LEARNING @ FNU

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE ‘NEW LOOK’ WORKFORCE WITH FNU QUALIFICATION

FNU INTRODUCES MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE
Whether you are a high school leaver, a mature entrant or a postgraduate returning to pursue further studies, Fiji National University (FNU) offers a wide range of Certificate, Diploma, Degree and short courses to redirect your career path to the 'new look' workforce that has been brought about due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic.

The world has witnessed several epidemics in the past century, but most of them were localised, tending to affect only a few countries or regions. Nothing comes close to COVID-19 in terms of global coverage – driven largely by a very efficient air transport system.

For the first time, the entire world shut down; grounding international and even intra-national travel, business and education delivery. As a result, there are potential shifts in the workforce, and many people around the globe have also lost their jobs and are struggling to earn their living.

Given the shift in the global workforce because of COVID-19, it has become imperative for education providers to realign their study options to suit the 'new look' workforce.

The current global knowledge economy has also led to higher education, becoming the key to building a career that allows you to fulfil your potential. Education and training have become a necessity for success in this new global economy.

At FNU, our teaching staff, with strong industry experience, are ready to assist you in preparing to meet the changing needs of the workforce and the global economy. Our academics will help you acquire new knowledge and competencies. More importantly, you will develop the critical thinking skills to continue learning and adapting for the world to come.

We believe in empowerment and creating graduate leaders who are creative, intellectually versatile with a 'can-do' attitude contributing towards positive development in communities as well as enhancing economic growth.

The University has a friendly, vibrant and exciting environment – enabling the students to seamlessly transition into their studies. At FNU, we are focused on developing a culture of excellence that resonates throughout our academic history.

Semester II enrolment is now open, and students can complete the entire enrolment process online. However, if any student requires additional information and assistance, then they are welcome to visit any FNU Campus. Staff at all Campuses will be assisting students with the enrolment process and at the same time will provide academic counselling to candidates who require it.

You can visit the University website - www.fnu.ac.fj/pgmlist-sem2.pdf to learn further about our programmes and apply online.

Professor Paul Iji  
Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching
FNU offers international standard Higher Degrees by Research programmes

The Fiji National University (FNU) is an institution of influence fostering a research community defined by global connectedness and networks with national and international research peers.

The University supports research in a broad range of areas relevant to Fiji in partnerships with the government and industries to grow our research activities and achievements for the transformation of our societies and economy.

Keeping a focus on applied research to address issues pertinent to national development, FNU is now offering higher degrees by research (PhD and Masters) in key disciplines.

The FNU doctoral programmes are designed to support research candidates with research preparatory courses and monitoring of research project progression with three milestones – a candidature confirmation within 10 months of enrolment; a mid-candidature review within 20 months and a completion seminar the end of 30 months. Duration of the programme is 3 years full time and 6 years part-time.

Our PhD and Masters by Research students form a valuable part of the University research community. Our research students will have the ability to work on real and important issues for Fiji, as they drive a significant percentage of the University’s research output.

**Doctor of Philosophy Programme**

These programmes are of international standards, meeting the requirements of Quality Assurance Agency, UK; Australian Qualification Framework 10 and Fiji Higher Education Commission Framework 10.

The PhD programme is a level 10 program, comprising a 60,000 to 100,000-word thesis, to be examined by two external examiners, followed by an oral examination (viva voce). The research preparatory courses and monitoring of project progression promote excellence and ensure timely completions.

Disciplines of study for Doctor of Philosophy include:
- Medicine, Nursing and Health Science
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies
- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Education and Humanities

**Entry requirement**

The minimum requirements for admission to a PhD programme are:

a. A Bachelors degree with first or upper second class honours at level 8, including a research component compromised of a thesis; or
b. A Masters degree by coursework with a GPA of 4 or above (FNU GPA equivalent) at level 9; or
c. A Masters by Research degree in a relevant discipline at level 9; or
d. Evidence of academic qualification and/or experience that satisfies the Higher Degree by Research Committee (HDRC) that the applicant has developed knowledge of the field of study or cognate field and has the potential for research that is sufficient to undertake the proposed programme.

**Masters by Research Programme**

The FNU Masters by Research programmes are designed to support research candidates with research preparatory courses, and monitoring of research project progression with two milestones - a candidature confirmation within 8 months of enrolment; and a completion seminar at the end of 18 months. Duration of the programme is 2 years full time and 4 years part-time. At the end of their completion seminar, the candidate can apply to upgrade from the masters to PhD studies.

Masters by Research programmes are level 9 programmes comprising a 40,000 to a 60,000-word thesis which must be the student’s own work, embody the results of the research work undertaken by the student guided by two supervisors.

These programmes meet the requirements of Quality Assurance Agency, UK; Australian Qualification Framework 9; and Fiji Higher Education Commission Framework 9. Duration of the Programme is 2 years full time and 4 years part-time.

Disciplines of study for Masters by Research include:
- Medicine, Nursing and Health Science
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies
- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Education and Humanities

**Entry requirement**

The minimum requirements for admission to a Masters by Research programme are:

a. A Bachelor’s degree with a GPA of 4 or above (FNU GPA equivalent) at level 7; or
b. A graduate diploma with a GPA of 3.5 or above (FNU GPA equivalent) at level 8; or
c. A Masters by coursework at level 9; or
d. Evidence of academic qualification and/or experience that satisfies the HDRC that the applicant has developed knowledge of the field of study or cognate field and has the potential for research that is sufficient to undertake the proposed programme.

The medium of instruction at FNU is English language. Students must be sufficiently fluent in English to pursue HDR Programmes. HDR students will provide evidence from undergraduate qualifications/other English qualifications that confirm the English language competency.

Applicants can apply for HDR admission through online portal available on FNU website [https://www.fnu.ac.fj/new/research-at-fiji-national-university](https://www.fnu.ac.fj/new/research-at-fiji-national-university)
Vonotabua dreams of becoming an entrepreneur

For 20-year-old Fiji National University (FNU) student, Tevita Vonotabua, pursuing his Bachelor’s degree is just the first step to his ultimate entrepreneurship dream of starting a computer business in his village of Nawaikama, Gau in the Lomaiviti Group.

Taufiq Muzzammil Hasan, a Bachelor of Commerce in Industrial Relations and Human Resources Management and Information System student, a programme offered under FNU’s College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism (CBHTS) at the Nasinu Campus, said, “I have always been passionate about computers hence I enrolled for this programme, and since it was a double major, I selected HR and IR which is great, and it provides me with a better understanding of the employee and employer relationship. This will be a great benefit to me when I start my business,” Vonotabua said excitedly.

“The atmosphere here is very different and life is fast-paced. Things were quite difficult in the beginning as I needed some time to adjust to the surrounding, however, I am doing pretty well now,” he mentioned with a bright smile.

The second-year CBHTS student has encouraged prospective students to join FNU as the Fiji National University provides the best possible outcomes for students through student-centred and high-structured teaching. Lecturers have vast knowledge in their respective fields and they go an extra mile to assist their students,” he shared.

Hassan pursues Baking and Patisserie studies

From a young age, Taufiq Muzzammil Hasan developed his mum’s passion for baking mouthwatering cakes, delicious tarts, scrumptious cookies and desserts to mark special family occasions or when having relatives and friends over at their home.

The former Lautoka Mulsim school student said, “As I grow older, I admired all the chefs who turn their fantasies into the delicious creations we enjoy today. So I started thinking about becoming a pastry chef,” he said.

Some of the essential aspects Hasan said he has learnt through his training include time management, baking fundamentals and techniques.

The aspiring businessman who has always been passionate about helping others believes now he has so much to give back to his people.

“For me, it’s all about taking the right opportunities when it comes to education,” he added.

The Gau man believes hard work and perseverance is the key to him reach University.

“Not everyone back on the island can gain a tertiary education. I feel blessed that I am one of the lucky ones,” he added.

The former Lautoka Mulism school student said while he was confident that with his talent, he would have landed a job, attending proper training will assist him in fine-tuning and perfecting his craft and baking knowledge.

“The programme will help me learn the vital skills to succeed in the baking industry. Qualified bakers and pastry chefs have the edge over other individuals as they have the opportunity to learn from the industry experts.”

“A qualification in baking and patisserie not only put us ahead to find a job but also helps us to learn the correct and safe procedures in the kitchen,” he adds.

Hassan, who is considering going into baking and patisserie business in future, believes that it is a good idea to have a formal qualification in the field.

“If you are contemplating to venture into a bakery business, potential customers will always find it comforting to know that you are qualified in your field,” he said.

After completing his programme, Hasan is looking forward to work as a pastry chef in a bakery shop or enter the hospitality industry and later go for a higher level of study, such as Certificate IV in Baking & Patisserie.
The on-going coronavirus pandemic has already changed global life in many ways that will forever change our culture and the society we live in even after the pandemic ends.

The pandemic has also restructured the world economy through changes to the order of importance of industries. Depending on the region, some industries have declined and this is true for tourism and certain minerals, for example, petroleum. Agriculture has gained in popularity, not only as a supplier of food but of several products, including textiles and biofuels. There will be a need for more specialists going into the future.

Keeping in mind the consistent substantial global food-security implications and the importance of the agricultural sector to the Pacific, Fiji National University (FNU) has developed a unique Master of Science in Agriculture programme. The University Pacific, Fiji National University (FNU) has developed a unique qualification, which is coursework and research-based designed to equip students with subject-specific professional knowledge in conceptual, scientific and technical competencies related to the candidate’s background area of interest.

The areas of courses offered are agronomy, agribusiness, agricultural engineering, agricultural extension, entomology, plant, genetics and breeding, horticulture, plant pathology, soil science and animal production.

“Another major differentiation of this programme is the development of open clusters, which provides candidates with the choice to rigidity specialise in an area of agriculture or choose across disciplines to suit their interest. The programme demonstrates a rich course profile, covering all areas of agriculture as they would apply to the Pacific region now and into the future.”

The Master of Science in Agriculture Programme comprises a minimum of 240 credit points with at least 120 credit points at Level 8 and 120 credit points at Level 9. This can be completed by one year of course works (120 credit points) and a thesis corresponding to 120 credit points for every worked years of course works (180 credit points) and a supervised research project corresponding to 60 credit points.

Minimum Entry Requirements

a. The minimum entry requirement for admission to a degree of Master shall be the completion of a Bachelor’s degree programme in Agriculture with a minimum GPA of 3.0, or equivalent.

b. Graduates with a Postgraduate Diploma in Agriculture qualification will be directly admitted in the second year of the programme.

c. Applicants may also be admitted to the Master’s degree programme who may not meet the requirement above, but who are able to demonstrate their ability to succeed in the programmes at this level on the basis of maturity, work experience, or prior learning. The Dean may place any relevant prerequisite requirement for such a student to progress, or require such an applicant to sit for any specific or general examination as a prerequisite for any such enrolment, or may restrict enrolment only to certain prescribed courses that must be passed to progress further.

“I loved learning Math from primary level and Physics puts Math to use, hence I wanted to enhance my skills with the subject that interest me,” she added.

“The Post-Graduate Diploma in Physics programme which I’m studying is developing a more scientific person in me. I have gained a more scientific attitude to different processes happening in nature,” said Prakash.

According to Prakash, furthering her education provides a positive ripple effect on the students she teaches.

“The one thing that I have always loved about Physics and that something that I always teach my students is that this subject inculcates different approaches of defining materials we come across in everyday life,” she highlighted.

“Through the Post Graduate Diploma in Physics programme, I see the things happening around me with a whole new perspective and have an urge to discovering even more,” expressed Prakash.

“It has been an exciting journey with FNU. Each unit is tailored in a way that immensely uplifts our intellectual and psychomotor abilities. The laboratories are well-furnished to facilitate innovative practical work. The lecturers are helpful, experienced and professional,” added the final-year student.

Balancing work and studies has always been a challenge for every working student and Prakash’s situation is not any different.

“I always ensure that I give equal attention to my work and studies and neither of them is neglected. My husband Atl Prakash also keeps on motivating and supporting me in every possible way.”

Knowing that there’s light at the end of the tunnel, Prakash continuously works hard and in upskilling herself and learning new things each day.

“You can overcome every challenge with strong will power and maintaining focus on the goals that you have set for yourself and this is what that has helped me sail through,” she said.

Prakash said the Post Graduate Diploma in Physics programme has provided the key stepping stone to her career.

“This programme gives a very enriching learning experience and will surely help them develop a more scientific reasoning behaviour enabling them to know that learning physics is fun and the more they get into it, the more rewarding it gets,” she said.
Upgrading qualifications is a key component in career progress – Maharaj

Neil Maharaj, Executive Officer at Rotary Pacific Water for Life Foundation, believes education is the cornerstone to one’s career progression. According to the 36-year-old, the changing global environment demands employees to keep learning and training to maintain and progress steadily in their careers.

“As I progressed with work life, I realised that due to lack of education, my growth was limited and I could not get a promotion or advance in work life. My mentors including my mother Satwant Prakash guided me to pursue an education if I needed to progress in my professional life,” said Maharaj.

Recognising the need to upgrade, Maharaj enrolled at the Fiji National University 3 years ago and recently graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Management and Marketing.

“This is absolute contentment as I have worked extremely hard to attain this goal,” he said.

As I progressed with different roles and transitioned from private sector to non-governmental organisation, which has a vast difference, I noticed that due to lack of qualification it was a mostly horizontal transition.”

“As soon as I enrolled in the Bachelor’s programme at FNU, I started receiving vertical growth in my roles which were getting me more promotions at work. With the management major, I was able to apply leadership and administration skills, and with a marketing major, I was able to promote my work through innovative ways,” Maharaj highlighted.

“I always envisioned myself to be a good manager with great publicity and visibility skills, and I am elated to have achieved this.”

Reminiscing his tertiary journey, Maharaj said the learning environment at FNU is conducive for working students who are struggling with work commitment and education, which enabled him to easily relate to the experiences. It is with this mind-set that Devi decided to enrol at the Fiji National University’s (FNU) Trade Diploma in Culinary Arts in 2018.

After working in administration for over five years, twenty-eight-year-old realised she needed to re-set her career goal and opted to join FNU.

While the plan to re-invent her career path was a big decision, Devi said she proceeded with a great sense of optimism.

“I found myself in a career rut, and I figured that enrolling in the culinary programme would give me a chance at something completely different and make me more marketable as a chef,” she said.

The Tavua native said that so much human interaction revolves around food such as brunch, meetings, lunches and dinner parties, and there is always a way to or from a meal.

“This is a great indication that there are job prospects in nearly every sector of the job market, from event catering, kitchen management, and hospitality to nutrition consulting, cafeteria administration, and restaurant ownership,” she adds.

Growing up, Devi had a strong passion for cooking meals and always gave a helping hand in the kitchen. As she grew older, she developed a keen interest in preparing exquisite dishes for family and friends.

The Trade Diploma will help Devi to gain the experience and skills needed to enter a career as a chef where she can create delicious dishes and learn how to present the aesthetically-pleasing plate.

“I will acquire the basic skills of culinary arts and fulfil her life passion for cooking,” she said.

“I chose to study at FNU because there is a good balance of hands-on training and class time. The knowledge I have gained so far makes me see the world in the most vibrant and wonderful ways imaginable,” she added.

Devi has realised that working in the culinary industry can be tough, but she feels satisfied when she sees her completed dish on a plate.

“Working in this industry also feels like getting an extra value meal, because you end up receiving a lot more in return. You learn determination and valuable life skills,” she explains.

A foodie herself, Devi enjoys studying at the FNU Namaka Campus, Nadi and loves to connect with people who share a passion for food.

“I have learned during my culinary programme that there are a lot more ways to communicate your passion to others besides just talking. Food is a wonderful way to connect with people and create unique experiences for them to enjoy,” she said.

After completing her studies, Devi is interested in catering for special populations, including vegetarians, vegans and people who need to eat gluten-free.

Devi on the path of career re-invention
D o you want to be part of the process where national policies are formed and implemented to address critical issues faced by a country? Are you interested in understanding the importance of national policies, especially in areas of social issues such as education, security, health, poverty alleviation and wellbeing?

If your answer is Yes, then enrol now at the Fiji National University’s (FNU) Interdisciplinary Programmes in Social Policy and become part of the solution to assist with the nation’s issues on important topics such as diversity, social exclusion, human rights and how they are linked with national and global development.

You can either take up a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Policy or Masters, or PhD in Social Policy if you meet the entry requirements.

Offered by the College of Humanities and Education (CHE) at Nasinu Campus, the programme provides training in Social Policy with analytical and research skills that prepare graduates to examine the origins of social policies within the broad context of national development.

The ideologies and strategies of development are critically examined from a post-colonial perspective to shed light on the challenges of social and economic development in developing countries.

The Social Policy programmes at FNU analyses the different roles of the government, family and kin, civil society and non-governmental organisations, the market, and international organisations in providing relevant and needed services in the country.

“The national policies are always informed by, and designed from, the context and knowledge of globalisation, international relations and domestic socioeconomic and cultural conditions. These are aspects of policy that students need to be aware to enhance their understanding of either policy failures or successes” said CHE Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research and the Coordinator of the Social Policy programme, Professor Nii-K Plange.

“Universities have the responsibility to equip students with the skills to understand the complexities of the world, participate meaningfully in national dialogue that responds to these challenges and the policy interventions designed to effect positive social change as outcomes.”

“Given the complex nature of these challenges, the search for solutions would, invariably, require multiple academic disciplinary orientations. To this end, the University provides training in social policy, through an interdisciplinary degree programme, as an effective strategy of building the capacity of students to contribute to nation-building,” said Prof Plange.

According to CHE Assistant Professor, Department of Ethics and Governance, Dr Asinate Mauiso FNU’s Social Policy programmes are solution-oriented and moulds students to think critically, be innovative and provides guidance on conducting independent research to explore alternative strategies of reducing inequalities in accessing services.

“Developing countries like Fiji need policy experts in the public sector, and the social policy programme provides training for policy analysts and policy specialists,” Mauiso highlighted.

“We need to build our local stock of policy experts and our programme seeks to do just that.”

Below is a brief outline of each programme and the minimum entry requirements;

Postgraduate Diploma in Social Policy
Students with a B+ average in any undergraduate degree can enrol in this one-year full-time studies programme. Five units are offered with teaching delivered through weekly lectures and self-directed work.

Master of Arts in Social Policy
Successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma with an average of B+ will qualify for accession into the Master of Arts in Social Policy Programme. The Master of Arts will be a combination of two high level courses in theory and Research methods and a Thesis under a supervisor. This is a two-year full-time programme.

PhD in Social Policy
The three-year full-time PhD in Social Policy will be a combination of two high level courses and Thesis under a supervisor.

Career pathways:
Graduates career options include teaching, working as a Policy Adviser for national/ regional and international organisations; Civil Society and Faith-based Organisations. Graduates can also work for the private sector or statutory organisations as Policy Research Officer or Adviser.

Tony Kwato’o
Head of Mathematics and Computing Department
Motufoua Secondary School

Coming from the field of Mathematics and Information Systems and taking up studies in Social Policy at Postgraduate level was a challenging but worthwhile journey. The wealth of knowledge of the course instructors was a great help to me in grasping the fundamentals of this programme. I was able to understand the principles, legislation, guidelines and activities that affect people’s welfare. Through this programme, I was able to understand the various policies implemented by governments. The outstanding feature of this course is that it draws attention to real-world situations – I got to understand the various policies implemented by Fiji and even my home country, Tuvalu. It was intriguing for me to learn how some of the policies are designed to address the national issues and at the same time be able to maintain a good relationship with the global community. Apart from the academic gains, I also made a lot of friends from different Pacific government ministries and Non-government Organisations (NGOs).
Solomon Islander Nash Mazini remembers the proudest moment of his life as when he walked the aisle at the Fiji National University’s (FNU’s) graduation ceremony in March this year to receive his Bachelor of Science (Computer Science & Information Systems) degree. The regional alumnus of the university says that this moment not only made him proud but also boosted his confidence as this took him closer to securing permanent employment. “I had started working after completing Foundation Studies and thought that was how the rest of my life would be. I never thought I would be doing further studies, and that too in Fiji.”

Mazini was born and raised in the Solomon Islands with his three siblings. “I come from a humble middle-class family. My father was an Architect by profession, and my mother is a housewife. Though my parents faced hard times over the years, they never let my siblings and me down. I have always looked up to my parents as the pillars of success, and I am very proud of them. Sadly, my father passed away in 2008.”

Education and Career
Mazini completed Foundation Studies at the University of the South Pacific (USP) Solomon Islands Campus in 2008. He then began working for Solomon Telekom Company Limited (STCL) as a Senior Technician – Internet Helpdesk in August 2009. In his role, he was responsible for internet service delivery support and development. After completing four years, he was promoted to the position of Sales Consultant – Internet Services. This role required him to provide presales technical and functional support to prospective and existing internet customers while ensuring customer satisfaction through in-person sales efforts.

He worked diligently at STCL for another three years, after which he decided to undertake an academic qualification to gain technical and in-depth knowledge relevant to his work as well as to progress further in his career.

“I also felt insecure working as a senior staff without any proper qualification, knowing very well that the company can replace me with a qualified individual anytime they wished to. Therefore, I decided to undertake my undergraduate studies in 2017.”

Mazini decided to pursue a Bachelor of Science (Computer Science & Information Systems) at FNU’s College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST). The Solomon Islands Government-sponsored his studies.

“I saw FNU as a technical university that prepares its students for the job market. That’s why the university consistently offers several significant programmes and resources for students to help them develop as individuals and professionals. These include job interview tips, networking help, job fairs, employability skills workshops, and personalised career advice. From the beginning of the application and admissions process to the day you walk across the stage in a cap and gown ceremony, FNU is there to serve all current and future aspirant students,” shared Mazini.

He resigned in January 2017 and came to Fiji to embark on a new journey. “It was difficult leaving my wife and kids behind and come so far. It was the first time for me to leave my home country and family to stay away for this long. It was a difficult journey. Adjusting to the new environment, culture, and people was also a bit challenging. I survived and am proud of myself to taking this step and achieving a qualification.”

Speaking about his FNU experience, Mazini said, “FNU is a very welcoming place, a very suitable environment to meet new friends, to learn different cultures and most of all to pursue my career aspirations and from the first day, I felt at home at the FNU Nasinu Campus. I have made many new friends from many different backgrounds and cultural identities. I have learnt from the very experienced and kind-hearted lecturers. There are different nationalities I came to be good friends with and learned from their experiences as well.”

“I am glad I pursued further education and thankful to FNU for helping me arrive at this juncture in my life.”

Words of Wisdom
Mazini’s advice to students is not to compare themselves to others. “It is easy to feel helpless, mainly when it comes to academic performances. Keep in mind that each student has distinctive talents, and you have three or four years to develop yours. I believe you have to be willing to learn as you go and be yourself.”

Giving his top three tips for graduates starting in their career, he said, “be committed to your studies and career, time management is essential and keep your dreams alive.”

Mazini graduated in March 2020 and returned to the Solomon Islands. He joined STCL again, this time as an Engineer IPVPN/Cloud Services where he develops, manages, delivers and supports the maintenance and security of all IP Access and Cloud Platform Services and products for internal and external customers.