

FNUUNIKUA



ISSUE NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2021

MAKING Dreams Possible

VICE-CHANCELLOR
WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

FIREFIGHTER VUGAKOTO
RE-JOINS FNU FOR STUDIES

VICE-CHANCELLOR WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS



Ni sa bula vinaka, Namaste and Greetings!

On behalf of everyone at the Fiji National University (FNU), it is my pleasure to welcome you, our newest members, to the FNU family.

You have worked hard at school to reach this point. I am sure you are excited to be embarking on a new adventure, a new stage in your lives. You may also be feeling a bit nervous. That's perfectly normal. We know that the transition from school to university, from living at home to living independently, can be a bit daunting. The FNU family is here to provide help, advice and reassurance:

- Our academic staff are here to teach, mentor and guide you in your studies.
- Our student services team are here to give you advice and help as needed.
- Our professional services staff in the library, finance, catering and accommodation are here to ensure that you have the resources and facilities to succeed in your studies.
- The Fiji National University Students' Association (FNUSA) is here to support you with a wide range of cultural and social events, to make your time at FNU as enjoyable and enriching as possible.
- Your fellow students and alumni are here to help you settle in and get the most out of university life. You will learn as much from each other, outside the classroom, as you do from your lecturers inside the classroom.

After the global disruption of Covid-19, I don't need to tell you that you are embarking on your university career at a time of unprecedented change. The past ten



*Professor Toby Wilkinson
FNU Vice-Chancellor.*

months have witnessed ten years' worth of innovation in the digital sphere, as businesses, individuals, and, yes, universities, have been forced to move their activities online. The e-economy and delivery of e-services have leapt ahead, creating opportunities for young people to shape a new future. There is also much talk of Industry 4.0, the fourth industrial revolution. Big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning – these are all transforming the world of work. Many of today's jobs – in medicine, the professions, even in teaching – will, in the future, be done by machines. But there will always be a need for intelligent, adaptable, skilled people to programme those machines. With your energy and enthusiasm, you don't need to fear the future, because you will shape it.

University is not just about providing you with the skills for today's jobs; it is also about training you how to think so that you are ready for the future. None of us can predict what the jobs market will look like in 10 years' time, let alone in 30 years' time when many of you will be reaching the peaks of your careers. The future may be uncertain, but the need for well-educated, motivated, resilient and agile leaders has never been more certain.

So, 2021 is an exciting time to be embarking on your university career. At FNU, our aim is to help you acquire the technical, vocational, academic, transferable and life skills to enable you to fulfil your own potential, and

create a better future for Fiji, the Pacific and the world.

The future is yours. Embrace it!

I wish you a stimulating and enjoyable time at FNU.

Vinaka vakalevu.

**Professor Toby Wilkinson
Vice-Chancellor**



Firefighter Vugakoto re-joins FNU for studies

L edua Vugakoto is a testament to the notion that there is no standard timeline as to when someone begins tertiary studies. While many enter and complete University studies straight after high school, some may take a different route in life due to various circumstances.

The 26-year-old fireman said for him, it was a random conversation with a friend that led him to join the workforce.

“I was a Technical Science student at Lelean Memorial High School and finished in 2013,” he recalls.

“The following year, I enrolled at FNU’s Samabula Campus in an Engineering course but then during my second year of studies, a friend informed me that the National Fire Authority (NFA) was conducting a recruitment drive.”

“He encouraged me to apply and after much thought, I decided to give it a go and I was recruited. So I began my career with NFA in 2016.”

For the last four years, Vugakoto has worked at the Nausori, Korovou and Suva fire stations before moving to the West to be based at the Nadi station.

“I know how important being a firefighter is and I’m grateful to play a part in trying to help people. Since our services have been broadened, we not only attend to fire incidents but road accidents as well,” the Moala, Lau lad said.

“We work 24-hour shifts at the station and during the day, we usually perform all our drills and inspections so that we are prepared for calls for assistance that may come through.”

“It was during a shift last year when one of my superiors spoke to me and encouraged me to continue with my tertiary studies. He motivated me to expand on my knowledge and field of experience.”

Vugakoto said he then began speaking with co-workers who were also studying at FNU to get their advice.



Ledua Vugakoto all smiles after enrolling at FNU Nasinu Campus.

“I had decided on doing studies in human resources so after speaking to co-workers and doing my own research on what options I had at FNU, I chose to undertake the Higher Education Diploma in Industrial Relations, Human Resource Management programme.”

“This would mean that after my career as a firefighter, I would still have qualifications and experience in this field and would be able to venture out and work in this sector of the labour market.”

“I realise that I will now be a full-time worker, part-time student and I am confident that I will be able to balance both. I know there would be challenges along the way but I’m sure I can manage.”

Cancer survivor aims to become a teacher

T he transition to normal life after intensive cancer treatment is not an easy one and for 19-year-old Temo Ratubalavu, the tough experience taught her to reach deep inside her, find her inner-strengths and use these to bounce back and look at life with a greater purpose. One of her goals was to attain a tertiary-level education.

Being true to herself, Ratubalavu enrolled for the Bachelor of Education in English and i-Taukei studies at Fiji National University’s (FNU) College of Humanities and Education (CHE).

Diagnosed with Leukemia, Ratubalavu was determined not to let her sickness take over her dreams. Leukemia is a cancer of the body’s blood-forming tissues, including the bone marrow and the lymphatic system. Ratubalavu aspires to become a secondary school teacher.

“It took me a full-year to fight the cancer cells that were in my body and I am pleased to say that I have finally won this battle. I was full of stress and anxiety the whole year and it was only then I realised that cancer treatment can be so harrowing and overwhelming,” shared Ratubalavu.

Despite being away from school for many weeks, the former Nabua Secondary School student said she is greatly appreciative to her parents and teachers for their continued comfort and motivation which enabled her to complete her secondary education.

“The supportable experience from my parents has encouraged me to never lose hope. They have been there at my lowest and they continue to inspire me,” said Ratubalavu, whose focus now is towards successfully attaining her Bachelor’s degree from FNU.

“I am just weeks away from starting another absolute adventure and I will continue to diligently work towards this goal. I know I will make a new set of friends along the way and I hope to encourage them with my life-changing experience,” stated the new FNU student.

“I am aware that university-life will not be a bed of roses and I will have to work



Temo Ratubalavu enrolled for the Bachelor of Education in English and i-Taukei studies at FNU.

hard to achieve outstanding results. I am ready for it and I wish to make incredible memories of my time as a student.”

Originally from Lau, Ratubalavu is the youngest of seven siblings.

Ratubalavu’s advice to the younger generation reflects her experience.

“The most important thing you can learn in life is to love yourself. You cannot fulfil your passion and desires unless you can love yourself and be true to who you are no matter what situation you are in.”

She explained, “no matter what life brings, you can always fight those challenges, you can win and have a fresh start.”



Alexander draws on passion for nature

Given the wide range of programmes offered to students at tertiary institutions, sometimes it’s difficult for students to select a particular study programme that aligns with their interests and ambitions. This, however, was not the case for Katarina Alexander, who knew what she wanted to study and was pleased to learn that Fiji National University (FNU) offered her programme of choice.

Growing up on an island country surrounded by vegetation, animals, rivers and the ocean, Alexander took a keen interest in environmental issues and this

was evident in her decision to enrol in the Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) course at FNU’s College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

The 18-year-old had set aside a day and visited FNU’s Enrolment Hub at MHCC in Suva to submit her application.

Waiting patiently in line to hand over her documents to the Academic team, Alexander began reflecting on her path towards tertiary studies.

“I feel a deep connection towards the environment, and I had no doubt that this was an area of study I

wanted to pursue and have a career in,” the Sacred Heart College alumna said.

“I was a pure science high school student and was always fascinated during experiments and finding explanations and solutions to scenarios.”

“I want to develop this interest further and plan to do this by undertaking the environment course at FNU.”

Alexander is the first of her siblings to attend university and was excited to continue her learning journey.

After receiving her confirmation letter, she promptly enrolled for units offered in Semester 1. She was pleased to complete her admission and enrolment process efficiently.

Reflecting on her choice of university, Alexander said she chose FNU because it was the nation’s tertiary institution.

“FNU is our University and I know it will be here for a long time, the same as me,” she said matter-of-factly.

“I know it is the best choice for me because of the practical classes and industrial attachment component, which I am looking forward to.”

“When I finish my studies, I hope to work for a non-government organisation dealing with climate change issues in Fiji and the region.”

Alexander said, for now, there were simple steps that she and anyone else could take to care for the environment, such as being responsible in how we dispose of rubbish and being more aware of the severe consequences of negative human actions on the environment.

Vatuveidovi excited to start Agriculture studies

Reserved excitement could be seen on Adi Salote Tinaimakosoi Vatuveidovi’s face as she carefully filled out an enrollment form and crossed checked these by flipping through documents she kept tucked away in a file.

She took 20 minutes to complete the application process and proceeded to have her documents processed by the Fiji National University (FNU) enrollment team present at MHCC in Suva.

Vatuveidovi came to Suva City on a mission to get enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture course at FNU’s College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

The 18-year-old from Nabouwalu village in Bua, Vanua Levu admitted she was a bit overwhelmed at the beginning, however, the smooth enrolment process and approachable staff immediately placed her at ease.

“I am so excited to finally be studying at FNU after completing high school and I couldn’t wait to arrive in Suva and sort out my application process,” she said.

From a farming background, Vatuveidovi said she had decided to pursue tertiary studies in this field ever since taking up the subject throughout high school at Naikavaki College.

“I always knew this was the field of study for me. My father is a farmer and businessman as well, so that also influenced my decision.”

“I am looking forward to being on campus at Koronivia and learning everything I need to know, both



in theory and practical classes.”

The eldest of four siblings, Vatuveidovi said the onus was on her to set a good example for her siblings.

“I do feel the so-called pressure,” she said with a laugh. “But I will ensure that I succeed in my studies to show them that anything is possible when you are determined and hardworking.”

“For now, my immediate goal is to complete all my assignments and other coursework as required and make my family proud.”

“I have also applied to live on campus and right now I feel both nervous and excited to begin studies away from home and my family, but I am grateful to have this opportunity to study.”

“This is a new life experience for me.”

A sense of responsibility is evident in Vatuveidovi as she embarks on her studies, filled with perseverance.

“Entering university isn’t just a walk in the park with your high school, or even new, friends and feeling like you have ‘freedom’,” she said.

“It’s the start of a journey to your career goals and a way of being independent and financially stable. For most of us, it also means a way to improve our family’s lives.”

“For me, it means helping out my dad, who is trying to venture into goat farming as well, and I know I’ll be able to help him during and after my studies.”

FNU Offers flexible fee payment options

Prospective students of the Fiji National University (FNU) have one less thing to worry about when they commence their courses this year as the University offers flexible fee payment options for the duration of their study.

You can enrol at FNU in your programme of choice and enter into a payment plan of agreed instalments with the University’s Division of Finance. The payment plan will allow you to pursue your academic aspirations without the financial burden of paying the full amount upfront.

We have continuously found ways to enhance our learning experience regardless of the disruptions we have had to endure due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and we believe this option will provide relief to many who would otherwise not be able to have access to education.

This payment option was applied to our students last year and is being extended throughout the 2021 period of study.

Students will be able to sit for their exams during this instalment period even if they have outstanding fees, as long as the fees are paid by the end of the year.

Students wishing to apply for the flexible fee payment option are encouraged to do so at the earliest to secure their spot at the University.

Ranadi follows her dream at FNU



Newly-enrolled student Dinaulu Ranadi enquiring about hostel accommodation.

Nineteen-year-old Dinaulu Ranadi felt great excitement as she set-out on the path of achieving her dreams after successfully enrolling in the Bachelor of Dietetics and Nutrition programme at Fiji National University’s (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS).

Since university programmes in the health sector are largely quota-based, Ranadi was grateful to have secured placement and completed the enrolment process.

“I have always had a passion to pursue a career in the health sector and was advised by the FNU team that I can enrol in the Bachelor of Dietetics and Nutrition programme. I’m thrilled to join FNU and look forward to commencing my studies soon.”

According to Ranadi, the face-to-face counselling sessions provided by the FNU academics assisted her in making an informed decision regarding her studies.

Ranadi said she also researched further regarding her study of choice to get a better perspective of what her studies entailed. The student said she was happy to note that nutritionists and dieticians work closely with teams of other professionals to treat health conditions such as eating disorders, food allergies and sensitivities, diabetes, chronic fatigue, malnutrition and other health problems.

Ranadi added that she’s excited to work in a profession that ensures the health and safety of the general population.

“I know the journey ahead will not be a rosy one but I will work hard to complete the programme successfully. I will always be grateful to FNU for providing me with another opportunity to become a health professional.”

“Considering our country’s rising statistics in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), I believe there is a need for education on eating the right amount and type of food. I am confident this programme will equip me with the knowledge to make a difference in someone’s lifestyle in terms of their health.”

The former Christian Mission Fellowship College student acknowledged the strong support and guidance from her parents to pursue tertiary education and follow her career goals.

“My parents have always stood by me and I wholeheartedly thank them for accepting my decisions and guiding me through every situation. They have always advised me to follow what makes me happy in life.”

“Their encouragement and perspective of life push me to perform beyond my capabilities, making me a better person in the process. Therefore, I want to complete my studies and make them proud by wearing that blue graduation gown and the tassel,” she Ranadi with a smile.



Luisa Naduva with her son Joeli following the enrolment process at FNU.

Mother’s sacrifice pays off, son enrolls at FNU

Luisa Naduva is a proud parent after her son Joeli Naduva managed to secure a place at Fiji National University’s (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS).

The 19-year-old was happily escorted by his mother as he enrolled in the Bachelor of Dietetics and Nutrition programme.

“This is a great milestone for our family and we are all proud that Joeli will be going to university,” said Luisa.

Recollecting memories from two decades ago when she attended the Fiji Institute of Technology (which in 2010 joined other educational institutions to form FNU) studying Laboratory Technology, Luisa reminded her son to remain focused.

Her words come from experience as she, unfortunately, was unable to complete her studies due to some constraints. The mother of six attempted to re-join FIT later, however, was unable to due to her demanding domestic affairs.

“Today is the proudest day for me. The dream of having a formal qualification, which came to an end 20 years ago, will now be fulfilled by my son and I cannot express enough how excited I am. I would like to thank the FNU for providing us with an opportunity to work towards our goal once again,” an emotional Luisa stated.

“I have always been so proud of my son. He respects both his parents and performs exceptionally well in school.”

Naduva said it took sweat, determination and hard work for him to reach the university, only so he can bring a smile onto his mother’s face and fulfil her shattered dreams.

“I would like to thank my father Jone Naduva as well, who works tirelessly as a farmer to make ends meet. My mother has played a significant role and moulding and shaping my career and simultaneously my father has played a pivotal role in guiding and supporting me at every step of my life,” expressed Naduva.

“I am looking forward to meeting my lecturers and other teaching staff, who will guide me into the dietetics and nutrition programme hereafter. I am equally excited to meet and connect with new friends who will be part of my life for the next three years of my stay at the FNU.”

Naduva plans to keep striving and to secure a rewarding career in future which according to him will enable him to financially assist his parents.

“Each day presents its challenges, but one should keep working hard until they are satisfied with what they have achieved.”

Banking in mind, Mow joins FNU

Vinai Mow aspires to become a bank officer, a dream that was shared with her by her late mother who passed on three years ago. To achieve this goal, the 19-year-old has enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Banking, which is offered at the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism (CBHTS).

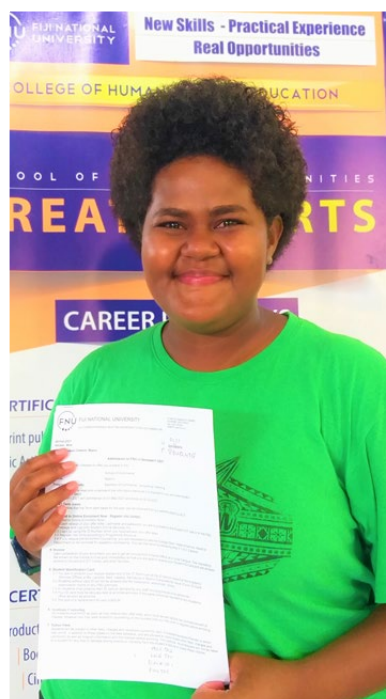
The youngest of seven siblings stated her late mother and her sister Katarina Mow, who is a teacher at the St. Joseph the Worker Primary School have been great influencers in her life.

"My mother had set high academic standards for us and my father has always been supportive of my academic journey while my elder sister is my inspiration. It is never easy to deal with the loss of a parent and three years ago, it was one of the deepest sorrows I experienced. I believe the only way I can make my family proud is by studying hard to achieve all that my mother had dreamed of," shared Mow.

The former Ahmadiyya Muslim College student mentioned it was her first day at FNU's Valelevu Campus and acknowledged the mix of emotions.

"At first I was a bit nervous coming here on my own. I came to get my identification card done and I am loving my time at the university, so far," she said.

Mow could barely contain her excitement after getting enrolled for her first semester units and stated: "I want to learn as much as



possible."

"During my secondary school studies, I had great support from my teachers and their enthusiasm fostered my interest in accounting. I also have to fulfil my mother's dream of becoming a bank officer, therefore, with no hesitation, I chose the Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Banking."

"I am eager to delve deeper into accounting and also to attain knowledge and skills in the banking field."

While the newly-enrolled FNU student was still contemplating on the tasks she has to complete for the rest of the day, she explained her decision to select FNU as the education-provider is no surprise to her family.

"FNU is well-recognised and getting a place in this institution was a natural choice. FNU offers the best range of programmes with great combinations. My high-school friends have also enrolled with FNU and we cannot wait for our classes to commence."

"From meeting new friends, learning new skills, waking up till wee hours of the morning to complete assignments and studying for my examination, is all that I am yet to experience and I am so thrilled about it," she said.

Sharing her sagacious advice, Mow said: "Do what you are good at and put your parent's at the forefront of your life because they have made a lot of sacrifices to get you where you are today."

Semester 1 commences on March 1st.



Teaching my true calling - Devi

As a youngster, Vanshika Devi always aspired to become a teacher and being true to her desire she enrolled at Fiji National University (FNU) to study the Bachelor of Education (Primary) programme.

The former Nukulua College student said she chose to study at FNU's College of Humanities and Education (CHE) given the high reputation of its alumni.

"I'm excited to join FNU. I've always wanted to be a teacher and I'm happy to follow my dreams," said Devi.

"I used to play the role of a teacher during our playdates at my village in Babriban, Ba. Education has always been my priority. My parents always stressed the importance of obtaining an education, as they didn't get the opportunity to pursue further studies. My parents have always stressed that schooling was vital for success in life. I wouldn't have made it to the FNU if I had not taken my education seriously," she said proudly.

Devi believes that teaching the new generation of students is one of the most direct ways to make an impact.

"As a teacher, I will be responsible for establishing a child's lifelong learning, and I will be instrumental in shaping their intellectual and social development."

"I grew up in a rural settlement, and

I'm personally connected to the struggle of students who come from low-income families. I have seen how devoted teachers make a difference in a student's life," she said.

Teaching, according to Devi, offers immense satisfaction, both intellectual and emotional.

"I love the prospect of working with children; being an essential part of a child's life is a real honour. In my class, I always helped my friends in their studies, and I was able to impart my knowledge similar to how the teachers would have explained," she said excitedly.

The proximity of the campus made Devi's decision to join FNU.

"FNU has a strong reputation for producing quality graduates. I wanted to pursue studies at FNU because of the practical component I will gain before graduating. The practical component will not only give me hands-on experience in our potential career but will enable me to start building a network," she said.

After going through the FNU prospectus and website, Devi said she liked the courses' practical approach and is confident the lectures will be fun, educational, and interactive.

"After researching, I discovered that FNU gives us the time and opportunity to develop new interests. I am particularly looking forward to the inter-campus debate competition," she adds.

Prasad envisages a career in Human Resource and Marketing

Ronish Prasad describes himself as a people's person, who loves interacting and helping anyone in need. This affection has encouraged him to pursue studies that will help him enhance his people skills.

The 18-year-old has enrolled in the programme Bachelor of Commerce in Industrial Relations, Human Resource Management and Marketing at the Fiji National University (FNU). He will pursue the three-year study programme through FNU's College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism (CBHTS) at Namaka Campus, Nadi.

The former Pandit Vishnu Deo Memorial College student said the wide range of study options at FNU provided students good options to pursue tertiary studies.

"I was looking for something that would allow me the flexibility to take courses from a broad range of disciplines while retaining a specific focus," said Prasad.

"After much research, I discovered that studying at FNU will open up a diverse range of career opportunities. I'm looking forward to doing well in my studies and then landing a good job."

"The FNU staff guided me and I was able to make an informed decision. The Bachelor of Commerce in Industrial Relations, Human Resource Management and Marketing covers subject areas that interest me and I'm excited to commence my studies," he said.

FNU's blend of theoretical and practical experiences, according to Prasad provides students to be day-one work-ready.

"This programme will give me the skills, knowledge and practice to motivate employees to excel. I will also be exploring



the strategic role of HR and how HR practice can support and influence an organisation's strategic direction."

"I am looking forward to putting the theories and other learnings into practical experiences with real-time projects. I chose to study at FNU because I wanted a well-rounded education with the opportunity to undertake varieties of courses from different departments, such as marketing, management and HR. I believe that knowing various subject areas is an asset in today's diverse world," he said.

Prasad hopes to be involved in student activities organised by the Office of the Registrar as well as through the students association.

"Another reason for choosing FNU was to be part of the large student body. Attending FNU would better prepare me for life in the real world," he said.

Currently, Prasad is working at a supermarket chain to get some business exposure.

"Given HR is a broad field, I am looking forward to gaining some transferable skills which will offer plenty of opportunities to move around and follow my passion," he said.

With the world changing rapidly due to globalisation, digitalisation and other social shifts, Prasad is geared to learn from the FNU academics and equip himself with the skills and knowledge to kick-start his career.



Learning support services @ FNU

The Centre for Learning and Teaching Enhancement (CLTE), a newly established section under the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning & Teaching at FNU is responsible for the enhancement of learning and teaching experiences at FNU. CLTE forms part of a commitment by the University to develop and share good practices and innovations in learning and teaching to enable students to achieve their academic goals and develop skills for lifelong and life-wide learning. We also work in collaboration with academic units to promote, research and support communities of practice for the sharing of experiences and ideas.

CLTE offers the following services to students to help them excel in their choice of the programme:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE HUB (ELH)

ELH is dedicated to helping FNU students from all disciplines and abilities to become more effective writers (both in academic and non-academic genres) and oral communicators—both of which are essential to student success at FNU and beyond. To this end, ELH offers a flexible tutoring service with workshops, open and free English as a Second Language (ESL) courses and a range of resources.

MATHS HELP HUB (MHH)

MH² is a free face-to-face service for FNU students. The service is open to students taking any course that involves mathematics or statistics. There is no need to register for a session. Students do not need to register or sign up for a session. Just follow the schedule and drop by for a session at your convenience.

PEER ASSISTED LEARNING (PAL)

PAL offers free-of-charge structured study sessions facilitated by peer students (PAL Leaders) who are students with a strong academic record and have successfully completed the courses themselves. PAL sessions target difficult courses rather than struggling students. Attendance is voluntary but highly recommended to all students studying the targeted courses.

STUDY GROUPS

A study group of students from the same course who come together to learn course material in a deeper, more concrete way. Group members discuss and work through concepts, ideas and any confusion or problems with course material. Study groups are particularly effective for completing projects, understanding assignments, developing presentations and preparing for exams. Study groups make students feel more connected as they share unique insights and try to learn from each other.

ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS

One-on-one sessions are designed to help students develop specific strategies to address their academic concerns. In one-on-one consultations, students examine their approach to learning, current barriers to success, and work with Student Success Specialist to develop effective learning strategies.

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

The First-Year Experience programme has been designed to help ease integration into university life for first-year students. It provides students access to the following resources, support services and online courses:

Resources/Support services

1. First-Year Survival Guide
2. FYE Mobile App
3. First-Year Fridays
4. Support for International Students
5. Glossary of Terms

Courses

1. Succeed@FNU
2. Introductory Academic Preparation (IAP)
3. Foundation Mathematics Proficiency Assessment (FMPPA)

GUIDES TO EFFECTIVE LEARNING (GEL)

CLTE has prepared a series of self-help guides to help students get the most out of their studies and time at FNU and beyond. These guides offer valuable strategies for developing students' academic and personal skills. The guides also highlight ways to answer interview questions, write CVs and cover letters to help boost their employability.

Students can access these resources via the Guide to Effective Learning page on Moodle.

EARLY ALERT & RESPONSE SYSTEM (EARS)

EARS is an online diagnostic and early intervention tool used by teachers to identify students in need of additional assistance. Assistance is provided to students by the EARS Team in the Centre for Learning and Teaching Enhancement to connect students directly to the support they need to get and stay on track for success in their courses.

ENRICHMENT COURSES

Centre for Learning and Teaching Enhancement has developed a range of free online courses to allow students to sharpen their existing skills. The following online courses will add to students' repertoire and enhance their abilities for academic success:

1. Learning to Learn Online (LTLO)
2. Learning with Academic Integrity (LAI),
3. Beginning to Intermediate English as a Second Language (BE101)
4. Intermediate English as a Second Language (IE101)
5. Upper-Intermediate English as a Second Language (UE101)

WORKSHOPS

CLTE also offers a range of seminars, webinars, workshops, brown-bag discussions, and demonstrations on a variety of learning and teaching topics each semester.

For more information, please log on to
<https://clte.fnu.ac.fj/> or
 Email: clte@fnu.ac.fj

Education leads to career progression – Bibi

Continuing education is important to maintain an advantage in a competitive workforce, especially in the field of marketing. Fozia Bibi knows that one needs to compliment experience with academic qualifications to climb the corporate ladder. Being career driven, Bibi has enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Management programme at Fiji National University’s (FNU) College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS).

Being an alumna of FNU, Bibi did not have second thoughts before returning to pursue postgraduate studies.

“FNU is the reason for my success as it built a great foundation for my career. I feel FNU provides quality education, therefore, it was an easy decision for me to return to my alma mater.”

“The lecturers teach passionately and not just for the sake of it. The lecturers I had made an effort to ensure students understood a concept rather than leaving them in the dark. The programme of study is also relevant to my profession.”

She looks forward to a new journey coupling work with studies.

“I know it will be a challenging journey as I will have to give 100 per cent to my work as well as to my studies, however, I believe it will keep me on my toes and allow me to achieve my goals.”

Early Life and Career

Bibi was born and raised in Lautoka. She attended Lautoka Primary School and Jasper Williams High School. After completing Year 13, she enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce (Information System and Management) programme at FNU’s CBHTS in 2012 at the Nasinu Campus and moved to Suva with her family.

“FNU was an easy choice for me. It was closer to home and the fees were affordable. I was excited for the journey ahead.”

“As a student, I made many new friends some of whom are still my friends. They were very supportive too. The lecturers were great and the whole university experience was good.”

She graduated in 2015 and started working for Telecom Fiji Limited (TFL) as a Customer Service Representative.

“I had to acknowledge and resolve customer complaints, keep records of customer interactions, transactions, comments and complaints and respond promptly to customer inquiries.”

She worked at TFL for one year before moving to United Apparel as a Sales and Marketing Assistant.

“My job required me to reach out to customer leads through cold calls and emailing. I also presented, promoted and sold products using cold arguments to existing and prospective customers.”

In 2017, she moved back to TFL as a Business Relationship Manager. Her role included developing

and maintaining positive business and customer relationships with executive management and corporate companies’ decision-makers. She also maintained regular business relations with more than 30 clients, created and maintained a robust sales pipeline and analysed sales data from designated territory to help evolve sales strategy.

Two years later, she had another opportunity that she decided to take up. This time it was a Marketing Consultant role at FBC.

Talking about her job she said, “this role required me to conduct market research to identify industry trends and commercial opportunities, develop and implement a marketing strategy according to objectives and budget as well as the marketing needs of the organisation. I also provided advice on branding, positioning, communications and other marketing issues along with nurturing long term relationships with in-house teams and external vendors among other things.”

Bibi likes to keep learning hence she enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Management programme at FNU’s CBHTS.

“I hope to acquire new skills such as how to apply latest academic thinking and business strategies into practice as I prepare for future management roles and how to be innovative when introducing a new service, product or business venture.”

Bibi credits her success to her family.

“I would like to acknowledge my parents for making me realise the importance of tertiary education and providing me with one. I would also like to thank my siblings for being an inspiration for me as they kept me motivated throughout my career.”



Words of Wisdom

Bibi’s advice to current and future students of FNU is to go beyond and research for tutorials and sample questions while studying for exams.

“Watch YouTube videos relevant to your lecture topics, kill procrastination to avoid delays and hindering productivity and work on your strengths and weaknesses.”

Sharing her top three tips with graduates starting in her career, she said, “Start identifying your strengths and weaknesses and work on them. Try to turn your weaknesses into strengths. Make a vision board that displays your five-year goals and make a plan to achieve those goals. Identify what you are good in and make that your side business along with your 8am to 5pm job.”