HOAI NGUYEN PHAM



Country of origin : Vietnam

Programme : ICP scholarship Master of Transportation Sciences + PhD in Transportation Sciences

Graduated : 2019 + 2026

Current position : Lecturer and Director of the Bachelor's Programme in Smart Mobility and Operations Management (BMOM), Institute of Smart City and Management (ISCM), University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH)

Why did you choose the Master of Transportation Sciences at UHasselt?

Coming from a business administration background, I was interested in understanding how transportation systems influence people's daily lives and contribute to sustainable development. The Master of Transportation Sciences at UHasselt, particularly its specialisation in Road Safety in the South, offered a unique opportunity to explore transportation challenges through an interdisciplinary and international perspective, with a strong focus on real-world issues in developing countries.

What was the most valuable aspect of the programme for you?

The most valuable aspect was learning how to approach transportation challenges critically, systematically, and from multiple perspectives. Beyond technical knowledge, the programme helped me understand the relationships between human behaviour, infrastructure, policy, and society. Equally important was the international learning environment, which encouraged me to think beyond conventional solutions and explore how research and innovation can address real-world mobility challenges.

Which knowledge or skills gained during the programme do you still use in your current job?

The analytical thinking, research methodologies, and interdisciplinary problem-solving skills I developed at UHasselt remain fundamental to my work today. At ISCM–UEH, I apply and further develop these competencies across smart mobility, sustainable accessibility, and urban transportation systems.

My current work also involves exploring emerging approaches such as Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS), demand-responsive transport, and Living Labs, where research, technology, and stakeholder collaboration come together to develop and test innovative mobility solutions. In teaching, I am particularly interested in

integrating simulation, virtual reality, and experiential learning to help students connect transportation theories with real-world applications.

How has the programme contributed to your professional career?

The programme was a turning point in my academic and professional journey. It laid the foundation for my subsequent PhD in Transportation Sciences at UHasselt, which I successfully defended in February 2026, focusing on improving road safety among adolescent cyclists and motorcyclists in Vietnam.

Today, as a lecturer and programme director of BMOM at ISCM–UEH, I have the opportunity to build on that foundation by developing interdisciplinary education, conducting applied research, and fostering collaborations between academia, industry, and local communities.

One particularly rewarding aspect of my current role is helping shape a new generation of mobility professionals who can combine transportation knowledge with digital technologies, innovation, and sustainable urban development. Looking back, UHasselt did not simply prepare me for a career in transportation; it helped shape the way I think, teach, research, and contribute to society.

What advice would you give to future students?

Stay curious, embrace the international learning environment, and do not be afraid to step outside your original academic background. Transportation is no longer only about moving people and goods; it is increasingly connected to accessibility, digital innovation, sustainability, and quality of life.

Make the most of the knowledge, people, and experiences you encounter at UHasselt. The skills and perspectives you develop may open doors to opportunities and career paths you cannot yet imagine.