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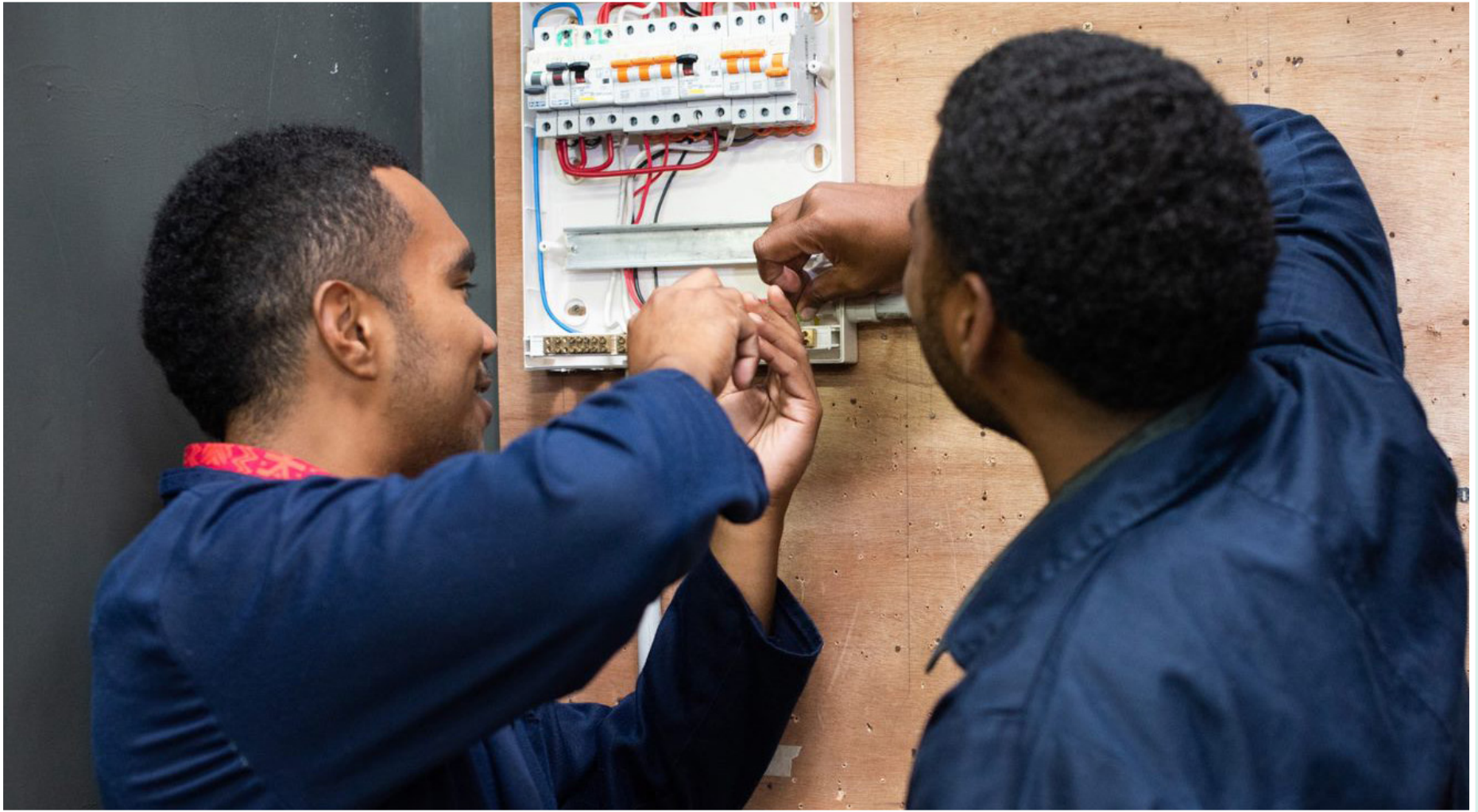
OCTOBER 2021

TVET at FNU Reskill and Upskill

EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYABILITY IS YOUR GOAL,
AND OUR MISSION: VC PROFESSOR WILKINSON

HIGHER DEGREES BY RESEARCH (HDR)
PROGRAMMES AT FNU

Education for Employability is your goal, and our mission: VC Professor Wilkinson



The COVID-19 pandemic has re-shaped economies around the world, including here in Fiji. Some sectors, such as tourism and hospitality, have been particularly hard hit, and will need to rebuild. Other sectors, such as agriculture, have fared better, but are facing new challenges, including climate change adaptation and technological development. Across all employment sectors, for individuals and companies alike, there is an urgent need to re-skill and up-skill to meet the demands of the post-pandemic economy.

Fortunately, the Fiji National University is here to help. With generous support from the Government's Re-Skilling Fund, FNU is pleased to be offering a wide-range of short courses in 2022. The courses are designed to re-skill and up-skill those who have lost their jobs due to the economic impact of the pandemic, and prepare them for new jobs and successful careers in the same or different industries.

Each of the courses has been designed in partnership with industry to meet the evolving needs of the labour market. For example, the tourism and hospitality sector has lost thousands of jobs in the past 18 months, and will need to re-hire staff to meet rising demand once borders fully re-open. But tourism in the future will not be the same as it was before COVID-19. Tourists will be more discerning, and Fiji's tourism offer will have to adapt in order to thrive in a more competitive environment. Customer service will be an essential skill, alongside cultural sensitivity – recognising that tourists from China and tourists from Australia have different expectations and different requirements. Sustainable tourism and eco-tourism are expected to be particular growth sectors, and Fiji – which has all the ingredients for a world-class sustainable and eco-tourism offer – will need to adapt to capitalise on this trend. FNU's short courses have been designed to provide individuals who want to re-enter the tourism and hospitality sector, or to secure their future in the sector, the skills they need to succeed.

In the world of commerce, the pandemic has forced businesses large and small to innovate and adapt their systems to online delivery. Around the world, e-commerce is growing fast, and in some markets over-taking traditional, in-person models. In Fiji, too, the growth opportunities for e-commerce are significant. FNU's short courses, in areas like digital marketing, office automation and cyber security, provide the essential skills needed for individuals to gain jobs in the growing e-commerce sector.



*Professor Toby Wilkinson
FNU Vice-Chancellor.*

Other growth sectors, in Fiji and neighbouring countries, include counselling, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and age care. FNU is working with local and international partners to offer re-skilling courses that meet the needs of employers across the Pacific region. The global pandemic has highlighted the opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship, as old industries disappear and change, and new ones emerge. FNU is determined to produce 'job creators' as well as 'job seekers', and its short courses provide the skills needed to start your own business.

So, whether you are looking to re-enter employment, move sectors, or secure your future in your current industry, FNU's re-skilling and up-skilling short courses have everything you need. Education for Employability is your goal, and our mission.

The first round of twenty-five short courses to be offered in January 2022 are listed below together with the starting dates. The government in its 2021/22 national budget made available one million dollars to fund the reskilling and upskilling programmes at FNU.

The courses are funded by the Fiji government through the tertiary scholarship and loans scheme (TSLS). It is under the loans scheme program of TSLS.

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**Professor Toby Wilkinson
Vice-Chancellor
Fiji National University**

FNU equipped me with core skills and knowledge, Chandra

After completing his secondary school education, Fiji National University (FNU) graduate Monal Chandra wanted to ensure that he pursues a career in the field which provides him with life-long skills.

When a friend, recommended Certificate IV in Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning, Chandra instantly decided to enrol at FNU.

The 32-year-old, from Nausori, said this field has always appealed to him, and getting the right direction on where he can obtain formal education and training, was advantageous.

“Given the high demand for a skilled tradesperson, I knew a career in this field would be easier and quicker to secure employment,” said Chandra.

He studied at the Fiji National University’s (FNU) College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

“FNU allowed me to learn the foundation of refrigeration and air-conditioning. I had a great experience during practical classes and fieldwork. Working on numerous projects meant learning new things each day, and it was fun and exciting at the same time,” he stated.

Chandra dived into the world of trade during his University days, completing his practical work attachment at the Lincoln Refrigeration in Lautoka and later he secured a full-time job with Benz Refrigeration following which he joined the Viti Air-conditioning works as an Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Technician.

“I have been very proactive in looking for work experience, to gain an insight into the working world and develop my skills and practical knowledge. I worked at different companies where I was able to engage and learn from different sets of people.”

He later resigned to join the Motibhai Group of Companies, where he worked for almost two years.

Presently, in a different field than refrigeration and air-conditioning, Chandra works in the Administrative Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nausori Office.

Despite the transition into a different job altogether, Chandra said the skills and experience he acquired at the university, is a lifelong treasure.

“There are endless opportunities in this field. I would like to explore a lot more in the field of refrigeration and air-conditioning in future and excel in this area,” mentioned the FNU graduate.

Lecturer at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Alipate Gonerogo said the Certificate IV in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning has over the years gained a strong reputation locally as well as in neighbouring countries Australia and New Zealand.



FNU graduate Monal Chandra with his wife Seema Chandra

“There is an increasing demand for qualified tradespeople and HVAC is no exception. We receive enquiries from employers in both these countries who are interested in offering employment to graduates,” said Gonerogo.

“The programme is an exciting learning experience for students, and we have all the required equipment and tools at our workshop to teach our students,” he said.

The Certificate IV in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning programme consists of twenty-four courses out of which twelve courses are examinable while the remaining is course work through workshop assessments.

“The programme runs simultaneously in semester mode as there are two quarter modes in a Semester. At the end of Quarter 4, the students are required to undertake industrial attachment to a total of 12 months or 1800hrs,” he said.

Gonerogo further emphasised that the Certification IV in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning programme is challenging yet rewarding.

“Our programme is an exception from any other training institute in Fiji. We have students from Niue, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea as well who study with us,” he said.

Following the completion of the programme, the

students are required to apply for licensing from the Department of Environment.

Students completing or have completed Year 12 or 13 also have the opportunity to undergo studies in a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) course at FNU through the 5,000 Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLs) placements.

Offered through the University’s TVET Pasifika, these courses are Certificate III, Certificate IV and Trade Diploma level qualifications. Students eligible for TSLs-funded studies must have successfully completed Year 12 with a maximum mark of 200/400 or completed Level 1 and II studies from the Technical College of Fiji.

Prospective students can choose from a wide range of TVET courses offered by the University in various fields of study, including Engineering, Medical, Tourism and Hospitality, Entrepreneurship, Fashion and Design, Cooking and Patisserie, Carpentry, Construction, Graphic Arts and Design, Film and Television Production, Hairdressing, Automotive, Electrical and Electronics.

For more information regarding our TVET Pasifika programmes, the 5000 available TSLs placements and the FNU and TSLs application process, visit our website at <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/tvetpasifika/> or contact our outreach team via email at outreach@fnu.ac.fj

HOW TO APPLY AT FNU

1. ENQUIRE

Visit the FNU website www.fnu.ac.fj click on Colleges & Centres or TVET Pasifika and browse through the list of programmes to select the study programme you wish to undertake.

2. APPLY

Applicants can apply via <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/student/academic-services/apply-here/>

- Watch the Online Application instructional video
- Click on the Apply Online option to begin your application process

3. SUBMISSION

Submit the Application after reviewing the Student declaration in the online application process.

4. OFFER LETTER

If the Minimum Entry Requirement (MER) is met, then you will be provided with the Offer Letter.

Read the Offer Letter for important information regarding your offer and acceptance

5. CONFIRMATION

- To become a student, you need to accept the offer.
- Register for courses according to the programme structure.
- Get an invoice from the Finance Office.
- Pay the enrolment fees according to the details in the invoice.
- Get a validated ID card from Student Academic Services at a local campus.

(FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO UNDERTAKE TVET PASIFIKA STUDIES UNDER THE TERTIARY EDUCATION AND LOANS SERVICES (TSLs) 5000 PLACEMENTS AVAILABLE)

6. APPLY AT TSLs

After receiving an Offer Letter from FNU for the TVET Pasifika course, log onto the TSLs portal at <https://application.tsls.com.fj/> to apply for the TELS for TVET at Fiji National University.



Nishant Singh 2nd from right and family

Nishant Singh, a Senior Technician and Backup Service Advisor, believes that Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programmes will provide graduates with a strong foundation to launch successful careers or become future entrepreneurs.

The 27-year-old graduated with a Certificate IV in Automotive Engineering from Fiji National University's College of Engineering Science and Technology (CEST) before joining the National Training and Productivity Centre's (NTPC) National Apprenticeship Scheme where he scooped the national best apprentice award in 2019.

Singh excels in the trade field

"After successfully completing the National Apprenticeship Scheme, I got married since I got a good job and I got financially well secured so I could start my own family and at the same time help my parents," Singh proudly said.

Singh, an expert technician on Toyota brand vehicles at Asco Motors in Nadi Branch believes one has to be committed, dedicated, and honest to build a career.

"I chose this programme because it is a very interesting field, and I have a lot of interest in exploring new technologies. Technologies are changing day by day and we get to learn and get experience with new technologies and changes over time," he said.

"It is a very interesting field and in this profession, one gets to learn new things and new techniques in the automotive industry. It also requires one to keep upgrading their knowledge and qualifications to adapt to changes.

"I am very grateful that I got this opportunity in my life and would like to say it is a onetime career opportunity to turn your dreams into reality. Grab the

opportunity and get the skills."

Singh's parents played an instrumental role in terms of helping their son choose a career where the skills he learned will be with him throughout his life.

"The inspiration and motivation for me to join this trade came from my father, as he was a tradesman, and one day when he was reading his newspaper, he saw an advertisement and was motivated and asked me to apply for this profession and also my mum the hard work she always does to fulfil our dreams. My wife was also with me during my struggling days and she motivated me to walk an extra mile and it helped me to get the best tradesman certificate in my field of work," he said.

When he started his career, he had difficulties, but over time, he managed to come out on top with his hard work and enthusiasm to be successful.

"At the start of my career, it was hard to get things done, but the hard work and training acquired from NTPC made me capable of getting the things done to the standard required," he said

Fong flourishes in his role

One should always learn from the heart, which will help individuals grow in their lives, says Elijah Kinmun Fong (pictured), a 2012 graduate of Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre's National Apprenticeship Scheme.

Fong scooped the Overall Best Apprentice and Best in Trade of Electrical award during that year.

After nine years, he is currently employed as a Maintenance Planner at the Natural Waters of Viti Pte Ltd, trading as FIJI Water.

"I chose to work in the Technical Vocational Educational Training sector since my father was a tradesman, and I wanted to honour his legacy. TVET programmes educate people for a future in which they can study and utilise their abilities daily," Fong proudly said.

"My late father was a self-employed technician who worked from home, repairing electronic items. I grew up watching him repair and revive broken and malfunctioning appliances. To carry on his mantle has been my inspiration."

"When my father passed away when I was in primary school, my mother made sure I never lost sight of my dream. Despite daily struggles, she sacrificed as a single parent to provide the best education. Where I am today, I owe to my mother. She put food on the table, worked as a house girl to clothe us and pay for the house rent, and before she rested her weary body each night, she prayed over my siblings and me."

Fong was awarded a trip to Auckland, New Zealand, as part of the National Apprenticeship Scheme award. He toured some of the country's largest manufacturing firms and witnessed how various trades are carried out.

Fong graduated from Fiji National University with a Trade Certificate in Electrical Engineering and is now pursuing an Advanced Diploma of Leadership and Management from NTPC. He claimed that studying electrical engineering was a fascinating subject for him, and it helped him establish a secure future.

"The most exciting component of studying electrical engineering was learning about and comprehending in-depth one of today's most important energy sources, which is electricity. I learned how electricity is generated and how to use it to benefit our

residential and commercial activities," he stated.

According to the 34-year-old, NTPC's National Apprenticeship Scheme provides people with the opportunity to flourish in their trade occupations and build a secure future.

"I believe the National Apprenticeship Program is the foundation for every country's industrial development, especially Fiji's because it assures that we will always have a pool of competent, qualified people available to perform important services," he added.



"Skilled and qualified tradespeople is the emphasis. We require highly qualified electricians to assist in the supply of electricity to the nation, plumbers to supply water, and welders and fabricators to assist in infrastructure construction."

"FIJI Water's apprenticeship training programme provided a platform for apprentices

to be precisely taught to match the current business needs." It guarantees that practical learning is more relevant, such as upskilling on relevant machinery and equipment. Furthermore, the programme ensures that training is up to par."

Fong is encouraging young people to join the National Apprenticeship Scheme, which will help them to build a stable career.

"During my TVET training at the university, the most memorable experience was when our group was able to repair a surface grinder that had been out of commission for nearly two years at the mechanical workshop. The students were ecstatic when the machine was repaired, and that's when I realised how vital trade work is," he said.

"I recommend TVET programmes to anyone interested in effectively learning a certain skill or trade. I also encourage businesses to invest in programmes like the apprenticeship programme to ensure sustainability in nurturing and developing highly skilled workers. Learning from the grassroots level, such as my experience at FIJI Water, should be seen as an opportunity for future employees to experience real-life work and is important for every business to consider. By building a strong foundation for learning, it will significantly contribute to improved efficiency, productivity and growth for businesses in the future."

Prasad reaps reward for his sacrifice



Ashneel Prasad (pictured), a proud alumnus of the Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre's National Apprenticeship Scheme, believes that sacrifice precedes success.

Prasad graduated from the National Apprenticeship Scheme earlier this year after completing the programme. The 23-year-old was the national apprenticeship programme's first runner-up for the overall best apprentice.

He is currently employed as a Biomedical Technician at Lautoka Hospital and is enjoying his chosen career.

"I come from a very loving family, and like any other parent, my parents had a dream for me, and I worked diligently to make that dream a reality and to make them proud of my accomplishment," Prasad explained.

"Nothing comes easily in life, as we must all work tirelessly, give our whole commitment, dedication, and sacrifice to attain success."

His father, Dharmendra Prasad, served as his motivation, constantly encouraging him to establish objectives and demonstrating how to accomplish them. However, Prasad's father passed away shortly after he began his apprenticeship.

"I am delighted that I completed my programme on a good note. The National Apprenticeship Scheme has shaped my destiny and will continue to do so," he explained.

"I encountered problems following my admission to the programme in 2016, and then my father died the following year. However, I am grateful that I was able to fulfil my father's dream, and that all of his teachings will stay with me for the rest of my life."

"His desire had always been for me to join the trade. I used to follow him to job sites, and as a result of my fascination, I chose to pursue electronic studies. I used to stay with a close relative, and my uncle Ajen Prasad has been an enormous help to me since my father died. He had assisted me in my studies and during my time in Lautoka. My entire family had been there for me during my difficult times," shared Prasad.

"My mother Pushp Angani and elder brother Prashnil Prasad have been very helpful and pillars of support for my success, along with my adoring grandmother Maya Wati, with her blessing I am prospering."

Prasad, originally from Mulomulo, Nadi, earned a Certificate IV in Electronics from FNU's College of Engineering, Science, and Technology. He was part of the NTPC's apprenticeship programme between 2016 to 2020.

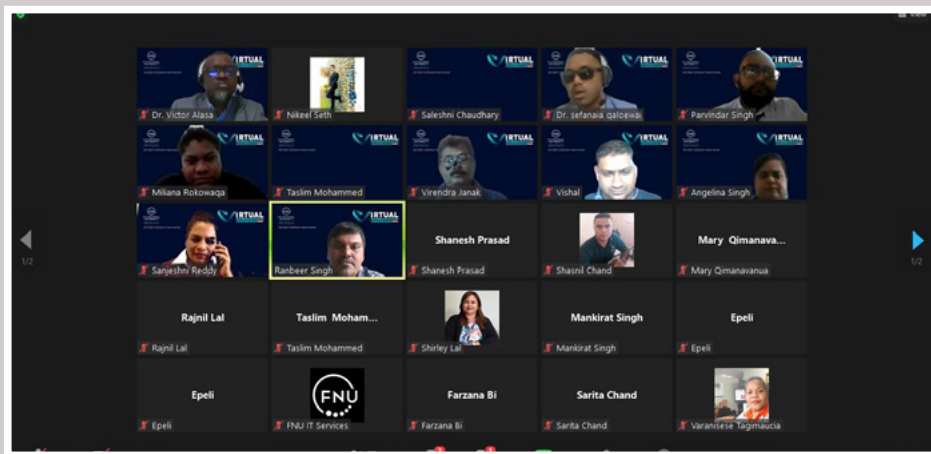
"It's been a fantastic journey with the NTPC, and it's been a beneficial experience for me because the National Apprenticeship Scheme helped me establish a solid foundation for my future. I will always be pleased with the program's ability to assist young people in choosing a secure career path," he stated.

"After completing my apprenticeship at CAS Scales (Fiji) Limited, an opportunity came up and I joined the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. It's been an incredible experience, and I'm constantly learning new things at work."

"The apprenticeship programme is extremely advantageous for young people seeking a secure career. Apprenticeships provide an opportunity to develop work skills while earning money."

Prasad concluded by adding, "One must not lose hope, but must work diligently to reach the top and accomplish one's ambitions."

FNU's inaugural Virtual Outreach Activity a success – Lobendahn



Thousands of prospective students along with their parents, guardians and teachers who were eager to learn about the wide range of programmes offered at the Fiji National University (FNU), subsequent career pathways, minimum entry requirements and other important aspects about the tertiary education, joined the University's Virtual Outreach Activity.

More than 110 schools from across the country attended the three-week virtual event which provided participants with the right guidance relating to study opportunities available at FNU.

FNU's Director Marketing and Communications, Karen Lobendahn said the success of the first-ever online event was a testimony to the hard work and enthusiasm of support and academic staff who all worked tirelessly to provide an insight into the programmes and courses to prospective students, through presentations and live-chat sessions.

As a dual-sector University, FNU is committed

requirements and application process, flexible fee payment options and the study and career pathways available during the school outreach sessions.

Held for the first time, the Virtual Outreach Activity event featured academic presenters from FNU's five Colleges – the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF), College of Humanities and Education (CHE), College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS), College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS), the National Training and Productivity Centre, (NTPC), Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) and FNU's Technical and Vocational Education and Training brand – TVET Pasifika.

"The live zoom chat sessions provided a platform for students, teachers and parents to be informed of the tertiary study options sessions at FNU and to also allow them to assist their children to make informed decisions on their career and education pathways,"

to quality education through both its TVET (technical and vocational education and training) and Higher Education courses, with a focus on Education for Employability and a positive student learning experience.

Year 12 and 13 students and their teachers were able to learn in-depth about the courses on offer at FNU, the entry

stated Lobendahn.

"These sessions were held in the English, iTaukei and Hindi languages for better engagement with parents and guardians, who are vital stakeholders in the education of their children."

"The VOA platform enabled us to showcase our programmes and courses to the general public and especially to potential FNU students, who were able to interact live with the academic staff and get their queries sorted," she explained.

The University will be making further announcements in the coming weeks regarding its Industry Outreach activities and the reskilling and upskilling initiatives available to those in the workforce.

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'Tailor-made' Live sessions informative for students – Sami

Batinikama College student Silviya Swastika Sami (pictured) applauded the Fiji National University (FNU) for organising information sessions, where students, parents and members of the general public interacted with staff in 'real-time' and learnt about the wide range of study options provided by the national university.



Sami highlighted that the 'tailor-made' sessions made it easier for students to understand the information being presented by the academics.

"Considering the fast-changing job market these days and the effects of the global pandemic on the way the job market has been reshaped, it has become even more imperative than ever for us to make wise career choices. Not only this but the choice of institution for tertiary studies is equally important, where one is taught both hard and the soft skills, which play a vital role in the success of every career."

Sami stated that through the Live Virtual Outreach Sessions, FNU provided 'just the right platform' for students to carefully consider their career aspirations.

"Having each College present their study options separately made it easier for me to comprehend what careers map with which College programmes," she said.

The Year 13 student was also able to gain an insight on how to choose majors and minors for different programmes.

"My first choice is Management and Marketing studies and the second is Accounting and Information Systems. Through these sessions, I was able to

understand more about these fields of study and the careers that I could get into."

Sami said it was interesting to note that she could begin her studies with Certificate or Diploma programmes, get into employment and continue her studies into higher education programmes later.

"I learnt that this is the Technical and Vocational Educational and Training (TVET)

career progression pathway. This really is a remarkable way to get a formal qualification and employment and later continue upgrading your skills with further education and training."

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Careers teachers join FNU's live sessions

The Fiji National University's (FNU) Virtual Outreach Activity (VOA) sessions dedicated to Careers teachers received an overwhelming response from teachers around Fiji, including high schools from the Maritime zone.

The dedicated Live Zoom sessions were scheduled from Tuesday to Friday (October 19 to 22).

The three sessions enlightened the teachers about the wide range of study programmes available for prospective students and the minimum entry requirements. The one-hour sessions also highlighted the various learning and teaching support provided to students and how to navigate the online application process.

A careers teacher at Yasayasa Moala College (YMC) in Naroi, Moala, Lau, Lusiana Tauyavu (pictured) stated that attending the Live information session was a new and interesting experience for her.

"I feel fortunate to have gotten the chance to experience this inaugural initiative by FNU and the team did an awesome job implementing such a way to reach out to schools. It is particularly convenient for maritime school teachers to get the much-needed study options information for our high school students," she said.

"I liked the idea of every College presenting their programmes and promoting their own schools. It showcased the diverse range of programmes offered by FNU."

Head of Science Department at Rewa Secondary School, Muni Swastika Shivangini shared similar thoughts about the dedicated sessions.

She said such sessions are a great way to reach out to teachers and students with critical enrolment and study information.

"The sessions are very important and informative for all of us – parents, teachers and students," she said.

"Learning about the requirements for each faculty will help me as a Year 13 level coordinator to assist my students in applying and choosing the right pathway. It will help me with guiding the students to choose the right programme looking at the requirements of the courses that they can meet."

"The presentation on the online application process was detailed and well-timed. I will now be able to help and assist my students with filling the application form," Shivangini added.



Live vernacular sessions are a hit with parents



The Fiji National University (FNU) organised the first-ever Virtual Outreach Activity (VOA) in the vernacular languages for students, parents and guardians to interact with academic staff and learn about study opportunities offered by the university in various disciplines.

FNU organised six special live sessions in iTaukei, Hindi and English, which enabled parents and guardians to discover what sets FNU apart from other universities in terms of programme delivery, hands-on practical sessions and compulsory attachments.

As part of the interactive sessions, academics highlighted study options available at FNU as well as possible career pathways students could pursue upon their graduation.

A participant of the vernacular session, Geeta Krishna commended the University for having such interactive sessions in the three different languages, targeted especially to inform parents about uni-life.

“This is a really great initiative from FNU to reach out to parents and students. All the sections of FNU covered their content well, giving us an insight into the study options and their corresponding career pathways,” she said.

“As a parent, I would like to know more about the environment in which my child will be studying. I was curious about a lot of things and the Live sessions answered my queries.”

“Sometimes it may be difficult for us, parents, to accept the professions chosen by our children and I believe this is where such interactive sessions play a huge part in informing us why our children may be interested in that particular field.”

“Having more knowledge about today’s job market and the professions in demand will enable us to support our children in their education without hesitations. Therefore, these Live sessions in vernacular languages allowed us to explore the variety of programmes and careers that our children can follow.”

Krishna also highlighted that the guidance video on filling the application form was a well-paced presentation.

“Online application during these times is very crucial and the video explained every process in detail. Hoping that students and parents take advantage of these sessions, especially now when the global pandemic has reshaped the job market,” Krishna added.

Virtual information sessions highlight study options at FNU



Most high school students rely on their parents and guardians, teachers, mentors and those they look up to for advice to help them make the best decision on their higher education studies based on their ambitions.

While students may already have an idea of their dream careers and other long-term aspirations, the counsel they receive from others can help them make current or short-term plans that will help them achieve their goals.

Kui Jemima Tupou Bali (*pictured*) said in addition to her family and teachers providing guidance, being able to participate in the Fiji National University’s (FNU) Virtual Outreach Activities (VOA) allowed her to receive first-hand information regarding her University study options.

The Year 13B student at Jasper Williams High School said although students’ learning and teaching was affected by the school closures caused by the pandemic, it was still an exciting time for those who would begin tertiary studies in the coming year.

“It is encouraging to think of all the courses at FNU that students can take that will lead them on to the field they dream to work in,” Bali said.

“Through the VOA sessions, we learnt that there were so many study options available and in the different Colleges and campuses.”

“I’m sure that many other students have managed to decide on what they want to study at FNU.”

“For me, I have decided to enrol in the Bachelor of Education course as I aim to become a high school teacher.”

Offered by the College of Humanities and Education (CHE), students can undertake the Bachelor of Education programme majoring in specific subject fields.

With three Schools offering courses in the areas of Arts and Humanities, Education and Communication, Language and Literature, students are bound to find a study pathway suited to their dream career.

CHE also has TVET (technical and vocational education and training) courses under the TVET Pasifika brand that students can undertake with financial assistance offered through the 5,000 Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLs) placements.

Those eligible for TSLs-funded studies in a TVET Pasifika course at FNU must have successfully completed Year 12 with a minimum mark of 200/400 or completed Level I and II studies from the Technical College of Fiji.

For more information, visit our website on www.fnu.ac.fj

Reskilling and Upskilling opportunities at FNU

Fiji National University (FNU) graduates and others in the workforce who wish to reskill or upskill their qualifications have short course options to choose from that can assist in their career progression and enhance their knowledge, skills and employability.

Through the Fijian Government’s \$1 million Reskilling and Retraining Programme, those employed and those who had their employment affected by the COVID-19 pandemic can undertake short courses to aid in income generation and sustainable employment.

The University will launch its Industry Outreach initiative in the coming weeks and strategically engage with its industry stakeholders to effectively showcase the opportunities available to employees and those interested in the various labour markets in Fiji.

These virtual outreach sessions will provide a platform whereby those interested will be able to speak to FNU academics and enquire about their study pathways and schedules in their chosen field of expertise.

The University will be making further announcements and registration details for interested participants.

Below are the first batch of short courses will be offered from Monday 17th January to Friday 11th March, 2022.

RESKILLING AND UPSKILLING SHORT COURSES AT FNU (Offered from January – March 2022)				
Payroll Accounting	E-Com & Digital Marketing	New Tourism Soft Skills	Carpentering Basics	Project management
Business Start-Up	Business Processes Outsourcing	Office Automation	Plumbing Basics	Farming Basics
Cloud Computing	Leadership Skills for Hospitality	Data	Tile Laying	Counselling Basics
Financial	Sustainable Tourism	Cyber Security	Brick Laying	Health and Safety
Artificial Intelligence	Sanitation Food Safety	Vehicle Inspection	Plastering Basics	Certificate III in Individual Age Care Support

In addition to the above, the second round of short courses will be offered from Monday 21st March to Friday 13th May, 2022.

The final batch of short courses can be undertaken from Monday 23rd May to Friday 15th July, 2022.

For more information regarding our programmes and the reskilling and upskilling short courses available, log onto our website at www.fnu.ac.fj or contact our team via email at outreach@fnu.ac.fj

Lauwai decides on Nursing studies

Staying connected with prospective students and members of the public allows the Fiji National University (FNU) to consistently disseminate key information regarding its courses, entry requirements, application process and learning and support services.

Regular communication enables high school students, teachers, and parents and guardians to be aware of the learning, teaching and research opportunities at FNU and align the students' academic aspirations with the study pathways at the University.

Keeping abreast with information and communications technology has allowed the University to maintain its engagement with current and future students and their wider networks despite the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

For 18-year-old Alita Lauwai (pictured), this meant she would be able to learn about FNU's programmes and have her queries answered by University academics from the comfort of her home.

The Jasper Williams High School student was



informed of FNU's Virtual Outreach Activities (VOA) by her teachers and knew this was her opportunity to enquire about her interests in the healthcare profession.

"I participated in the Zoom session organised by FNU along with my classmates and peers from other high schools around Fiji," Lauwai said.

"It was an informative session as I got to hear the lecturers from all of FNU's Colleges and the courses they have. It was also beneficial to hear which programmes and at which locations we could study."

"This is important because, for some of us in the West, we don't have to go to Suva for tertiary studies if the programmes are offered by FNU in

Nadi or the Natabua Campus, so it's great that students can stay with their families and study at the same time."

"Another fact that I learnt was that from Year 11 onwards, anyone who is eligible can apply for studies at FNU and that's encouraging for those who think they may be too old to study. This allows them to pursue their University studies regardless of their age."

Lauwai, who currently takes Biology, Chemistry and

Agriculture subjects along with Maths and English, said she was eager to listen to the online presentation by FNU's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS).

"I have always been inspired by nurses and have the passion to help others and care for people in their times of need," she said.

"I have decided to enrol in the Bachelor of Nursing course at FNU after having all my queries answered during the Virtual Outreach Activities (VOA) session.

FNU's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) offers programmes in the field of Nursing from Certificate, Bachelor's, Postgraduate and Masters to PhD level.

Students completing or have completed Year 12 or 13 also have the opportunity to undergo studies in the Quota Based Certificate IV in Enrolled Nursing course through the 5,000 Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS) placements.

Those eligible for TSLS-funded studies in a TVET Pasifika course at FNU must have successfully completed Year 12 with a minimum mark of 200/400 or completed Level I and II studies from the Technical College of Fiji.

For more information, visit our website on www.fnu.ac.fj

Higher Degrees by Research (HDR) programmes at FNU



FNU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation Professor Roland De Marco.

In addition to providing quality learning and teaching to all students, the Fiji National University (FNU) is also committed to fostering a research community that contributes to areas of national relevance in Fiji and the region.

Through its Research Office, the University supports research in a broad range of areas in partnership with the government, industries and agencies and enables the institution to grow its research activities and achievements for the transformation of our communities and economy.

FNU's Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, Professor Roland De Marco said "FNU is focused on applied research or research with impact that contributes in knowledge transfer to business, industry, government also impacting on policy and

practice within its disciplinary fields of influence."

Speaking during an information session with prospective HDR students during the University's Virtual Outreach Activities (VOA), Prof De Marco highlighted the importance of research students in a higher education institution.

"Universities are knowledge-based institutions, with the first aspect embodying knowledge creation through research and development," he said.

"The knowledge creation that you (students) help us to create as HDR scholars is crucial since you are the "engine room" of research at the University."

"You help us to create that knowledge in partnership with our academics and stakeholders. Our academics subsequently become expert practitioners in their disciplines and in everything that they do from teaching as well as research and development along with their engagement with government and external agencies."

Prof De Marco said that "Masters and PhD by Research students formed an integral part of the University research community and contribute significantly to the University's research effort, but most importantly are a key to the University imperative to graduate employable students who build successful careers and contribute positively to our extended community".

The areas of study supported by FNU are in medicine, nursing and health sciences, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary science, business, hospitality and tourism studies, engineering, science and technology along with humanities and education.

Students can undertake Masters by Research studies full-time for two years or four years part-time, with a maximum completion time of six years.

PhD students can complete the programme within three years full-time or six years part-time, with a maximum completion time of eight years.

HDR scholarships are also made available to interested students. For more information, visit the Research tab on the FNU website at <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/research/> or email the Manager Higher Degrees by Research on deepak.c@fnu.ac.fj

Technical careers offer high rewards – Khan

Skilled personnel in blue-collar jobs need greater recognition and acknowledgement for their contribution towards economic and social development says Razik Sharoo Khan who currently works as the Acting Mechanical Engineer – Standards & Engineering at Land Transport Authority (LTA) of Fiji.

Khan (pictured) said Fiji is privileged to be able to produce technically skilled workers through the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes offered by Fiji National University (FNU) in various sectors of the economy.

"I believe that Fiji's economy is dependent on TVET stream graduates. Not everyone can become a chief executive officer or a general manager – we need these technical people for our livelihood," said Khan.

"Imagine what would happen if we do not have mechanics to go to for vehicle repairs. Fitters, machinists, technicians and other technical careers are underrated in the sense that people do not realise the importance of having such skilled workers in our country while there is a shortage of such personnel in overseas countries," said Khan.

The Acting Mechanical Engineer commended FNU for producing technically sound graduates.

"Just like any employer, what the industry requires is that any graduate that comes into the organisation with a positive mindset, discipline and technical knowledge."

"Attachés or graduates from FNU know the industry expectations and the good thing is that some of them have so much hands-on experience even before starting a job and that is one of the major things that we require."

LTA has taken in interns from FNU in the past and Khan said that the organisation is looking forward to supporting the development and growth of graduates in the TVET stream.

He urged other industry stakeholders to take on interns and allow them to get an idea of how the industry works before they formally begin their careers.

"When you are working in a technical area, decision making is the most important component because everything becomes binary – either it is a yes or a no. We do not want people to think twice about their decisions and this won't even help with the individual's professional development because you start doubting yourself."

"This is where the industry stakeholders play a critical role by giving the interns the opportunity and the environment to become confident and technically sound workers," Khan added.



Vuranovo chases passion in tourism and teaching

For Siteri Tinai Camaicolo Vuranovo, education was a continuous endeavour that allowed her to pursue studies and career aspirations in more than one field of work.

Growing up in Natokowaqa, Lautoka, Vuranovo was surrounded by those working in the hospitality sector at hotels and tourism companies in the Western Division.

This prompted her to pursue qualifications that would enable her to be employed by the industry.

Vuranovo's kind, carefree and welcoming personality was also well-suited to her career plans.

After completing her pre-tertiary education at Lautoka Fijian Primary School, Ba Provincial Secondary School and Assemblies of God High School in Suva, Vuranovo enrolled at the Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT), which is now part of the Fiji National University (FNU).

Tourism and Hospitality

"I was excited to begin studies in this field and the first course I completed in 2002 was the Certificate in Dining Room Service programme. A year later I completed the Certificate in Hospitality Operation course and in 2004 I graduated from the Certificate in Hospitality Accounting programme," Vuranovo shared.

"Student life, particularly tertiary life, was an eye-opening experience for me as we are introduced to a different way of learning and teaching compared to our primary and secondary education."

"I was surrounded by many other like-minded peers who were eager to learn the skills we needed to become successful in life. The first-hand practical learning approach of the courses made it easy for us to understand and apply our knowledge in the working environment."

Vuranovo recalled her practical classes at the Tiri Restaurant and Bar at Nasese Campus and the experience of wearing the chef uniform when in the kitchen.

"We were also hired to cater at five-star hotels and other business and corporate events and this made us develop not just our professional skills, but also our soft skills such as time management, customer service, communication, diligence and teamwork."

Following her tourism and hospitality studies, Vuranovo was then employed at various organisations such as the Golden Dragon Nightclub, Union Club Suva Homemaker and the Raffles Gateway Hotel in Nadi.

"I was able to apply and develop my skills, from office work, to front office operations, serving in the restaurant, mixing drinks at the bar, proper book-keeping and accounts work, basic chef duties in the kitchen and housekeeping work."

Teaching

In 2010, Vuranovo decided to pursue her passion for teaching. She enrolled in the Diploma in Secondary Education (English and Social Science) course at FNU's College of Humanities and Education (CHE) and graduated a year later.

Her first teaching post was to Wainimala Secondary School in a reliving post for the first term of 2012. She then completed the remaining two terms at Napuka Secondary School.

Since then, Vuranovo has been teaching at Saint John's College on Ovalau island, Lomaiviti.

"I have been in the teaching field for a decade now and this has certainly provided me with adequate knowledge and soft skills on how to effectively teach students from various communities and backgrounds," she said.

"Being a teacher really is a humble profession and although it is challenging at times, it is also satisfying to know that you have a significant role in a child's growth and development."

"There are times when I have also had to deal with students and their circumstances within and outside of the classroom setting to ensure their education were not hindered and this highlights the importance we place on the education of our young minds and future leaders."

Throughout her teaching career, Vuranovo has taught Year 9, 10 and 11 English classes, Year 9 and 10 Social Science, Year 9 Vosa Vaka-Viti (iTaukei language), and Year 9 and 10 Art and Craft classes.

Vuranovo recently completed a Train the Trainers course on how to conduct mock elections that were organised by the Fiji Elections Office for Year 10 Social Science teachers. She said this would enable her to better relay this topic to her students.

She is also the Year 11 Coordinator and is in charge of collecting and recording worksheets and assessments and marking papers for English, Social Science and Vosa Vaka-Viti. She has also performed in the role of Manager for the Saint John's College Under-17 Netball Team and as a sporting official during the Ovalau-Lomaiviti Zone Meet.

Vuranovo was proud to add that during school activities such as clean up campaigns, her form has been awarded certificates, in recognition of their community work.

In addition to her responsibilities, Vuranovo currently assists the Ministry of Health and Medical Services staff on the island in their COVID-19 vaccination campaign for children aged 15 to 18.



Siteri Tinai Camaicolo Vuranovo

Motivation

Throughout her career in both the tourism and teaching sector, Vuranovo has sourced her motivation to succeed from her late parents, Ana Liwa Camaicolo and Nemani Camaicolo Savai.

"I grew up around circumstances where my late father would fall sick regularly and my late mother would return from work and then make jam, sew clothes and do other work to earn extra income and support our family," she shared.

"These struggles have strengthened the determination in me to create better opportunities for my parents and now for my own family."

"Through God's grace, I have been able to achieve anything I set out to do."

Words of Wisdom

Vuranovo's simple advice to others was to honour their parents and take on any opportunity to study to the best of their abilities.

"Grab every chance you have to study and create better conditions for you and your family. Always keep in mind that every choice you make has an outcome that is either good or bad," she added.

Vuranovo, who also credits her four children and family for their support, is currently undertaking further studies at FNU in the Bachelor of Education (English and Geography) course.