

AIS FOUNDERS AWARD

The AIS Founders Award was initiated by the founders of the Australian International School, Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy and Nigel Russell. It was their vision, expertise and passion for education that led to the establishment of AIS in Ho Chi Minh City in August 2006. The School is now one of the top IB “World Schools” in Vietnam with over 1,300 students from 40 different nationalities at 3 campuses in District 2.

Set up in 2019 by the Nguyen&Russell Foundation, the AIS Founders Award is granted annually (commencing 2020), with one to three awards available each year.

The recipient(s) will be a student(s) (or a group of students) who currently study at AIS, and who want to have a positive influence on the world in one of three fields by:

- (*Climate Change*): raising public awareness of the causes and consequences of climate change, and of how to reduce its impact in Vietnam, or
- (*Wildlife Products*): campaigning in innovative ways to terminate the use of wildlife products in Vietnam, or
- (*Sustainable Development*): promoting sustainable development in Vietnam, by encouraging people to change their habits and actions in order to protect the environment.

Vietnam is one of the countries most affected by climate change. HCMC is the third fastest “sinking city” in the world. The Founders Award aims to raise public awareness of our dependence on fossil fuels and its consequences, and to focus on ways in which we can lessen the impact of climate change.

Vietnam also is one of the largest consumers and transit markets for wildlife products, such as rhino horns, elephant tusks, and pangolia scales. The Award aims to contribute to terminating the use of these products in Vietnam.

The Award will recognize passion for community work as well as personal qualities for future success, such as vision, leadership, integrity, energy and capacity for work.

As part of the AIS Founders Award, the Nguyen&Russell Foundation will arrange for a Guest Speaker to visit the School each year. The Guest Speaker will be an internationally recognised expert in one of the Award’s three fields, ie Climate Change, Wildlife Products or Sustainable Development. He/she will present to and speak with AIS Secondary School students, with a view to inspiring them to take action and participate in the AIS Founders Award.

Award Benefits

The Award will include funding up to VND200,000,000 per academic year to implement the winning plan(s). The Award may be granted in conjunction with any other scholarships and awards from the School.

The Award funding will be granted for up to three years, subject to annual review of the project’s performance, budget and outcomes.

The Award winner will receive coaching and mentoring during the implementation of their project, and will be given a letter of recognition that may be used in university applications.

Applications

The closing date for applications is 30 May each year. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Have attended AIS for a continuous period of at least one year by the end of the year of application,
2. Be currently enrolled in Years 9, 10 or 11 and have a good record of academic achievement, and
3. Have attended and participated in the Guest Speaker event.

An awarded project could qualify as the whole or a part of a student's CAS project for the IB's Diploma Program.

Applicants must fill-in and submit the online Application Form, together with:

- Copies of academic results gained in the previous 12 months, together with the most recent school report,
- A CV introducing the applicant, and
- An explanation of the project concept, an action plan and an annual budget

Selection Panel

The Selection Panel is appointed by the Nguyen&Russell Foundation.

It will consist of two representatives of the Foundation (one of whom shall chair the Panel) and the AIS Principal. A senior member of staff of Secondary School and a person with expertise in one of the three Award fields may also be appointed to the Panel.

The Panel may short-list and interview any applicants before granting an Award(s). The Award(s) shall be announced at the AIS Graduation Ceremony.