



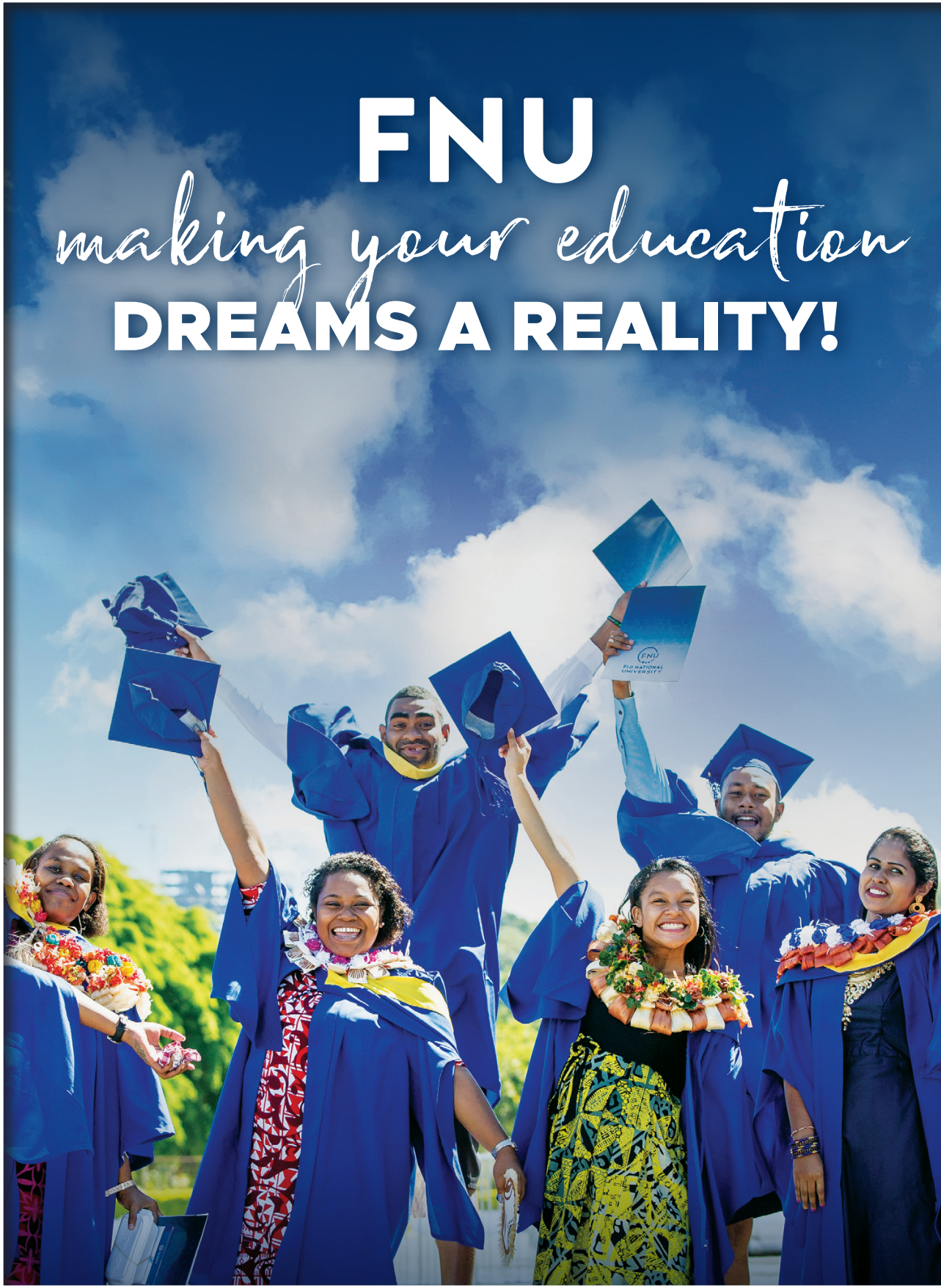
FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FNU **NIKUA**

FNU
making your education
DREAMS A REALITY!

ISSUE NO. 12

DECEMBER, 2021



PRASAD EXCELS IN NEW ZEALAND
THROUGH SKILLS LEARNT AT FNU

RATUMAIMURI UPSKILLS IN THE
ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE FIELD



How has the pandemic changed the dynamics OF LEARNING AND TEACHING AT FNU?



I'd like to start by thanking all FNU students and staff for showing remarkable levels of resilience and commitment during this most challenging year. As a new member of the senior leadership team, I have been heartened by the successful collaborative achievements across our Colleges, Centres and professional services, despite the challenges of studying and working at home.

A thought I'd like us all to reflect on is 'what have we done differently that we want to keep and embed?' Teaching staff have had to rethink programme delivery and assessment formats that were previously delivered on campus by default. We have all had to up our e-learning and e-comms skills – and some have found this easier than others. For me, the key benefit of a comprehensive package of online resources is it demonstrates that we are an inclusive university; students can return to the content as often as they need as we all learn in different ways, and studying when we are most alert - and have the most appropriate space and time to do so, to fit around family commitments, work and quality time with our communities - can produce highly effective learning. Let's take the recent disruption to ways of working and studying as a critical point to pause and reflect – do not fall into the trap of believing that all established ways and practices remain the gold standard forever. Let's be confident in showcasing our innovative changes, and supporting the growth of communities of best practice in learning and teaching.

I am not advocating that online classes should completely replace the campus experience. Whilst we can upload 'academic content' online

for students to absorb at their own pace, we must not neglect the fact that this is just one aspect of the learning process. How we communicate that understanding and engage with debate and discussion are vital educational skills too. In the many conversations I have had with employers and sector leaders about their needs for a thriving economy, it is often 'soft skills' that top their wish list – initiative, problem-solving, a 'can do' attitude which is client aware. These are not best learnt from reading a book chapter, but by the group working, assessment by presentation, live briefs and case studies. Watching students learn by supporting each other in a safe environment where it is ok to make mistakes and learn from them is, in my experience, the most rewarding pedagogic approach.

There is an added dimension to the benefits of being back on campus beyond skills for the workforce. Our campuses offer a space to socialize and participate in personal development. This can range from a post-lecture coffee with friends, gym sessions, and activities in support of the FNUSA. In my previous institution, students wanted to keep some face to face lectures in their timetable – not only because they wanted some variety from online learning, but they missed the chance to share lunch with friends. It is an unfortunate result of lockdowns that there is a rise in self-reported anxiety and a sense of isolation among young people in particular. I'm sure I am not the only member of staff who found the blurring of my work and home space a challenge – the time spent commuting to campus and taking time for a coffee and chat with colleagues adds valuable structure to busy lives.

As we put in place the schedule for 2022 we need to be mindful that both new and returning students will need a rigorous induction into the support mechanisms that FNU offers – who to ask, where to go, what has to be done by when. Let's start the new academic year with clear and bold messages about the steps students can take to ensure they can succeed and excel. As staff, we will continue to maximize the expertise and guidance that colleagues in the Office for Learning and Teaching can offer – early conversations to explore innovative ideas will help us all to deliver a fantastic student experience.

In summary, my key messages to you are:

- Let's use online approaches to be inclusive of all learners – the added value of autonomous learning embraces diversity
- Let's not have unrealistic expectations of what online provision alone can deliver in terms of a transformative student experience. FNU has great technical facilities, labs and equipment. Hands-on learning is a fundamental requirement of some courses, and the opportunity to learn face to face with subject experts is a continued and just expectation.
- Learning doesn't occur solely in the classroom (be it on campus or online). I personally cannot wait to see our campuses buzzing with students and staff, albeit mindful that we remain safe and look out for the wellbeing of others at this critical point in the pandemic.

Wishing you all a peaceful break – stay safe.

Professor Lisa Harrison
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching)

BAKANI PRAISES THE practical component of FNU studies



Engineering Exhibitions, orientations and Open Days, fellowships, student camps and social events.

Bakani is a graduate of FNU in the Bachelor of Science (Food Technology and Chemistry) that is offered by the University's College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

Undertaking her studies at the CEST School of Applied Science at the Nabua Campus in Suva, Bakani said after choosing the two subjects at International Secondary School (ISS), she decided to pursue the field in university.

"My time at FNU was quite memorable because, in addition to the experienced and approachable lecturers, the hostel life and support services available like the library were what helped in my studies," she said.

"Since I was a working student, I was grateful to be able to utilise the library at Derrick Campus in Samabula after work to complete my tutorials and assignments before I headed to the cafeteria for some late-night dinners."

"I enjoyed the practical and lab components for the course as this made us understand the theoretical work we learnt. This was the best learning method for me and a highlight of this was creating a DNA model in 2017 with my classmates in my Food Biotechnology unit."

"We used beads, wires and other materials to show the chemical building blocks of the DNA, which are the phosphate group, sugar group and the nitrogen bases."

"In addition, we also undergo the compulsory industrial attachment during our studies and this

prepares us to be work-force ready when we graduate from FNU."

Bakani had undergone her industrial attachment at the Ministry of Agriculture's Chemistry Research section at Koronivia Research Station in late 2016 and from late 2018 until July last year.

After graduating from FNU last year, Bakani received her first posting by the Ministry to her homeland of Levuka, Ovalau.

She is currently the Messenger (II) at the Ministry's Levuka Station.

"I am glad to be able to apply my academic and soft skills learnt at FNU," Bakani said.

"FNU has taught me the importance of time management, being diligent in a task whether it is big or small, and to always be on time."

She also acknowledged her late grandparents – Dr Bakani and her namesake Kalesi Bakani – for the role they played in her upbringing and support during her studies.

Despite 2020 being a challenging year for Bakani, given the COVID-19 pandemic and losing both her grandparents, she credited her perseverance to her late grandparents and her parents and siblings.

Bakani plans to progress in her career and venture into the research field. She also aims to undergo Postgraduate and Masters studies at FNU.

Prasad excels in New Zealand through SKILLS LEARNT AT FNU

Ashmita Prasad who graduated with a Diploma in Hotel Management (Accommodation and Food Beverage) from the Fiji National University (FNU) said she was able to easily secure employment at a Coffee Club in Auckland, New Zealand after she migrated seven years ago.

Born and raised in Nausori, a career in the food and beverage industry was always going to be a natural choice for Prasad who aspired to shine as a chef after selecting food and nutrition classes as her subject combination in high school.

Prasad graduated from the FNU's College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) in 2010. She started her career as a chef at the MHCC Food Court in Suva before joining the I-Crave Bistro as a Head Chef.

Moving to a foreign country after getting married in 2013 came with challenges as Prasad had to adapt to a completely new lifestyle, however, the FNU graduate was always confident of securing a job for herself as she was well equipped with the necessary skills and experience in her field.

"At Coffee Club, my role is to ensure the smooth running of the kitchen, proper food handling and safety and to meet the appropriate quality and quantity of foodservice as per the standards," mentioned Prasad.

A decade later, Prasad is full of praise for the Fiji National University (FNU) and looks back on her time as a student from the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) as a sense of pride.

"I took this programme not only because of my immense interest but the fact that the demand for job opportunities in this field was high at that time. I was also keen to learn the managerial side of the role in restaurants and hotels," stated Prasad.

The mother of two also expressed that through her education and training at the FNU, she was able to specialise in different roles in reception, accommodation, food and beverage and housekeeping.

"When you finish the programme, you will have options to select the suitable area that you want to continue with. The best part is that FNU's Diploma in Hotel Management (Accommodation and Food Beverage) programme can enable you to find a job anywhere in the world."

"I was able to learn different culinary skills, how to provide fast and efficient services, how to organise fine and presentable plating styles, leadership role and being organised, which I still practise at my current workplace."

Other than working as a Head Chef at the Coffee Club, Prasad is also a Bachelor of Health Science student at the Auckland University of Technology.

"Studying at the Fiji National University (FNU) was hugely satisfying and has proven to be a vital part of success in my career. My message to prospective and current students is to keep striving. Although there may be uncertainties due to the current global situation and it may be difficult to make right decisions, but time will change and things will settle back," she mentioned.



Admission for Semester 1, Quarter 1 and Trimester 1, 2022 is currently underway and interested students can apply via the Admission Application portal on the FNU website. Visit <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/study/apply/> to apply.

Prospective students can also contact us via **9555760**, text on **857** or email on admission@fnu.ac.fj if they face difficulties completing the process online or need further admission information.



SCAN TO APPLY

Application for Admission for Semester 1, 2022 is NOW OPEN

Before you begin your application for admission to FNU, please ensure that you have a valid email address and scanned copies of the following required documents:

Birth Certificate

Passport Size Photo

TIN Letter/ FRCS Card

Secondary School Results

(if you do not have your results, please provide your index number)

Medical Support Letter for any medical conditions or disability
(if applicable)

Affidavit of Parental Consent

(if you are under 18 years of age as at 20th March 2022)

How to Apply

01

ENQUIRE

Please log on to www.fnu.ac.fj and browse through the list of Programmes via <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/study/apply/programme-list/>

02

APPLY

- 1. Apply Online**
Applicants from the below mentioned Colleges are encouraged to Apply Online or Apply via Email: admission@fnu.ac.fj
 - College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF)
 - College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS)
 - College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST)
 - College of Humanities and Education (CHE)
 - Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA)
 - National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC)

2. All applicants can apply online via <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/study/apply/>

03

SUBMISSION

- Submit the Application after reviewing the Student Declaration.

04

OFFER LETTER

- If Minimum Entry Requirement is met then you will be provided with an Offer Letter.
- Read the Offer Letter for important information regarding your offer and acceptance.

05

CONFIRMATION

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

TVET at FNU

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 minimum 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.

Contact Details

For further information or clarification visit www.fnu.ac.fj or contact the following staff:

Pritika Mala	pratika.m@fnu.ac.fj	General enquiries
Eric Jioji	eric.jioje@fnu.ac.fj	Business and Hospitality courses
Vasenai Kerani	vasenai.kerani@fnu.ac.fj	Engineering courses
Jerry Wong	jerry.wong@fnu.ac.fj	Education courses
Dr Jayantha Weerasinghe	jayantha.w@fnu.ac.fj	Medical courses
Esava Tabua	Esava.tabua@fnu.ac.fj	Agricultural courses
Taslim Mohammed	taslim.mohammed@fnu.ac.fj	Maritime courses
Sanjeshni Reddy	info.ntpc@fnu.ac.fj	NTPC courses
FNU Outreach team	outreach@fnu.ac.fj	TVET courses

TVET Programme Funding

For enquiries on the fully funded scheme for 5000 students, please visit Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Scheme website: <https://www.tsls.com.fj/Home>

TVET PASIFIKA

“Providing Education for Employability”

Why TVET Pasifika?

- TVET Pasifika brings together the full range of FNU's Technical and Vocational Education and Training in one place. It offers students, employers and partners an unrivalled choice of programmes, all designed to maximise employability and productivity. FNU has a successful track-record of delivering high-quality, industry-relevant TVET, in all disciplines and aligned to every major employment sector.
- TVET Pasifika draws on the collective strength and expertise of FNU's constituent units – its five academic colleges, the National Training and Productivity Centre, and the Fiji Maritime Academy. TVET Pasifika embodies the FNU ethos of working closely with industry to provide education for employability. Our TVET teachers have real-world industry experience as well as the right academic qualifications.
- TVET Pasifika embodies FNU's core commitment to education for employability and an excellent student experience. Our facilities and equipment are benchmarked against international best practice, and our courses are achieving international accreditation. With flexibility in start dates, payment plans and articulation arrangements, TVET Pasifika brings all the resources and capabilities of a large university to serve TVET students, employers and partners.



“ It was the learning environment at FNU that developed and enhanced my skills as I was able to study in a practical setting. Learning through technical and vocational education and training (TVET) was important for me because I know that without quality education, there would not be any competition in the workforce. ”

Josese Muataby Lesikicia Cagica
Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
 COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM STUDIES



“ I have been teaching English and Vosa Vakaviti (Vernacular), and I feel proud of my job, which requires me to educate our younger generation. However, I chose to learn Cabinet Making and Joinery skills because I wanted to attain a certificate through this trade and learn multiple skills for future survival. ”

Waisea Nacou Cikaitoga
Cabinet Making and Joinery
 NATIONAL TRAINING AND PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE



“ Navigating a career change can be intimidating and terrifying but for a better life and a better chance to find a job in the area that I love was what motivated me to pursue studies in the automotive engineering field. I knew that without qualifications, I wouldn't get the change I desired and would be stuck in a job I didn't like. I researched and found that FNU's offers the programme at Ba campus and quickly enrolled as it is closer to home. ”

Nittal Ragni Chand
Certificate IV in Automotive Engineering
 (Automotive Electrical & Electronics)
 COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



“ There are many interesting aspects of the automotive engineering profession but three are my absolute favourites. Firstly, my days are different – learning about new technology and just when I've finished one task, another new vehicle rolls in through the garage doors with a different issue. Variety is the spice of life! Another exciting characteristic of this profession is that I do not have to be stuck behind a desk all day – I've never had a boring day since I started my attachment. The days have been busy with new challenges and learning every day. Finally, let me be realistic – I save some money by doing repairs on my car ”

Raynal Seth
Certificate IV in Automotive Engineering (Heavy Mobile Plant)
 COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



“ I would like to acknowledge the government for recognising the need to assist students in this stream of studies and encourage students to take advantage of this incentive. TVET programmes can be seen as a hope for many students who would not be able to cater for the fees to enter higher education courses directly. Programmes under this stream allow students to gain the necessary skills and a qualification, enter the workforce and continue their studies if they wish to. On the other hand, it also assists those in the workforce to attain a formal qualification, which would complement their industry experience and make them more competitive in the job market. ”

Kavinesh Krishneet Raj
Diploma in Engineering (Electrical)
 COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



“ As a graduate, my skills and knowledge have helped me both as a national rugby player and in my role as a strength and conditioning coach. My professional highlight was when she was a trainer last year for the Fijiana Women's 15s team that won the Oceania game to qualify for the Women's World Cup, which will be held in New Zealand next year. ”

Mereseini Vasulia
Trade Diploma in Sports Science
 COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION

Tonganibeia aligns career goal to national needs

For Joseph Tarataake Tonganibeia, being able to contribute to his country's infrastructure development amidst the effects of climate change was a key factor in his study and career ambitions.

From the Republic of Kiribati, Tonganibeia experienced first-hand the detrimental effects climate change had on the low-lying island nation. Combining this with his childhood passion for the building industry, Tonganibeia decided to enrol at the Fiji National University (FNU) in the Diploma in Architectural Drafting.

Offered by FNU's College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) at the Derrick Campus in Samabula, Suva, the three-year programme prepares students technical posts and in assisting and supporting project officers, architects, and other senior officers in the architectural drafting field in the preparation of various types of project documentation.

The programme also provides students with drafting knowledge, skills, technical knowledge of materials, regulations, building codes, bylaws and other standards used locally and abroad.

Tonganibeia, 21, said this aligned with his ambitions as he wanted to contribute to his country through green and sustainable building designs.

"I want to help my country develop whilst bearing in mind the effects of climate change," he said.

"I always wanted to be in this industry since I was a child as my dad was a carpenter and I would always follow him to his workplace," he shared.

"Starting my studies at FNU in 2019 was an eye-opener for me as the tertiary experience is different to

your high school experience. I'm glad though that I was able to easily adapt as the academic and support staff at FNU were approachable and made sure that you were provided, or made aware of, the resources and services available to us during our studies."

"There were also campus life activities that allowed me to build networks and friendships whilst still representing my country and heritage. One such event for me was during the Cultural Night function by FNU's medical students, where I was able to be the flag bearer and showcase my country's traditional dances to a large audience."

Reflecting on his studies raised a lot of key highlights for Tonganibeia, who said a key achievement was during a project presentation in his first year.

"During this project, we were put in groups with students from other courses as well and required to make a model of a building," he said.

"Seeing all the models being built and presented made me proud of our team's model and made me appreciate the various skills and talent everyone possesses."

"Through this course, I have enhanced my skills in this field through the lectures from skilled professionals and the industrial attachments during the courses. Since I have completed my studies this year, I am eager to apply my knowledge by working in the industry."

Tonganibeia acknowledged his parents and friends



for the continuous support and encouragement he received during his tertiary studies at FNU.

He also plans to continuously upskill his qualifications in his field of work.

"It takes a lot of effort and dedication, but if you set your mind to it you will be able to achieve anything," he shared as an encouragement to other current and prospective FNU students.

Students completing or have completed Year 12 or 13 have the opportunity to undergo Semester 1, 2022 studies in the Diploma in Architectural Drafting or any other TVET course at FNU through the 5,000 Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLs) placements.

Continuing students of an FNU TVET course are also eligible and can apply for the placement.

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 minimum mark of 200/400 or completed Level 1 and II studies from the Technical College of Fiji.

Applications for Semester 1, 2022 studies at FNU are now open. Students can visit our website on www.fnu.ac.fj to learn more about our programmes and submit an online application.

Changaiya plans for a stable future

Adrian Vafoou Manuel Changaiya, a former police officer, has enrolled in Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre's (NTPC) electrical programme to become an entrepreneur and secure future for himself and his family.

"I used to be a policeman, but now I'm going to school to learn a trade and start a business," explained the 25-year-old.

"I chose this course because I am interested in electrical work and it is in high demand. People will constantly need your assistance with electrical work in their homes, offices, and other places. Once you understand the profession, you will have it for the rest of your life, and you will always be financially secure."

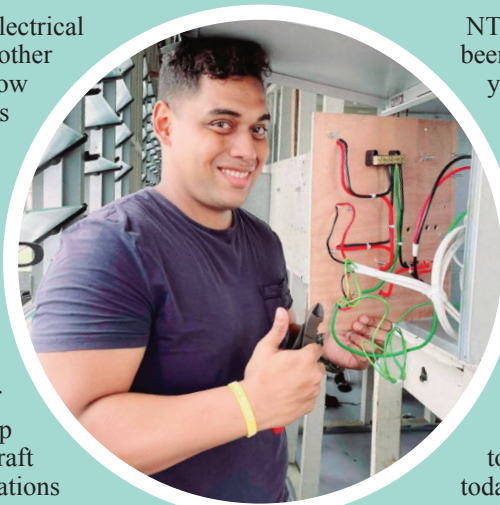
Changaiya who is originally from Levuka currently in Davuilevu, which is closer to the NTPC in Narere.

"NTPC has one of the best facilities where students may learn and gain knowledge, particularly from the instructors who are always willing to assist. The curriculum I'm studying is interesting. We also learn how to calculate the wattage of our appliances, as well as how to identify if we're consuming too much electricity and how to reduce it," he said.

"I became interested in the electrical industry after watching my brother do electrical work, and this is how I was encouraged to enrol in this course. I used to assist him when he was doing electrical wiring at my house, but I had no idea that one day I would be doing it professionally."

"So far I have completed eight out of nineteen modules being offered at NTPC's Department of Electrical of which are: Fundamentals of Computer Applications, Workshop and Electrical Safety, Workshop Craft Practice, Workplace Communications and Ethics, Trade Calculation Fundamentals, Electrical Wireman's Modules (I, II, III)."

"The rest of the units are equally important and I am intending to finish all of it next year, after which I will be eligible for industrial attachment and then for the Trade Test which also is offered at NTPC."



NTPC's training programmes have been developed and updated over the years in line with the industry needs.

Electrical Engineering, Consumer Electronics, and Industrial Automation trade credentials are all available at NTPC.

Practical training and assessment, which is a major component of CBT training, are emphasised heavily in NTPC trade programmes.

NTPC also offers specialised evening courses and customised in-house programmes to stay up with the changes in today's labour market.

NTPC programmes are taught by specialists with appropriate trade credentials and relevant industrial experience.

If you are interested in studying at NTPC, send an email to info.ntpc@fnu.ac.fj or phone 2417779 for additional information.

FNU Quick Fact

We offer an excellent blend of theoretical **LEARNING** and **PRACTICAL** experiences

FREE 24/7 High-speed Wi-Fi access to students throughout all our campuses

We offer **LOW-COST** tuition fees

Nath's creative mind leads him to undertake Engineering studies at FNU



Growing up in Sigatoka, Ashnil Nath loved to create new things. His innovative ideas were sourced from books and watching YouTube videos and this hobby developed into a desire to become an Engineer. With this vision, Nath enrolled for the Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Honours) at the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST).

Presently working as a Graduate Engineer Radio Networks at the Vodafone Fiji PTE Limited, Nath joined FNU as a National Toppers Scheme (NTS) scholarship student. He proudly graduated in 2020.

Nath completed his six months industrial attachment at Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) before securing full-time employment at his current workplace.

The proud alumnus stated there are many aspects of his study that prepared him for the job market.

"The reason I chose the Fiji National University was the fact the way things

are taught. FNU is more practical based and I enjoyed learning things that I would actually experience in my real life. As alumni, I can confidently say that FNU is a reputable institution and employers do not hesitate to hire its graduates," shared Nath.

"As a Graduate Engineer, I am responsible for planning, installation, testing, commissioning and documentation of all base-station systems. I carry out proactive maintenance and fault restorations and ensure the availability of zero network outages," he commented.

Nath added that his time at the university did not just teach him the course work but exposed him to the "real" side of working life and he used this opportunity to make his alma mater proud.

"It was surreal to be selected to represent FNU in the Smart City Challenge which was held in Holiday Inn. This challenge was based on implementing an innovative project that would benefit the citizens," he added.

"Taking an engineering course was no easy feat. A lot of hard work, hustle and sacrifice was needed to overcome this. Maintaining a 3.0 Grade Average Point (GPA) was required to maintain the NTS scholarship hence just the passing mentality would not help. Balancing an independent life with studies was indeed challenging."

Nath's advice to prospective students is simple. "Be open to suggestions, encouragement, and constructive criticism – they can all be the catalyst for great ideas." And in doing so, he urged students to "believe in yourselves and never give up."

Lohit's passion for Forestry led him to study at FNU



Working for the Ministry of Forestry proved to be a perfect career start for Lawrence Lohit, a first-year Bachelor of Science in Forestry student at the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

Lohit works as a Technical Assistant at the Ministry's Research and Development unit and believes that his role is aligned with his passion for forestry.

"After I secured employment with the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, I realised that I needed to learn about the technical expertise and research skills in the area of forest management and biodiversity conservation. This led me to enrol in the Bachelor of Science in Forestry programme at FNU," shared Lohit.

The 24-year-old is responsible for forest operations, assessment, planning and research.

"This programme has also taught me about climate change adaptation and mitigation, forest health and protection, agroforestry and land use, non-timber forest products and value-adding and forest business and entrepreneurship."

The former Suva Sangam High School student stated that selecting FNU was never a tough decision.

"FNU was definitely an ideal choice for me as no other University in Fiji offered programmes specialised in forestry."

The CAFF student highlighted that managing demanding study schedules has helped him juggle competing priorities as a full-time employee.

He also relishes hearing from practitioners in the "real world" during his lecture classes.

Lohit added that FNU has the best atmosphere and the environment is very supportive. He stated he would happily recommend Fiji National University's (FNU) Bachelor of Science in Forestry programme to anyone keen to pursue a successful career in forestry.

"The lecturers at FNU have such valuable insights to offer, and the more effort you put into the programme, the more you will get out of it."

Kumar enjoys working on motor vehicles



Following your passion is important to have a fulfilling and rewarding career. These are the words of Kunal Kaartike Kumar who pursued his education and training at Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre and now is a successful auto technician employed at a leading motor company in Suva.

The 23-year-old studied Automotive Electrical and Electronics and has a Trade Test Certificate in Motor Vehicle Electrical and Electronics Class III. According to Kumar, his qualifications and continued interest in motor vehicles aided in his career advancement.

"I have always loved cars and my interest continued to develop as I undertook my studies at NTPC. Once I graduated I was able to enter the workforce and continued to excel, gaining more knowledge and experience as I followed my passion," said Kumar.

"Hybrid Vehicle is currently a craze for the universe, and so it is for Fiji. There is a lot of coverage on Hybrid in the NTPC programmes. I recommend NTPC's Motor Vehicle Electrical and Electronics programme to anyone who wishes to gain training in these areas."

"NTPC training provided in this area is also on par where a Hybrid vehicle is used as a live demo. Appropriate tools are available in the workshop, classroom and workshops are well maintained, and the trainer delivering has boundless of knowledge which is imparted to us without

any heists," Kumar proudly said.

"Upon attending the FNU-NTPC programmes, I feel a lot more comfortable in carrying out the duties at my current job at RK Motors Ltd. In this organisation, I see a great opportunity to get vast hands-on experience, as it deals with anything you talk about a motor vehicle maintenance."

"I am able to perform the job of motor vehicle mechanics, electrical and electronics systems, and body alignment and panel beating that all run embraced to make the whole vehicle function as required. To my knowledge, they are not in isolation; only that they are segregated a bit at trade level."

Kumar said looking at the vehicle electrical system and how it worked kindled a lot into his mind, and he later chose to study in the same field.

"There has been extensive coverage of classroom-based classes. I was more overwhelmed with practical coverage. Each student was given an equal opportunity on the hands-on feel of how to deal with what was covered in the classrooms and even more."

"The trainer, with extensive knowledge, kept guiding the group to tackle fault situations and the functionality of Motor Vehicle Electronics. The coverage is such that one who is looking towards getting a Trade Certificate in this area will feel more comfortable in attempting to achieve that," he explained.

"Working on vehicles is my passion. I enrolled for Certificate 3 in Motor Vehicle Mechanics which is offered at FNU's Derrick Campus. It was a rewarding journey."

"We had few motor cars at home, and I always joined in, especially my uncle, whenever a repair was to be carried out in Mechanical, Electrical and Panel Beating. I don't mind getting grease or paint on my hands. Even at school, my technical subject marks assessments were always better, and that made me the sense that I am a man of the technical field."

Kumar aims to continue his studies at the Fiji National University in the future. He encourages prospective students who have a similar passion to him to join FNU in 2022.

Admission for Semester 1, Quarter 1 and Trimester 1, 2022 is currently underway

and interested students can apply via the Admission Application portal on the FNU website. Visit <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/study/apply/> to apply.

Prospective students can also contact us via **9555760**, text on **857** or email on admission@fnu.ac.fj if they face difficulties completing the process online or need further admission information.



SCAN TO APPLY

Ratumaimuri upskills in the Environment Science field



Temalesi Ratumaimuri is one of the many proud students who graduated from the Fiji National University (FNU) this year despite the challenges brought on by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a mother-of-three balancing her family and academic life, receiving her certificate of qualification was a moment of celebration for Ratumaimuri and her family.

EDUCATION

With a previous qualification in a Bachelor of Science (Environment Science) from FNU's College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST), Ratumaimuri decided to enrol in the Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Science and Management course in Semester 2 last year.

From Solovola, Ravitaki in Kadavu, Ratumaimuri said completing her postgraduate qualifications in two semesters and graduating in August this year was due to the effective time management skills she employed.

"FNU was really the best place for me to study as it was easy to interact with my peers as well as the lecturers," she said.

"I choose this field as I am passionate about caring for the environment, which is only right given the vital role it provides to us in the way of food, shelter, clothing and protection," she said.

"There is an urgent need to conserve our natural resources sustainably so that future generations can also have a taste of a greener and a more resourceful environment."

"So, my studies at FNU was all about balance and time management. I am thankful to also have empathetic lecturers who understood the times when I need to focus more on my children, such as when they were sick."

"I was given the support needed to still complete my assignment and prepare for my final examinations."

Reflecting on her experience undertaking her degree, Ratumaimuri said she would travel from Lautoka to Suva weekly to complete her final six units.

"I was based at Natabua in Lautoka and every Friday after my lectures I would travel to Suva in time for my babysitter to depart for the weekend," she said.

"I would then return to Lautoka on Sunday evening or early Monday morning and got to campus in time for my morning lecture."

"I believe this shows my dedication and passion for this field. I am also motivated by the prospect of providing a secure future for my children."

Ratumaimuri said although she missed carrying out fieldwork due to the pandemic restrictions, she was grateful that learning technologies were available to help her complete her units online.

"Through Zoom and other software, we were able to still attend our lectures and tutorials and complete the course successfully," she said with a smile.

"Through this programme, I am now more knowledgeable in Climate Change Impact and Adaptation in the South Pacific, Remote Sensing Geospatial Techniques, Research Methodologies, Hydrology, Ridge to Reef and Mangrove Ecosystems."

CAREER

Ratumaimuri is currently the Research Assistant Profiler at the Tailevu Dairy Farmers Cooperative Association Limited. She previously volunteered as the Country Coordinator for Fiji of the COY16 organisation, the youth equivalent of COP26.

She has also served a short-term internship at the Wildlife Conservation Society Fiji and was Project Officer for the Uto ni Yalo Trust.

She has also volunteered at World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF Pacific).

Ratumaimuri hopes to become an established Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Consultant and help indigenous Fijians with their land and development needs.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Ratumaimuri encouraged youths to pursue their academic ambitions despite the challenges they would face during their academic journey.

"Nothing is impossible if you have the will to accomplish a goal," she shared.

"Always have goals that you can work towards and that feeling when you finally achieve it will give you a true sense of accomplishment."

"This will also be a reflection of all your hard work and sacrifices, the late nights and early morning studies, and the perseverance and determination you have."

"If you put God first in everything you do, all else will fall into place."

STUDY AT FNU

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This newsletter is produced by the University Marketing and Communications team.

For views or comments please email mprc@fnu.ac.fj or contact 3394000.

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to hear from you

FNU NIKUA 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



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