

Virtual Award Ceremony: “Celebrating champions – Cultivate academic dreams”

Part 4: Soft launch of Scholarship Programme – Phase 2 and insights on how to win the scholarship

Well, thanks to Ms. Nguyen Thanh Trang for sharing her insights and experiences. Now, let's move on and hear from Ms. Hoang Thi Thai Ha. As we all know, studying abroad is a dream for young generations – Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Ireland, are all excellent options that are gaining popularity among our families. As with phase 1, the second phase of “HSBC Premier & IDP Scholarships - Giving wings to overseas study ambitions” will assist many young Vietnamese talents to fulfil their dream of studying abroad. I would like to invite Ms. Thai Ha to share a few words to kick off the second contest.

Thank you, MC Mai Anh. Our second phase is still open for accepting your applications. So where do we seek for this second phase's information? From listening to the experiences of the first prize winners and two second prize winners earlier, we have already learned that if students have the determination and well preparation, they will be rewarded when participating in the ‘HSBC Premier & IDP Scholarships - Giving wings to overseas study ambitions’ programme.

Now let's move on to the next slide so we can see what the second phase structure looks like.

As we previously mentioned, our scholarship process will consist of three rounds. At present, you only need to apply to enter the contest ‘HSBC Premier and IDP scholarship - Giving wings to overseas study ambitions’. Here are the requirements for this scholarship: if you are in high school, you must have a GDP of 8 or higher; if you are in college or university, you must have a GDP of 7 or higher. You will also receive an additional point if you tag more than 20 friends or have 100 Facebook likes. Please keep in mind that from listening to the candidates in Round 1, we observed that some of them had a dream of studying abroad, but they could not reveal their dream of studying abroad, so they did not want to share that with their friends. So for the second round, we had made that a bonus score, rather than an obligatory one, and similarly, for those who already have an IELTS score of 6 or above, it is an advantage. Those of you who meet the demand for IELTS and Facebook scores, can confidently apply for round 1.

As previously stated, phase 2 is for candidates who plan to study abroad in Australia and New Zealand in the opening terms of S2 and S3 in 2022, and for those who plan to study abroad in

the UK, Ireland, the US or Canada in the opening term in autumn of 2022. You can all apply and register to join the scholarship online. The process is straightforward and quick. If you intend to begin your studies abroad in the semesters I mentioned earlier, you must submit a study abroad application by June 9, 2022. That gives you about three and half months to submit your application. We hope you'll be able to confidently put your best foot forward.

Those who meet the first round's criteria will advance to round 2, where you will be asked to present a plan for achieving your goal of studying abroad. As previously said, you have the option of writing an essay, making a video, or creating an infographic. Since this is a scholarship to support your dream of studying abroad, we will require the language to be English. You can take confidence from those who went before you as we discovered that the majority of the candidates taking part in phase 1 had a very good command of English. Please note that the issue is not language ability, but rather how authentic your study abroad plans are. Later, I'll discuss the considerations you should factor in when preparing your plan to study abroad. The submission deadline for round 2 is July 9, 2022.

As you will have noted, you have enough time between the time you finish applying for the study abroad program and the time you must submit the plan. In fact, those who participate in the second phase of our scholarship programme will have an advantage in terms of time. Those participating in Phase 1 had less time as we wanted to conclude everything before the Lunar New Year so that those who wanted to study abroad would know the results as soon as they began their first or second week of university.

If you perform well in the second preliminary round, you will be selected to make a presentation in the final round. For the presentation round, this is your chance to show how you plan to achieve your ambitions and dreams of studying abroad. At the same time, you must also demonstrate to the judges your financial management skills. This is the content that the students from the first-phase impressed us with. The truth is that when you prepare your application, you usually prioritise academic results over managing personal finances. Many applicants in the first phase researched and evaluated a variety of sources for this session. This enabled them to be highly self-assured when setting foot in another country, where they would be independent in life.

In this section, besides grading the content, we will examine your ability to convey and present your content, as well as your ability to answer questions from the judges. Again, the language for the second round is English. Like Ms. Trang also commented, your language ability in English is undoubtedly very good. Thus, we are confident that those of you who advance to

the final round will not need to be concerned about your English skills. The presentation time will be similar to the 1st round of presentations. For those of you starting S2 and S3 in autumn and summer semesters of 2022 in the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, and Ireland, you will be able to make presentations online from August 10 to August 25, 2022. If you starting your studies in the summer of S2, you will already be in the country where you are studying while students of S3 will be about to leave for the autumn semester -- however we hope you all have enough time to prepare well for the third and final round.

If you want more detailed information about the dates and times of the information I have shared, please scan the QR code on the screen, or you can search on Google for ‘HSBC Premier and IDP scholarships – Giving wings to overseas study ambitions’, or go on Facebook and search for the hashtags #HSBCPremier and #IDP, you will find a lot of posts from the candidates from the first phase.

Now, we'd like to share some scholarship-winning tips for those who are interested in the second round of this scholarship, as well as your friends who will participate in the first round, so that you can all prepare well.

To begin, you must register in order to participate. Please register with confidence, and we hope that today's sharing session will provide you with information to help you best prepare for round 2. Your response in the preliminary round, in which you are asked to submit the plan, should be on the correct topic. We are regretful that some of you answered the incorrect subject and were eliminated in the preliminary round. We hope you guys in round 2 will be prepared better.

All of our judges are given 5 grading criteria, according to our smart model... 'S' stands for specific. We want to know when you first started to dream of studying abroad and why you are so eager to study abroad. The second factor is 'M' which stands for measurable. That refers to whether or not the dream can be 'measured' – what exactly you need to accomplish in order to study abroad. For example, your academic performance, language ability as measured by IELTS qualifications, SAT or GMAT test results. Alternatively, if some schools require you to participate in extracurricular activities, you should be aware of which ones you need to enhance your profile. You must demonstrate all such requirements clearly. And, in order to achieve the standard score as well as all requirements regarding language ability, you must demonstrate how you intend to accomplish your goals. One of the candidates who won the award today, for example, stated that their current IELTS score is 4 points. To be able to study abroad and receive a scholarship from their dream school, they must have an IELTS score of 7 points.

They have three years to improve and a well-defined plan. Every year, they must increase by one band. They have a specific plan for where they will study, how they will practice skills, and so on in order to increase one band. So their strategy is very clear, and we believe it is very achievable.

What is 'non-achievable'? Well, for instance, there are 24 hours in a day, and we have 8 hours to rest, and about 4-5 hours to spend on personal activities, so if you set a goal of studying 20 hours a day, 6 days per week, we will evaluate that your plan cannot be accomplished. So, when making a plan, make sure it is achievable and realistic.. For example, if you want to study abroad, we know that the cost of studying abroad, including housing, ranges between 600 million and one billion VND per year. Let's see if a family can afford it and how much they want to receive from the scholarship. After deducting the scholarship, and determining whether a family can afford it or not, we will see if it's realistic.

Next, remember all your plans need time to be implemented, so once that time has passed, we can assess whether or not your plan was successful. During the planning round, all judges evaluate candidates based on our five SMART criteria. The remaining issue is whether you adhere to the criteria and requirements of the subject or not. After you have done well in the planning part, you can confidently prepare for your presentation. Earlier we learned how the first-place winner, Ngo Viet Nam Phuong practiced her presentation 20 times, listening to herself before practicing again to prepare. So we have one question for all candidates: how much time do you plan to spend preparing this presentation and to understand the material as well as seeking advice from others?

Common factors for your success are that you take the time to research documents and consult with friends who have studied abroad or are currently studying abroad to review thoughts, directions, or presentations, regardless of whether they are logical or not. Candidates from the first phase presented in a very professional manner. For example, some of them said that they would present through Canvas instead of PowerPoint because PowerPoint is too common for them. They wanted to distinguish themselves from other candidates. Or they might have made a presentation based on popular movies seen on Netflix to express their ideas, or used their own, one-of-a-kind images. Moreover, in the financial management planning session, candidates in the first phase used a lot of different models to demonstrate that they had done their research and preparation well. You should also practice your presentation, and remember that the winners said they practiced a lot and spent a lot of time on it. You can ask your friends and family to be the judges to determine whether or not the presentation is convincing. You

should also carefully analyse the video and replay it to see how you are doing. This is a crucial element. As the saying goes, "if you fail to plan, you plan to fail" so these planning and practicing steps are essential. You should also try to anticipate what questions you will be asked and try to answer those questions. The judges will never make it difficult but will instead create opportunities for you to speak at your most comfortable. But this is a highly competitive scholarship, so we will ask questions so that you can show your ability to answer questions as well as your ability to improvise in the communication process. To prepare well, you should also consider how you would answer hypothetical questions.

There is one more point that I also want to share with you all. If you think your profile doesn't stand out enough, don't worry too much. When we offer this scholarship, we look for high school students with a GPA of 8 or higher, or college graduates with a GPA of 7 or higher. Those who reach that level are eligible for a scholarship. The matter is whether you are well prepared for both the preliminary part and the presentation. Consequently, I can repeat that this scholarship is not only for candidates from specialised schools, international schools, or from big cities, but for those of you who have worked hard. Furthermore, this scholarship is not only for candidates with high IELTS scores. Indeed, high IELTS scores do not necessarily mean high results for the scholarship. The judges are extremely fair to all candidates, and IELTS is only a bonus. Those with a high IELTS score make up a small percentage of the total. When you pass the application round, which means you have an 8-point GPA for high school students and a 7-point GPA for college students, whether you win or lose is determined by the results of the planning and presentation rounds. You can relax because your GPA and IELTS do not determine the results of preliminary round or the final.

Hopefully, by sharing my preparation tips to winning a scholarship, those preparing for the second round of the HSBC Premier and IDP scholarships will feel more self-assured about their dream of studying abroad when taking the first step of applying. Right after this session ends, you can register and prepare with confidence.

Remember to win the scholarship, you need to prepare a study abroad application, so the consulting team will be ready to assist and offer advice on everything from choosing a school to choosing your major, choosing a location that suits your budget, setting your expectations, and identifying any scholarships you might qualify for. In addition to the HSBC scholarship, for example, you may be eligible for a scholarship from your overseas university of choice. IDP will provide a lot of support with applying for a student visa. After receiving the letter of admission as well as the VISA to study abroad, IDP will perform other essential services to

support you so you have a favourable experience when you arrive in the foreign country to begin your studies. IDP's service means when you register for IDP's partner schools, of which there are more than 1,000 in six countries (the UK, Ireland, Canada, USA, Australia, and New Zealand), you will receive a completely free consultation.

In addition to being supported and advised by an IDP consultant, you will also have the opportunity to meet a representative of the school through IDP's online study abroad counselling days on Saturday and Sunday (5 March and 6 March) from 9 to 12 o'clock. You can register with the counsellors you've met or through the IDP website. Furthermore, IDP is also launching the IDP Live app, which is a new, unique study abroad app that allows you to search for information about international studies on your phone and other smart devices. If you are very busy at school, you can use the app to easily search for information about the country you want to study in, the school you want to attend, and IDP can track the applications you submit in the evening and IDP can track the applications you submit in the evening. If you submit your application through IDP, for example, you will know what stage your application is in, and which school has made you an offer. It does not take much time to follow up on the application process. In Ho Chi Minh City, you can visit the following offices: 36 Mac Dinh Chi Street in District 1, 77 Tran Nhan Tong Street in District 5, and 2 Nguyen Thi Thap Street in District 7. In Hanoi, we have the offices at 30 Trieu Viet Vuong, Ngoc Khanh. In Da Nang, we have an office in Ngo Gia Tu Street. In Can Tho, we have an office at 14-16B Hoa Binh Street. Furthermore, for those of you who live far away and are unable to visit the physical office, you can visit the online office via the links on the IDP website. Currently, the online office is available to serve students in Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Dong Nai, Binh Duong, Vung Tau. If you are from another province, you can still participate. You just need to register at the online office, IDP's counsellors will contact to support you, just like the format that we are using for the award today. So that's the end of my talk. Now we will return to MC Mai Anh...

Thank you for sharing all of those useful insights, Ms. Thai Ha. If you would like more details about the contest, its rules, key dates, and prizes, please refer to IDP or HSBC's websites for further instructions. HSBC Premier and IDP believe that the study abroad scholarship program, 'Giving wings to overseas study ambitions' with cash prizes and practical educational gifts, will be the driving force for students to discover their potential and become brave and successful individuals thanks to their upcoming study abroad journey.

Finally, I'd like to thank the contest organisers and judges for their contributions to the program's success. And now the online award ceremony “Celebrating champions – Cultivate academic dreams” has come to an end. My sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of the parents, students, and guests who joined us here today. I wish everyone a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you again at the award ceremony for the Phase 2. Thank you very much.