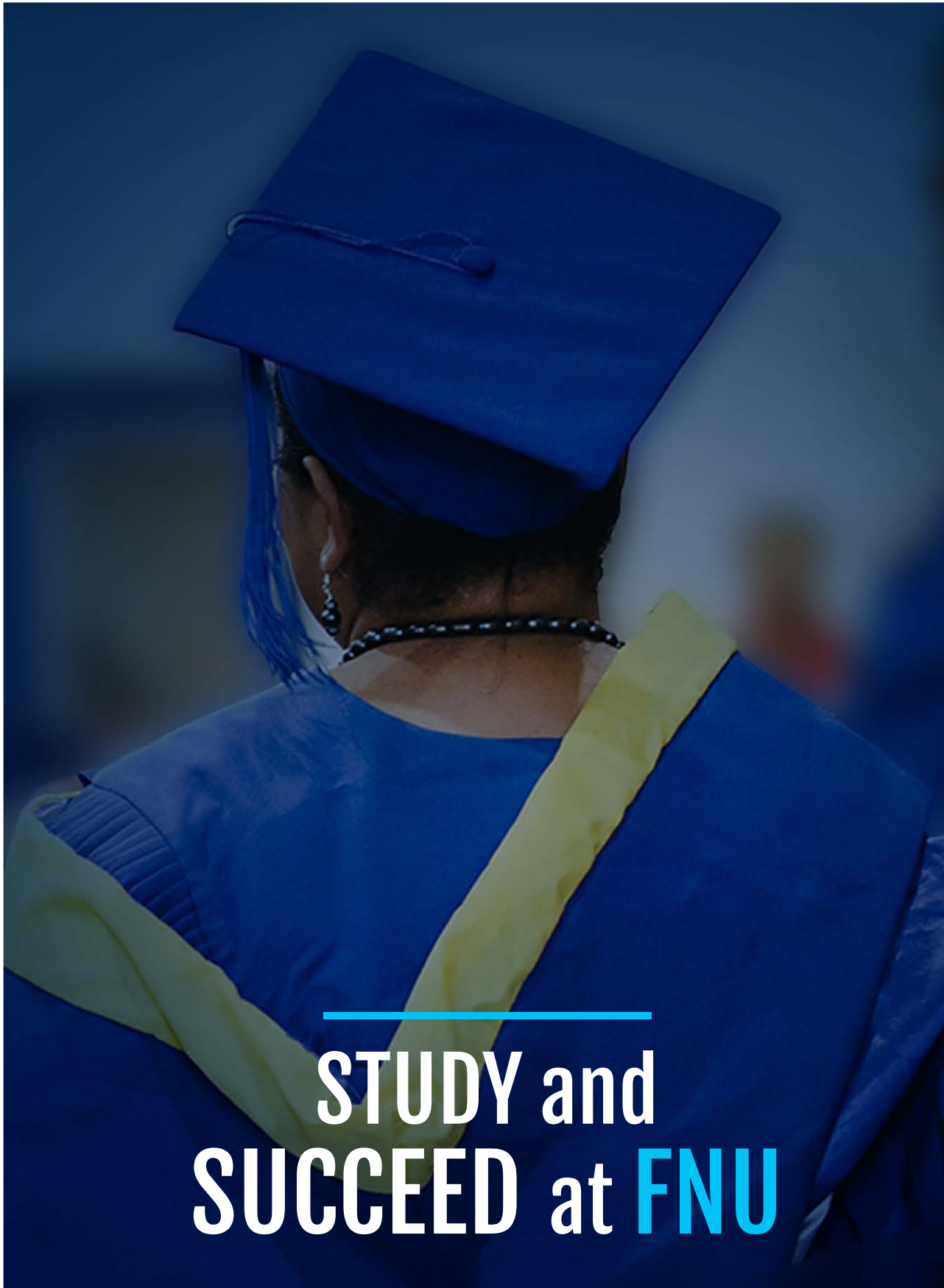




# FNU **NIKUA**



STUDY and  
SUCCEED at **FNU**

ISSUE NO. 12

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FNU LAUNCHES NEW HIGHER DEGREES BY  
RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

FNU'S MSCAG AIMS TO STRENGTHEN  
AGRICULTURAL CAPACITY IN THE PACIFIC



## Quality Education at FNU



As the nation's premier dual sector University, Fiji National University (FNU) is specifically mandated to meet the educational needs of those in the community requiring certificates and diplomas at the technical and trades level (TVET) and those who wish to pursue undergraduate and post-graduate degrees and doctoral studies.



In pursuing this mandate, there are a number of principles that guide our practice. These are quality, relevance, flexible learning, student engagement, recognition and internationalisation.

Quality is the hallmark of all that we do. The University has a Quality Office dedicated to ensuring that programmes

and courses are designed and delivered to the highest standards. Teaching quality is encouraged through a teaching excellence award and certificate of merit system. It is also monitored through a mid-course and end of course teaching assessment. Holders of the teaching awards and certificates of merit will form a team of mentors who will be charged with mentoring new staff taking up faculty roles in FNU, especially those with minimal teaching experience.

In 2020, the University will introduce a teaching portfolio system that encourages faculty to articulate their teaching philosophy and to reflect on their teaching with a view to bringing about continuous improvement. There will also be a system of peer observation that encourages faculty members to review the teaching of colleagues in order to propose learning and teaching enhancements.

In addition to the Quality Office and the various initiatives designed to enhance teaching quality, the University has a Centre for Learning and Teaching Enhancement (CLTE) that uses the latest thinking and developments in learning and teaching to support student learning and, in particular, the transition from school to further and higher education.

FNU programmes are relevant to the needs of the Fiji community and beyond. This is achieved primarily by establishing an Industry Advisory Committee for all new programmes made up of key industry stakeholders who advise on the content of the programmes with community needs in mind. In addition, all Colleges have an informal network of industry contacts and are

in continued dialogue with these contacts to ensure that programmes remain relevant to the needs of Fiji.

FNU is fully aware of the digital revolution as it applies to education. Traditional classroom teaching is increasingly challenged by digitally-based learning management systems such as Blackboard and Moodle and various apps that can be developed for smartphones. In light of this, FNU has a Centre for Flexible and E-Learning, staffed by highly skilled professionals who are leveraging digital developments to the full. The Centre has a programme that aims to have all existing and future FNU courses available in the blended mode. Considerable progress has been made in 2019 and will continue throughout 2020.

Aside from utilising the latest available technology, movement to the blended learning mode of delivery is viewed as a means of improving FNU's service to the community by providing greater access to the University's programmes and courses in the more remote locations. The objective here is to enable, for example, students in locations such as Ba and Labasa to be able to complete more full programmes in their home locations than is possible now through a blended learning approach. This is preferable than them having to travel to Nadi and/or Suva in order to complete their programmes on a face-to-face basis.

Students are at the centre of what we do in FNU. The FNU student union has a large membership and is a highly proactive and collaborative partner in the University's education mission. All of our major committees include student representation. For example, there are three major committees that focus on quality and academic standards and student representatives sit on all of them. These committees are the University Learning and Teaching Committee that deals with University wide teaching quality issues, the Academic Quality Assurance Committee that ensures that the University maintains high academic standards in all that it does and the Senate, which is the ultimate decision making committee on University academic matters. In addition to these central committees, student representatives from each College are full members of the selection panel for the teaching excellence award and certificate of merit system.

A major strategic direction for FNU is international recognition. The University has recently introduced an accreditation policy that sets out the purpose, roles and responsibilities for attaining international accreditation. The purpose of this emphasis on accreditation is to ensure that the international education community recognises that FNU ranks with some of the best in university education worldwide. Accreditation involved

a peer review of the University by an international panel of experts based on the University's self-assessment of its learning and teaching, and research environment. This process is already underway with the College of Engineering Science and Technology (CEST) close to receiving Engineering New Zealand accreditation for its bachelor and diploma engineering programmes, and the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) having recently attained accreditation for its Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science with the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists.

In addition, the College of Humanities and Education (CHE) has engaged the New Zealand Academic Quality Agency (AQA) to accredit its teacher education programmes. This particular initiative is seen as preliminary to the accreditation of the University in its entirety. A major benefit of such accreditation from the Fiji business community viewpoint is that employers can be satisfied that the graduates they employ have received internationally recognised quality education in their various fields of study. From the students' viewpoint, one major benefit of such initiatives is the fact that their FNU qualifications gain enhanced recognition worldwide and so enable those who wish to do so, to take up suitable employment abroad.

Finally, FNU is working diligently with international partners to ensure that as many students as possible are interested have an opportunity to study abroad for at least one semester. FNU now has an International Office that reports directly to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) and this office is actively pursuing partnerships worldwide together with sponsorships that will enable students to engage in an international study experience that will be fully funded. This is all part of desire to ensure that as many students of FNU as possible, graduate with an ability to work and engage with other cultures.

The above is just a brief review of what FNU has to offer and please remember, each programme offered by the University includes a practical component so that students can be 'work ready' when they enter the Fiji Community.

If you are reading this and are considering further study, I do hope that you make FNU your university of choice.

**Professor James Pounder**  
**Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching**  
**Fiji National University**



## FNU *Launches* *New Higher Degrees* by Research Programmes

“The new higher degrees by research (PhD and Masters by Research) programmes at FNU are of international standards, meeting the requirements of Quality Assurance Agency, UK; Australian Qualification Framework 10 and Fiji Higher Education Commission Framework 10,”



Professor Mohini Singh  
Pro Vice-Chancellor Research  
Fiji National University

The Fiji National University (FNU) will offer new higher degrees by research (PhD and Masters) from next year in key disciplines and also give ten PhD scholarships worth more than two hundred thousand dollars.

FNU Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor Mohini Singh while making the announcement said Research projects undertaken by Higher Degrees by Research students strengthen our capacity to generate value from new ideas and inventiveness. They are required in Fiji for innovation and for developing a knowledge economy.

According to Professor Singh, FNU is fast gaining recognition as the University in Fiji with the capacity to supervise

Higher Degrees by Research students. This is evident with a sharp rise in the number of Higher Degrees by Research student enrollments in 2018 and this new initiative will provide students to undertake studies in a wide range of disciplines.

“The new higher degrees by research (PhD and Masters by Research) programmes at FNU are of international standards, meeting the requirements of Quality Assurance Agency, UK; Australian Qualification Framework 10 and Fiji Higher Education Commission Framework 10,” said Professor Singh.

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 at the end of 30 months. Duration of the programme is 3 years’ full time and 6 years’ part time.

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 include:

- Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine, Nursing and Health Science)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies)

- Doctor of Philosophy (Science, Engineering and Technology)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Education and Humanities)

#### 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 60,000-word thesis which must be the student’s own work, embody the results of the 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 include:

- Master of Medicine, Nursing and Health Science by research
- Master of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries by research
- Master of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies by research
- Master of Science, Engineering and Technology by research
- Master of Education and Humanities by research

#### Ten PhD Scholarships

FNU is offering ten scholarships for PhD studies in any of the five disciplines mentioned above. The university is keen to fund PhD studies in any of the five disciplines for a period of three years for full time study.

#### Benefits and Condition

Tuition fees (paid directly)  
Book allowance of up to FJD750/year  
Living allowance of FJD 21,600 p.a

#### Scholarship conditions

These scholarships are for full-time study only. Awardees are not permitted to be in paid employment during the tenure of their awards and will be required to work a minimum of 40 hours per week for the entire year on their research.

#### Application

Applicants must be citizens of Fiji. Applicants should submit a full CV, certified true copies of their academic transcripts, and the names and contact details of three referees.

#### Relevant forms can be obtained from:

Manager Higher Degrees by Research  
Mr. Deepak Chand  
Email: Deepak.C@fnu.ac.fj

**Closing date for all applications is March 27th 2020.**

Completed application form(s) are to be mailed to the address below or dropped off at the nearest FNU Academic Office; Student Academic Services (Admissions) Fiji National University  
P. O. Box 7222  
Nasinu  
**Email:** admission@fnu.ac.fj



## New Animal Science Degree aims to boost animal production



Since the beginning of time, the relationship between humans and animals has been an important one. Apart from being a major source of food for humans, animals provide transportation, farm power, companionship, and by-products used for clothing and medications.

Through the field of animal science – which deals with the application of science to the production of farm animals and animal products – we are able to ensure healthy and productive animals, to supply healthier and nutritious meat, milk and eggs for our consumption.

To ensure that we have trained experts in this important field, the Fiji National University (FNU), will introduce a new Bachelor of Science in Animal Science degree programme from Semester 1, 2020. The three-year full-time programme will be offered at the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

The programme is the first of its kind in Fiji and the South Pacific region and will cover sub-disciplines of genetics and breeding, nutrition and physiology as well as management areas of housing and health care.

CAFF Dean, Professor Paul Iji said the programme would complement and complete the teaching of agriculture science at Koronivia Campus, which already has very strong areas of crop science, soil science, horticulture, bio-systems engineering, crop and plant protection, and agribusiness and extension.

“As the sole provider of this programme, the degree primarily focuses on livestock farming

and complements the crop science component of agriculture,” Professor Iji said. “On a normal farm, there should be more animal scientists than vets because properly managed animals require less medical attention. It is like using more teachers to teach people to live well rather than direct them to the doctor. Better breeds, better housing and better nutrition reduce ill-health in animals.”

“The programme is also sustainable, in view of the increased interest in commercial agricultural production in Fiji and the South Pacific region.”

“We believe that we will be able to attract students from some parts of Asia and Africa, who would be keen to study in an English language environment. This programme aims at developing a trained human resource base who can conduct basic and applied research in various aspects of agriculture under varying agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions of the farming community.”

The Animal Science programme has specific courses covering the key animal industries, including beef, dairy, sheep/goats, pigs, and poultry. Within these courses, breeding, genetics, general management, nutrition, health and business planning units will be taught.

“Alongside the 23 units’ students will undertake, they will also undergo the mandatory industrial attachment during Years 1 and 2 of study in addition to their lectures, tutorials and self-directed learning hours,” Prof Iji said.

“Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to work as technical assistants or technicians in research institutions,

private sector, government and non-governmental organisations. They can design, plan, supervise, manage, consult and evaluate livestock development projects, programmes and strategies that promote livestock development at national level using conventional and/or advanced technologies and manage livestock production enterprises. Such graduates can collect and analyse information on livestock production trends and interpret it to develop livestock policies and strategies.” “They are able to formulate animal feed and process livestock products and by-products in commercial livestock industry, enterprise or companies and also to integrate livestock production with other farming enterprises.”

According to the Dean, graduates could also train for higher degrees to become researchers in livestock-related sectors and provide extension service in the dissemination of new applicable technologies for the animal product value chain.

Interested students who have passed the Year 13 Certificate Examination or equivalent with a minimum of 200 marks and a pass (50 %) in English, Mathematics and Biology or Agriculture and any one from the following subjects; Chemistry, Food & Nutrition Technology, Physics or Computer Science can apply to study in the programme.

Candidates with trade diploma in any area of agriculture, fisheries or forestry are eligible to enrol. Students who have completed the Foundation programme with a 50% mark in English, Mathematics, and Biology/Agriculture Biology/ Forest Biology and Chemistry can also apply.

## CMNHS offers revamped PGD in Advanced Nursing Practice course

The primary health care and health promotion models are the mainstay of the Government of Fiji in the fight against Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, the burdens of diseases, and, social issues/problems, disaster preparedness and management.

Aligning itself to the nation’s needs, Fiji National University’s (FNU), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) has re-developed its Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Nursing Practice (Nurse Practitioner) to prepare experienced professional nurses for the full range of advanced community primary health care services in the role of a Nurse Practitioner.

Graduates of this programme are equipped with the appropriate skill-mix to operate at the primary health/primary care level out in the communities in order to contribute to the country’s general health and wellness, and economy.

“A Nurse Practitioner is an experienced Registered Nurse, who has successfully completed a one-year postgraduate diploma in advanced nursing practice programme, which will enable them to provide comprehensive primary health care services, both curative and preventative,” Kavekini Neidiri, Lecturer in Nursing Sciences said.

“Nurse Practitioners (NP) are regulated under the Nursing Act (2011) to practice at an advanced nursing level in Fiji.”

“NPs are skilled in diagnosis and management of a wide variety of clinical problems of community members,” he said.

The existing programme was reviewed extensively and necessary amendments implemented. The older programme was inherited from the Fiji School of Nursing where the content was first developed to build on the knowledge and skills of those with certificates and diplomas in nursing.

Following the cross over to FNU, changes in the curricula contents in the undergraduate degree, and the ascending of qualification from Diploma to Bachelor, a lot of changes have taken place and corresponding review needed to be undertaken to realign the programme to the appropriate postgraduate level.

The duration for the amended PGD in Advanced Nursing Practice (Nurse Practitioner) programme is now offered in two semesters or one year on full time basis, with a student quota of 15.

The programme contains courses in Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Clinical Decision Making, Advanced Community Health Nursing and a Clinical Practice component.

Graduates from this programme will be able to manage members of the public by gathering information through interviews or health history, diagnose health conditions, treat/manage clients, prescribe medications, consultation and referral of clients to the other health care team but using the nursing model of care.



**For more information, please contact:**  
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**Ph:** 3311700 ext. 3692



## Labasa Campus offers two new programmes in 2020



Good news for students in the northern division as the Fiji National University's (FNU) Labasa Campus will introduce two new programmes in 2020. The new programmes include Graduate Certificate in Education (GCED) and Post Graduate Diploma in Education under the College of Humanities and Education (CHE).



Head of Labasa Campus Pardeep Lal said the programmes have been introduced following a survey on-demand and successful discussions with the Fiji National University Labasa Stakeholder Advisory Committee (FNULAC).

"We are excited to offer two new programmes commencing Semester 1 2020. This will provide students with an opportunity to further their education through FNU," said Lal.

Lal (pictured, above) has urged interested students to contact the FNU Labasa Campus for any enquiries on the new programmes.

### Graduate Certificate in Education

The one-year programme, consisting of eight units in various aspects of teaching skills, will provide further qualification for graduates who have a degree in the subject area but need to attain formal education training.

Head of School Education, Satish Chand said the GCED is a direct response to the growing demand from those in the education sector intending to further their qualifications.

"It is also part of the ongoing commitment to streamlining and consolidating a professional teaching qualification which is aligned with FNU's degree structures and pathways," said Chand.

"The DFL and on-line modes which are part of the programme's delivery plan will cover the needs of a substantial and significant portion of the current teachers without education pedagogy who need to be trained," he said.

### Post Graduate Diploma in Education

The Post Graduate Diploma in Education programme will enable applicants to gain advanced knowledge, experience, skills and values for further education and professional work in education and training.

The programme will also prepare candidates to accumulate courses that will prepare them for admission into the Masters of Education degree.

"This one year programme (full time) will benefit those students who wish to upgrade beyond their degree qualification,"

"As an institution for teacher education, we aim to produce well prepared, skilful and educated teachers who will make a difference in our communities," said Chand.

Interested applicants will need to have a Bachelor's degree with a GPA of 3.0 or meet the mature student admission criteria after an evaluation of prior learning experience.

"Those who do not meet the 3.0 GPA will be required to complete a bridging research unit at Level 7," he clarified.

"Study is undertaken in the evening, which will allow applicants to continue working while completing their programmes," added Chand.

#### For more information, please contact:

Pardeep Lal, Head of Campus – Labasa

Email: [hcl@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:hcl@fnu.ac.fj)

## New Master of Medicine in Family Medicine launched



In Fiji and the Pacific region, doctors working at primary care level in health centres, hospital outpatient departments and private general practice clinics provide the first point of contact for the majority of health care. However, with the increasing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases, population health needs have become more complex.

To keep abreast of this, health professionals can now enrol at the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) new Master of Medicine (MMED) in Family Medicine programme.

Graduates of the MMED - Family Medicine will be able to provide specialist level health care at the first point of contact with the health system. This has the potential to improve health outcomes for individuals and communities.

The course is also the first clinical specialist level primary health care qualification offered in the region and will have a student quota of six.

Students complete their studies by distance education, while they continue to work in primary care settings such as health centres and GP clinics. Therefore, local communities

are able to benefit throughout the programme.

Students will undergo courses in Family Medicine, Health Management and Research Project Proposal Development and Implementation of Research Project. The programme features a series of intensive workshops, educational activities conducted via online webinars and discussion boards and workplace visits.

Graduates from this programme will be proficient in acute and chronic disease management at a specialist level, as well as being able to research and be informed of an evidence base to apply to their clinical practice.

"There are real benefits in terms of improved health care delivery to the population and an increased capacity for prevention, holistic care and strengthening of the local health system where these graduates practice," Course Convener, Dr Eagles Ruth, said.

"This specialist level training will allow for further career progression and increased clinical competence for Doctors working in primary health care while mitigating health costs in terms of reducing unnecessary investigations and unnecessary specialist referrals."

Students will be able to progress in their medical careers, without leaving the primary care sector. They will be able to provide high-level health care across a broad range of common and important health problems, acquire expert skills in population health care and preventive care, and in managing both acute and chronic medical problems as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Graduates will also be able to adapt and apply their research to the diverse range of primary care settings in the Pacific region. This will allow them to develop increasing leadership skills and ensure patients are receiving the most appropriate and effective health care in their regions.

#### For more information, please contact:

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Family Medicine | Department of Medical Science

Email: [nadim.cody@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:nadim.cody@fnu.ac.fj); [nadimcody@gmail.com](mailto:nadimcody@gmail.com)

Ph: 3311700 Ext: 3124



## FNU's Postgraduate Diploma in Food Science & Technology – a first for Fiji

In a first for Fiji, the Fiji National University (FNU) will commence offering Postgraduate Diploma in Food Science and Technology from Semester 1 in 2020. The programme which took almost two years to develop will be offered by FNU's College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) from the Nabua Campus.

The programme is designed to provide high-quality education in Food Science and Technology in accordance with international standards that prepare and develop creative young food scientists with strong food processing and preservation, technical, analytical, research, critical thinking and problem solving skills.

The Postgraduate Diploma programme has been developed based on the local food security and nutritional needs of the country. The FNU team worked closely with an Industry Advisory Committee comprising of food industry representatives and local food and nutrition experts, who thoroughly reviewed the course units and supported the programme implementation.

Associate Dean Research for CEST and Associate Professor in Food Science, Dr Jimaima Lako, who has been instrumental in developing the programme, said the delivery of the programme has global perspectives with local applications, allowing the students to learn international skills in this profession.

"The programme will enable graduates to enter a career in the local or international food

industry as scientists and/or technologists, capable of ensuring the production, processing and marketing of safe and quality foods," said the food and technology specialist.

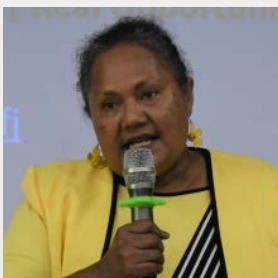
Dr Lako (mugshot) said there is an excellent link between this programme and the food industry, as students are given opportunities to develop research projects with various food companies locally.

She said this will expose students to the various forms of challenges that exists in the food industry and how these could be addressed, which may later lead to job opportunities available upon graduation.

"With the knowledge and skills they gain, students may also be able to enter into employment in other sectors of the food chain, food security or related scientific sectors where they can apply their scientific skills," commented Dr Lako.

The minimum requirement for Postgraduate Diploma is GPA average of 3 or grade B and above in Bachelor of Science or equivalent. Candidates who do not meet minimum grade point average requirement must have served in relevant areas such as teaching, research or in the industry for at least two years for sufficient knowledge and experience to undertake this programme.

According to the Food Scientist, the food industry in Fiji is growing fast with booming market value, which demands innovations in food processing and production lines that impact perception on food consumption and food safety.



She said food quality and safety are much-debated topics in our society and are important issues for the individual consumer as it affects the consumer's food security and health.

"Given the high prevalence rate of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) due to increased consumption of imported inferior processed foods, it is important that students learn creative ways of processing nutritious and bioactive rich local foods that would help reduce and prevent NCDs, especially with the use of locally grown foods," explained Dr Lako.

"Furthermore, the rapid development which has taken place in recent decades within technology and food science has created completely new ways of producing and processing foods in developed countries. However, in Fiji, this appears to be a challenge due to limited proper food processing facilities and technology. Nevertheless, with strong inter and cross-disciplinary work with the School of Engineering will soon help bridge this gap."

Dr Lako emphasised that food should offer experiences, eliminate lifestyle diseases, be sustainable and be produced under safe

conditions, which may be a challenge but should be exciting for the Food Scientists and Technologists in developing countries such as Fiji.

"In the "5 and 20 Year National Development Plan" (2017), food security and nutrition security has been highlighted to ensure increased local production of niche agricultural and fisheries products through value-addition and product development under the Ministry of Agriculture's critical focus."

According to the food and tech science enthusiast, this programme will strengthen this area in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries as well as SME's to ensure products that are experimentally developed within Fiji progress to a marketable status that meet compliance requirements.

**For more information, please contact:**

Dr Jimaima Lako

Associate Professor

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## CMNHS develops a specialisation within the physiotherapy programme



The Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) is focused on supporting the development of specialisation within the physiotherapy services in Fiji and the Pacific region. To this end, the College has introduced the Postgraduate Diploma in Physiotherapy (Rehabilitation) programme, which will be offered from Semester 1, 2020.

The programme was developed after consultations held with representatives of the physiotherapy profession in Fiji and the region and therefore it entails their current need and requirements.

At present, there are two undergraduate degrees based at the FNU and Divine Word University in Papua New Guinea. However, there is no postgraduate programme to allow graduates with the basic qualification to advance into. The limitation in advanced level qualifications also hinders the support and advancement of specialisation within the profession in the country and the region. Taking those factors into consideration, it is clear that this program is highly

relevant. The advanced course will be offered both in part time and full-time modes by the Department of Physiology and Physiotherapy at CMNHS.

"The programme is ideal for graduates with physiotherapy first degree who wish to gain both a professional and academic qualification and start a career in the specialised field of physiotherapy rehabilitation," Head of Department Physiology and Physiotherapy, Venasio Ramabuke said.

"The programme is delivered in a variety of ways, typically via blended mode, online, group work, and intensive skills workshops."

"It will be delivered by proficiently qualified world-renowned physiotherapy academics that have proven record in both research and clinical expertise," he added.

The programme covers a crucial area of physiotherapy service, which is rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is the process of returning to full function after an illness or injury. This aspect of service involves the majority of the physiotherapy service in the clinical setup. Graduates will learn the basics

and advanced level skills and knowledge on rehabilitation, research, as well as leadership as they will be expected to be service leaders within the profession.

Students will undertake four units on Leadership and Rehabilitation, Concepts of Rehabilitation, Systematic Review and Synthesis and Population Health.

Graduates of the programme will be able to explore concepts of self-awareness, personal values, and emotional intelligence, develop critical leadership and management of technical skills in a practical, rehabilitation focused, and realistic setting, explore and challenge their own rehabilitation practice through a critical review of theory, evidence, and practice, conduct a systematic review on a clinical topic in rehabilitation or any other area of practice/ interest and develop into active and life-long learners.

They will also be skilled in applying the principles and practice of population health to physiotherapy concepts, such as health, wellness, disease and disability; non-communicable disease prevention, wellness and health promotion, movement spectrum, physical activity and physical fitness within the general population.

Interested students who have successfully completed the Bachelor of Physiotherapy programme or equivalent undergraduate physiotherapy degree from a recognised university are eligible to apply. The applicant should have physiotherapy work experience of not less than 2 year's post-graduation.

Entry via recognition of prior learning may be awarded to applicants who have demonstrated ability to undertake similar level programmes or who is deemed to have acquired the relevant skills and knowledge through appropriate high levels of work or professional experience.

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# FNU's MScAg aims to strengthen agricultural capacity in the Pacific



Agriculture, considered as one of the oldest profession in the world, is the primary source of food supply for every human being on earth. The quality of food production, however, is facing significant pressure due to factors such as increasing population, extreme climatic conditions and lack of arable land.

To ensure sustainability and ease the strain on demand and supply of food, it is important for economies to modernise agricultural practices and create global markets.

Educating people on best agricultural practices and keeping them abreast of developments and creating space for innovations is important to ensure small economies such as Fiji have the ability to compete with larger and better-established economies.

To ensure we develop and strengthen agricultural capacity, the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) has developed a Master of Science in Agriculture (MScAg) programme, which will be offered from Semester 1 in 2020.

According to Dean CAFF Professor Paul Iji, MScAg is a coursework and research-based programme designed to equip students with more extensive specialist professional knowledge in conceptual, scientific and technical competencies related to the candidate's background and area of research.

"The programme is the most comprehensive in the country, covering all areas of agriculture – from soil science to bio-system engineering, crop science, animal science, horticulture, crop

protection, agribusiness and agricultural extension," said Prof Iji.

"It is a programme that is suitable for candidates without extensive experience post-bachelor degree, a group that will gain from the coursework. The programme is unique in that students can choose courses across disciplines, to meet their individual needs. For example, a student may choose to read crop science and agribusiness, rather than focus on either one of them alone."

The senior academic said this programme will produce very high-level workforce in all areas of agriculture for Fiji and will assist the nation in addressing the skills-shortage in various areas of the sector.

He said graduates from this programme will be adequately equipped to manage workers at the lower levels and also be able to develop work programmes for different industries.

The importance of agriculture in the Pacific is also as critical as ever due to the catastrophic impacts of climate change, which has impacted crop and animal production.

According to Professor Iji (*pictured, above*), farming in the Pacific involves crop and animal production as well as management of marine food resources.

"The region has been largely engaged in agriculture only to support the family but there is increasing need for commercial production, to supply to the rest of the

world and apply knowledge across the entire value chain – from farm production to processing and marketing."

Dean Iji believes there's a growing demand to have experts in the various disciplines of agriculture to tackle the issues surrounding sustainable production of sufficient high-quality food for a growing population as well as for commercial production.

"We developed this programme in response to requests from stakeholders and our own observations on the lack of human resources at the level where work programmes are developed. MScAg was also formally presented to an industry advisory committee, which provided much input to the final programme that was presented to the Senate of the university."

"Our approach, like other Colleges, has been to provide graded levels of knowledge to

Fiji and the rest of the region. CAFF has delivered knowledge at the Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor degree levels, which generally meets the workforce requirements of the country," said Prof Iji.

"However, it is imperative that we examine certain areas more deeply, which is what postgraduate training generally offers. The MScAg offers one such opportunity to deeply explore issues pertaining to agriculture and will do the same when we develop the programmes for fisheries, forestry and animal health, which already has Masters by research programmes," Professor Iji added.



## Programme Structure and Entry Requirements

Master of Science in Agriculture can be pursued following any of the two pathways:

**Pathway 1:** This can be completed by one year of course work (120 credit points) and one year of a thesis (25,000 words) corresponding to 120 credit points.

**Pathway 2:** This can be completed by one and a half year of course work (180 credit points) and a half year of supervised research project/mini-thesis (12,000 words) corresponding to 60 credit points.

The minimum entry requirement for admission into the MScAg programme is the completion of a Bachelor's Degree programme in Agriculture with a minimum GPA of 3.0, or equivalent. Graduates with a Postgraduate Diploma in Agriculture qualification can be directly admitted in the second year of the programme.

Interested students who may not meet the requirements mentioned above, but who can demonstrate their ability to succeed in the programme at this level based on maturity, work experience, or prior learning can also be admitted into the Master's Degree.

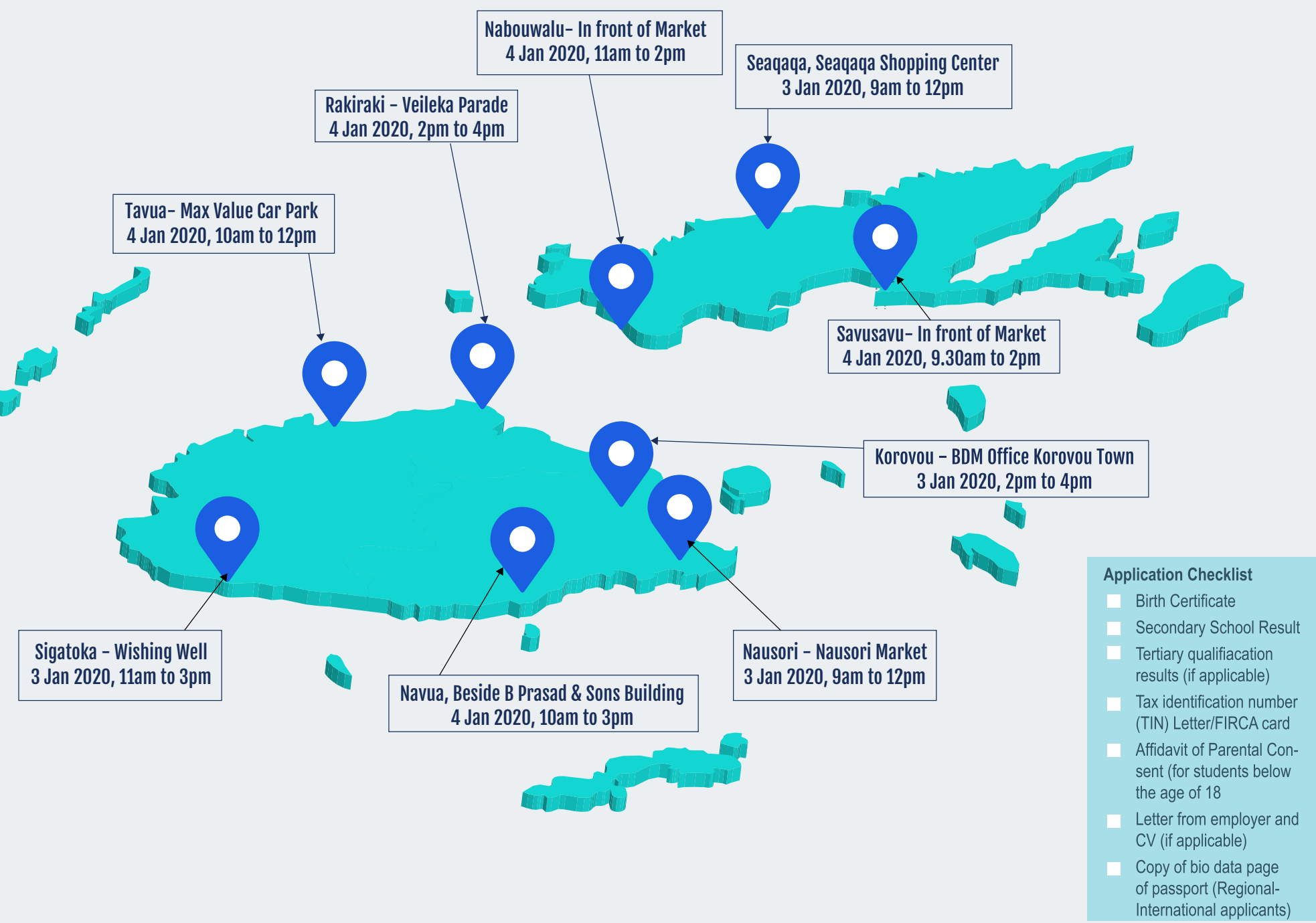
However, the Dean may place any relevant prerequisite requirement for such a student to progress, or require the applicant to sit for any specific or general examination as a prerequisite for enrolment, or may restrict enrolment only to certain prescribed courses that must be passed to progress further.

The programme is offered at FNU Koronivia Campus with a duration of two years on a full-time basis and four years for part-time.



## FNU ROADSHOW 2020 DATES/VENUE

Students seeking to enrol at FNU can visit the following locations for Academic Counselling and Application:



Visit us: [www.fnu.ac.fj](http://www.fnu.ac.fj) | Call us: 339 4000

For Enquiries | Email: [enquiry.academic@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:enquiry.academic@fnu.ac.fj)  
For Application | Email: [admission@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:admission@fnu.ac.fj)

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FNUNIKUA welcomes submissions by staff and students for publication in the newsletter. Please send your suggestions, comments or articles for consideration to [mprc@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:mprc@fnu.ac.fj)



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