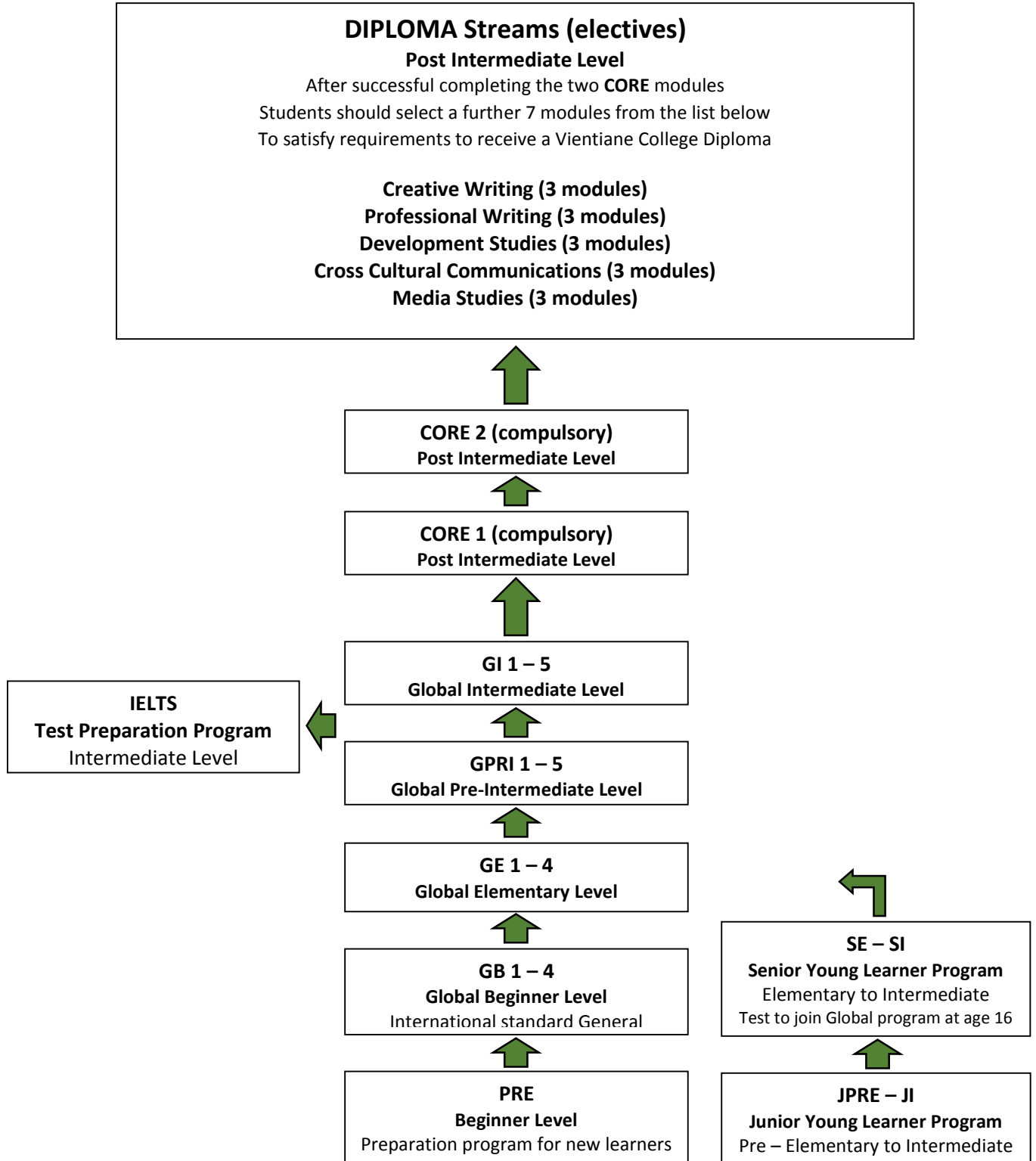
At Vientiane College we provide original study materials, quality curricula, trained teachers and knowledgeable support staff to help make studying an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Student counselors are available to assist with challenging situations and provide advice on current and future study.

The College is also the national **IELTS** centre for the Lao PDR. The test costs **US$ 200**. There are one or two test dates each month and you can book in advance by contacting the IELTS help desk. Test preparation courses are available every term and cost **3,250,000 Kip** for 54 hours.

If you want to know more about study opportunities in the Lao PDR, overseas or scholarship programs, or if you need some careers advice please contact us to make an appointment – we are happy to help you.

The Vientiane College Pathways Program has been developed to provide students with
a solid foundation of skills at each stage of the program.
Successful progress is dependent on personal motivation, completion of all tasks and consistent attendance.

DIPLOMA Streams (electives)
Post Intermediate Level
After successful completing the two **CORE** modules
Students should select a further 7 modules from the list below
To satisfy requirements to receive a Vientiane College Diploma

Creative Writing (3 modules)
Professional Writing (3 modules)
Development Studies (3 modules)
Cross Cultural Communications (3 modules)
Media Studies (3 modules)

↑

CORE 2 (compulsory)
Post Intermediate Level

↑

CORE 1 (compulsory)
Post Intermediate Level

↑

GI 1 – 5
Global Intermediate Level

← **IELTS**
Test Preparation Program
Intermediate Level

↑

GPRI 1 – 5
Global Pre-Intermediate Level

↑

GE 1 – 4
Global Elementary Level

↑

GB 1 – 4
Global Beginner Level
International standard General

SE – SI
Senior Young Learner Program
Elementary to Intermediate
Test to join Global program at age 16

↑

PRE
Beginner Level
Preparation program for new learners

JPRE – JI
Junior Young Learner Program
Pre – Elementary to Intermediate

The Vientiane College Placement Test is designed to ensure students join the Pathways Program
at the most suitable level.
Young Learner Junior and Senior students take an age-appropriate test before being assigned to classes.

The Vientiane College Diploma is a post-intermediate level program designed to further develop language and critical thinking skills for academic and professional purposes. The aim of the Diploma Program is to improve students' language skills in all areas through interesting and stimulating content relevant to today's ever-changing world.

Students are required to complete the two Core modules plus seven electives (486 hours in total) from the options below. A selection of modules are available each term; it is possible to combine modules from any of the streams offered to achieve a Diploma.

The Core Modules

Core 1 and 2 are designed to prepare you for the demands of the Diploma Program's elective modules. The main goal is to move away from traditional textbook based learning and instead teach you how to deal effectively with more complicated real-life texts through careful and critical analysis and to be able to clearly express your own opinions through class discussions and essays.

Core 1: *Foundation Class for Discussion, Research and Note-taking Skills*

This module aims to provide you with the tools to actively participate in a series of student-led discussions. The focus is on improving listening, note-taking, speaking and critical thinking skills, all of which are essential for subsequent courses within the Diploma Program.

Core 2: *Foundation Class for Academic Reading and Writing Skills*

The primary aim of this module is to enable you to deal with complex academic and real-life texts. The focus is on understanding through context reading and summarisation skills. You will apply what you have learned from these texts to produce short written assignments on similar topics, through a step-by-step approach to essay writing - far more flexible than ways you may have previously learned.

Creative Writing Stream

Creative Writing 1: *Character, Setting and Point of view*

In this module you will work on composing your own imaginative short stories and learn about techniques that will help you express yourself creatively. The module focuses on the main components of fiction; you will read stories by noted authors from around the world, discuss the strategies they use and incorporate these into your own writing. You will participate in writing workshops and peer review of texts and you will write your own short fiction story.

Creative Writing 2: *From Conflict to Conclusion - Plot, Dialogue, and Theme*

In this module you will extend your creative writing skills, focusing on writing natural and effective dialogues, expressing theme in your story and planning an interesting plotline from beginning to end. You will read stories by other authors and identify and analyse these devices in their writing before applying them to your own. You will be expected to share your writing with classmates and practice giving and receiving effective feedback. The major assignment of the course will be writing a short story developed through brainstorming, outlining, proof reading and editing to produce a final draft for publication.

Creative Writing 3: *Exploring Self Awareness - Autobiographical Reflections*

This module aims to show you how reading and writing can be used as tools for personal growth, expression and self-reflection. Through reading relevant literary texts you will analyse how people acquire and shape their own identities from a variety of sources, including family, culture, religion and personal experience. This will inspire reflection on your own identity and prepare you for writing a personal essay exploring an idea, experience or relationship that has helped shape your life.

Professional Writing Stream

Professional Writing 1: *Business Plans and Correspondence*
In the first part of this course you will learn to *pitch* an idea through the use of suggestive and convincing language, and subsequently write a model business plan based on your idea. You will produce business letters, e-mails and memos covering a range of situations to support your business plan. In addition to exploring the different formats of business correspondence, you will also practice developing the correct tone, register and appropriate vocabulary used in successful business communications.

Professional Writing 2: *Proposals and Reports*
In this module you will look at the style and format of project proposals and reports. You will discuss the potential of a proposed project, paying close attention to specific 'project' language and structure, and work on developing your own short, written proposal. In the second part of the module you will learn to plan, organise, write and present information connected to your project in the shape of a brief formal report.

Professional Writing 3: *Presentations and Negotiations*
Presentations are very common in contemporary business and academic environments. However, many of these presentations fall short of their goals. This module aims to give you the tools to become a good presenter and, just as importantly, a valuable audience member. In the first part of the course you will learn how to research, plan, prepare and deliver a meaningful presentation using appropriate language and visual prompts. In the second part of the module you will learn how to participate effectively in formal debates, lead discussions and negotiate fruitful compromises in a variety of situations.

Cross-Cultural Communications Stream

Cross-Cultural Communications 1: *Developing Cross-Cultural Awareness*
Through group research and discussions this module will examine and attempt to define cultural identity. You will investigate a number of contemporary cultures and present your findings, followed by discussions on the differences and similarities between these cultural groups. You will also focus on your own cultural background by learning how to write and deliver a short speech defining your own culture and giving it a place in the modern world.

Cross-Cultural Communications 2: *Perspectives on the World*
This first part of this module looks at the various philosophical and religious views that make up the world around us and explores how language and ethical standpoints affect the way we communicate with each other in contemporary society. In the second part of the course you will study the language and techniques of propaganda and its modern-day equivalents of public relations and advertising, as well as an exploration of the mishaps in global cross-cultural communication. You will be guided through the process of writing a critical review of an example of a cross-cultural issue.

Cross-Cultural Communications 3: *Cross-Cultural Awareness at Work*
This module looks at modern-day corporate culture and the variety of organisational structures and styles of leadership. Through research and group discussions you will focus on developing an understanding and awareness of expectations in the multi-cultural workplace, learn how to deal with these expectations and how to prepare yourself to enter the international job/academic marketplace. You will learn how to write a well-presented resume, adapt it for different scenarios and write appropriate supporting letters.

Media Studies Stream

Media Studies 1: *Modern Media*
This module explores the nature of bias in the media and how to evaluate information online. By looking at a wide variety of online material you will further develop the critical thinking skills required to identify reliable information and the various informal structures used to present that information. This module focuses on the use of appropriate vocabulary, grammatical structure and the ability to use logical, relevant arguments to participate in multimedia discussions.

Media Studies 2: *Contemporary Media*
Learning how to unpack and understand longer and more complex texts is an essential skill for academic and professional life. This module will help you to develop your thinking, literacy and language skills through the study of graphic novels (comic books), a popular and powerful tool for communication in contemporary literature. Expect to learn new ways of looking at and thinking about images and text as you engage in close readings, energetic discussions and thoughtful writings.

Media Studies 3: *International Issues in the Media*
The media has a significant impact on how we view, interpret and understand current events and international issues. This module will look at how international issues are reported and how they affect the community. Employing a problem-based approach to learning, you will develop the skills to work in a team to research, plan and present opinions in a lively debate and engage in a meaningful reflection process.

Development Studies Stream

Development Studies 1: *What is Development?*
This foundation module of the Development Studies stream explores the answer to that question. The focus is on understanding the different terminologies and basic concepts of development. You will read up-to-date news articles on international development issues to prompt ideas and discussion and extend your knowledge and vocabulary. In this course you will learn how to research and explore specific current development projects run by International NGOs and Non-Profit Associations.

Development Studies 2: *Sustainable Development and the Environment*
This module takes an in depth look at how development impacts the environment, and looks more closely at sustainable development. You will learn how to explore topics related to sustainability, and analyse various sectors working in development, along with the environmental implications of development projects. Relevant examples, including news media articles, will be presented in the form of discussions and debates.

Development Studies 3: *Community Development*
This module provides an opportunity for you to explore concepts and different perspectives of community development through readings and research. The focus of the course is to encourage you to think about your own country and its local communities. The theme of sustainable development will be incorporated into discussions and a written essay on how development can impact the social environment of communities.

Course availability in 2016 (Course availability is dependent on demand and enrolments)

Trimester 1 (January – April)	Trimester 2 (May – August)	Trimester 3 (September – December)
Core 1	**Core 1**	**Core 1**
Core 2	**Core 2**	**Core 2**
Professional Writing 2 *(proposals and Reports)*	**Professional Writing 3** *(Presentations and Negotiations)*	**Media Studies 1** *(Modern Media)*
Development Studies 3 *(Community Development)*	**Creative Writing 1** *(Character, Setting and Point of view)*	**Creative Writing 2** *(From Conflict to Conclusion – Plot, …)*
Media Studies 3 *(International Issues in the Media)*	**Cross – Cultural Communications 1** *(Developing Cross – Culture Awareness)*	**Cross – Cultural Communications 1** *(Perspective on the world)*

The Young Learner Junior and Young Learner Senior Programs offer flexibility and aim to inspire young people aged 6 to 16 to become confident and proficient English language users by:

- developing reading, writing, listening and speaking skills systematically
- enriching students' grammar and vocabulary knowledge and usage
- engaging students with intriguing content
- enabling students to talk about their own lives
- expanding students' knowledge of the world
- nurturing active and independent learners
- stimulating thinking skills and creativity

Junior Program (for 6 – 12 year olds)

The Junior Program offers something for young people of all English abilities:

Junior Pre Elementary (JPRE)
Junior Elementary (JE)
Junior Pre-Intermediate (JPRI)
Junior Intermediate (JI)

Junior Program students study from the **Footprints** book series by Macmillan. Extra attention is given to developing reading skills through phonics work and the Oxford Reading Tree scheme. All courses include computer classes and project work which allows students to apply their language skills in meaningful and appropriate contexts.
At the end of the Junior Program students can join the Senior Program at the level most suited to their ability.

Senior Program (for 13 – 16 year olds)

The Senior Program offers something for teenagers of all ability levels:

Senior Elementary (SE)
Senior Pre-Intermediate (SPRI)
Senior Intermediate (SI)

Senior Program students study from the **English in Mind** book series by Cambridge, which combines engaging content with a strong focus on grammar and vocabulary. This is supplemented by an extensive reading program and our own writing program. There is additional project work which allows students to apply their language skills in meaningful and realistic ways.

At the end of the Senior Program, or on reaching the age of 16, students can join the Global English Program at the level most appropriate to their ability.