

**The university choice and its implications on the employment attainment of Hanoi's graduates. The influence of the internationalization and the privatization policies on Viet Nam's higher education**

During the 1990s, Viet Nam's higher education has undergone through a comprehensive reorganization of the system. The progressive privatization and internationalization are considered as the most significant reforms for the future development of the university sector. As a result, Vietnamese students can now choose themselves to which type of university to apply for.

However, higher education in Viet Nam needs to undertake further reforms in order to adapt to the rapidly changing labour market. Despite the drastic increase of the number of graduates and the economic growth of the country, the urban unemployment rate has risen during the last years and graduates seem to struggle to find a job after their studies. In such a context, it is crucial to understand the students' university choice process as well as the implications of this choice on future employment attainment.

The originality of our PhD research is to demonstrate that in Viet Nam the university choice plays an important role in graduates' transition towards the employment sector and to analyse how the effects of the ongoing internationalization and privatization of higher education affects the university choice.

The university choice in Viet Nam will represent the core of our study. At the first stage of the research, we will illustrate the impact both the internationalization and the privatization policies have on the Vietnamese higher education sector; subsequently, through a comparative approach between public and private universities, we will analyze the possible repercussions of these transformations on students' university choice and the related implications on the graduates' employment attainment. As a nation-wide analysis would be inappropriate for the scope of this PhD research, Hanoi has been selected as a study case.