

Teaching Statement – Dr. Cong Tam Trinh

I have over ten years of academic and professional experience in Australia and Vietnam, and my student-focused philosophy of education is founded upon clarity, relevance to real-world applications, and interactive engagement. My philosophy is that effective teaching imparts knowledge and promotes critical thinking, sensitivity to cultures, and lifelong learning.

My pedagogical method combines solid theoretical underpinnings with real-world examples taken from actual economic problems and institutional processes. I always challenge my students to place classroom learning into wider social, political, and policy contexts consistent with UNSW's goal of education with relevance.

I have lectured undergraduate and postgraduate classes at Deakin University and International University (VNU-HCMC) in courses ranging from microeconomics, macroeconomics, behavior economics, and international economics to maths for business. In the period of 2022–2023, I have lectured and assessed Economics for Managers (MPE781) alone at Deakin University. For all my classes at IU-VNU, I lecture in English in internationally accredited programs (ACBSP), frequently assisting dual-degree or transfer pathway students.

My instruction consistently receives high evaluations from the student body, with an average of 4.60/5.00 over five academic terms. For the period 2022–2023, my highest ever average of 4.79 indicates outstanding student engagement and academic achievement. Student feedback frequently praises my explanatory lucidity, passion, and ability to make theory relevant to application.

I have supervised 20 undergraduate dissertations and two master's dissertations, focusing on the improvement of independent analytical and research skills. Through them, my emphasis is placed upon both ethical scholarship and applied econometrics, as well as evidence-based reasoning.

I have experience in online and blended instruction and have utilised Moodle and other learning management systems, as well as incorporated digital tools like real-time polls, discussion threads, and collaborative case study exercises. Utilising IMF, World Bank, and OECD data, my students are able to analyse real-world economic trends and policy issues, developing skills in policy thinking and applying data literacy.

On the programmatic level, I have worked on aligning the curriculum with AACSB learning objectives and balancing rigour and relevance. My passion for diversity and accessibility has influenced my teaching methods—assisting international students, ESL candidates, and first-generation university students with accommodations and intensive academic advising.

The school's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, pedagogical innovation, and research-informed instruction draws me in. I believe that my skills and experience make me well-suited to develop and present motivating economics courses in different delivery modes and student cohorts. I also anticipate mentoring students, curriculum planning, and advancing Australian/Vietnamese university's more general educational mission through effective instruction, equity engagement, and ongoing learning.