

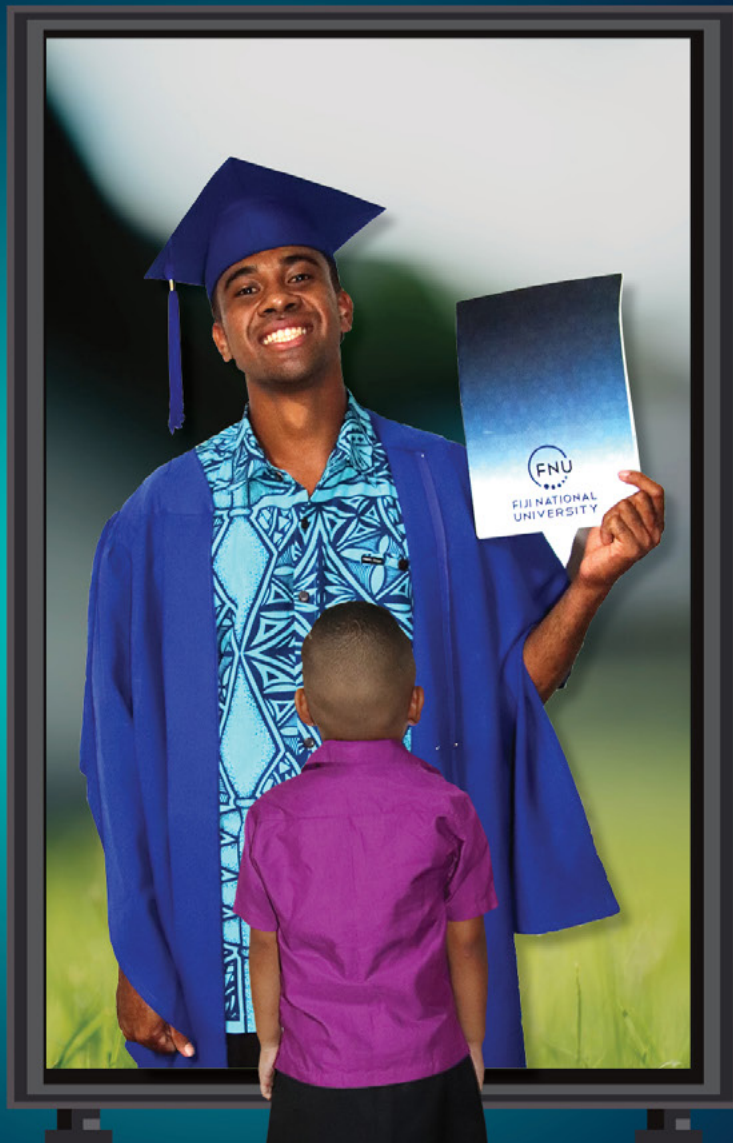


FNU UNIKUA

FNU ASSISTS IN SMOOTH TRANSITION
INTO UNIVERSITY STUDIES

SAULIGA - SHOESHINE BOY TO
SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI

Dream and Succeed at FNU





FNU assists in smooth transition into University studies

A warm welcome to Fiji National University – and congratulations to those of you who have recently completed high school after such an unusual academic year!

Whether you are progressing with your qualifications, or returning to education after a gap in your studies, I'd like to reassure you that FNU has in place tailored support to ensure you start each academic year well.

Higher education can be daunting at first – new processes, a range of campuses, new tutors and friends to meet – and that's on top of your subject learning.

Each new student experiences a personal transition into University, and at FNU we have developed an extensive package of free courses, peer support opportunities and study skills support to ensure you can progress through your first year of study at a pace that works for you.

You can design your own journey through our student-centred support, and at times you will find tutors guide you towards our Student Success Specialists because they know that it enriches the student learning experience.

We look forward to welcoming you into Academic Year 2022, and ensuring that you have all the advice and information which will support you on your learning journey.

Welcome to the FNU family!



Professor Lisa Harrison
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Learning and Teaching

Moodle, Modes, and Making the Most of your Studies Online

Welcome to university life if you are a new student to higher education or technical, vocational training. We hope your learning journey continues to be an exciting one for continuing students with loads of support and opportunities available to do your best to get qualified and employed.

The Centre for Flexible & E-Learning (CFEL) focuses on developing more opportunities for you to study from wherever you may be located. As we call it, flexible learning goes beyond just face-to-face learning by enabling you to use technology to study, bearing in mind your commitments to work, family, and other aspects that may limit you from attending campus full time. Moodle is flexible to your personal way of learning; you can access content when you are feeling most motivated to study and revisit learning materials when it suits you. We work with your lecturers across all colleges to create engaging online learning experiences, so you have the best of both worlds in terms of face-to-face learning and online learning. We understand that some programmes require more face-to-face engagement, and we are mindful of this when developing courses for flexible learning. You may have questions about online learning, so this article will try and help you understand what it is all about.

What is online learning?

Simply put, it is education that takes place over the Internet. It is also known as e-learning. At FNU, we use a platform called Moodle to enable you to learn online when your lecturers teach online. Moodle is a learning management system. You will use your student ID number and password assigned by Information Technology Services (ITS) to access Moodle once you are registered and enrolled at FNU. Your courses may have a Moodle course page with your lecturer present in them. Your lecturer will post

lecture presentations, supplementary notes, tutorial questions, and activities such as quizzes, assignment submission drop-boxes, and discussion forums on your Moodle course page. There are other tools you will use in addition to Moodle to ensure you write well, such as Turnitin. Turnitin helps you improve your writing by ensuring that you acknowledge your sources and write in your own words.

What are modes of delivery?

Online learning is one of three ways to learn at FNU. To understand modes of delivery, think of it this way:

Face to Face (F) – whereby your learning takes place mainly in a classroom, lab, or workshop. You may be required to attend the campus closest to you for classes or practicals.

Blended (B) – this type of learning has a mix of face-to-face and online. For example, you may be required to view your lectures in Moodle, then attend face-to-face tutorials or labs, then submit your assignments in Moodle.

Online (O) – whereby most of your learning takes place in Moodle and you may not have to attend face-to-face classes because all of your course content and activities are online.

Logging into your Moodle course page several times a week is advisable so that you can read the latest announcements and updates from your course lecturer and keep track of activities that you are required to do, such as submitting an assignment on the due date or attempting quizzes. You will be provided guides and regular learning support as you navigate university life. Please do not be shy and take advantage of what we offer. You can contact your course lecturer if you have questions about your course.

For further assistance, you may also contact:

itshelpdesk@fnu.ac.fj for password and username issues;

cfel@fnu.ac.fj for questions about your Moodle course page;

clte@fnu.ac.fj for questions about improving your learning at FNU.

You will soon have access to a Moodle Frequently Asked Questions resource for students available here <https://bit.ly/3B3Yu7l>



Dr Valentine Hazelman,
Associate Dean - Flexible & E-Learning
Centre for Flexible & E-Learning



Fiji National University (FNU) is a young, comprehensive and ambitious dual sector institution with an ambitious development agenda that is outlined in its 2021-2026 Strategic Plan.

With an unwavering commitment to Education for Employment and Research with Real-World Impact as the two key pillars of its Strategic Plan, FNU is focused on the delivery of industry engaged and applied research embodying the training of Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students who will positively change the world through their research.

Furthermore, the conduct of internationally competitive research by FNU HDR students and associated FNU Supervisors will place FNU on the world stage, making it a University of global standing through its impactful research.

Since the FNU HDR community is the “engine room” of research at the University, it has never been a more exciting time to join the research fabric of the University as an integral member of the FNU HDR student community.

Please consider FNU as your University of choice for HDR study.

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

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

The University is committed to undertaking research with real-world impact aligned to national priorities and with global relevance. The University supports research in a broad range of areas, including interdisciplinary themes, relevant to Fiji and the region, in partnership with the government, industry and international agencies.

With a focus on applied research to address current challenges, and promote national development and economic growth, FNU offers Higher Degrees by Research (PhD and Masters by Research) in key disciplines.

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

Research Office play a crucial role in admitting the HDR students, integrating them into the research culture of FNU, as well supporting them as they navigate through their research studies including the publication of articles and the successful completion of their HDR degrees.

For more information on HDR Programmes please visit the FNU Research Website: <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/research/>

Dr Ronald Kumar - Director Research



Higher Degrees by Research programmes

Areas of Study Supported at FNU

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary Science
- Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies
- Engineering, Science and Technology
- Humanities and Education
- Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

MASTERS BY RESEARCH

This Masters by Research qualification is a level 9 programme, comprising a 40,000 to 60,000-word thesis which must be the student’s own work, embody the results of the work undertaken by the student to form a substantially original contribution to knowledge, guided by two supervisors. The Masters by Research programme develops research skills and training to analyse critically, synthesise and reflect on complex information, problems, concepts and theories. It will prepare candidates for further studies into a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme.

Duration of the Programme

- Full Time: 2 years
- Part-Time: 4 years

Entry Requirements

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

- A Bachelor’s degree with a GPA of 3.5 or above (FNU GPA equivalent) at level 7; or
- A graduate diploma with a GPA of 3.25 or above (FNU GPA equivalent) at level 8; or
- A Masters by coursework at level 9; or
- Evidence of academic qualification and/or experience inclusive of research reports, or dissertations, or publications or other evidence that satisfies the Higher Degree by Research Committee (HDRC) that the applicant has developed knowledge of the field of study or cognate field and has the potential for research that is sufficient to undertake the proposed programme.

Progress Reviews

The Masters by Research Programme is structured to include progress reviews at regular intervals to ensure the research candidates are on the right track and complete their qualifications in the specified time.

Progress reviews for each milestone for full-time candidates include:

- Candidature confirmation – within 8 months of candidature.
- Ethics approval (if required).
- Completion seminar – within 18 months of candidature.

- At the completion seminar, a Masters by Research candidate can request to forego the Masters qualification and upgrade the project to a PhD. A clear plan and justification for the second phase of research will be assessed by the panel to allow the candidate to upgrade to a PhD.
- Submission of thesis – at the end of 24 months of candidature.
- The thesis will be submitted online via Moodle, Turnitin (a similarity checking software) and Dropbox or any other subsequent software that the Senate approves.

Part-time students will be given double the time to complete the progress reviews, compared to full-time students.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

The PhD qualification is a level 10 programme that positions an individual a career in research. It comprises a 60,000 to 100,000-word thesis which must be the student’s own work, embody the results of the work undertaken by the student, make a significant contribution to knowledge; and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new knowledge and independent critical ability.

Duration of the Programme

- Full Time: 3 years
- Part-Time: 6 years

Entry Requirements

The minimum requirements for admission to a PhD programme are:

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

Progress Reviews

The PhD Programme is structured to include progress reviews at regular intervals to ensure the research candidates are on the right track and complete their qualifications in the specified time.

Progress reviews for each milestone for full-time candidates include:

- Candidature confirmation – within 10 months of candidature;
- Ethics approval (if required);
- Mid candidature review – within 20 months of candidature;
- Completion seminar – within 30 months; and
- Submission of thesis – at the end of 36 months of candidature.

- The thesis will be submitted online via Moodle, Turnitin (similarity checking software), and Dropbox or any subsequent software that the Senate approves.

Part-time students will be given double the time to complete the progress reviews, compared to full-time students.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants can apply for HDR admission through online portal available on the FNU website: <https://www.fnu.ac.fj/study/>

The next round of HDR Applications for Admission will open in May 2022. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their research intent with potential supervisors before making an application.

Applicants can contact the respective College Associate Deans Research for the list & contact details of HDR supervisors. The College ADRs can be contacted on:

- Associate Dean Research College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) - adr-caff@fnu.ac.fj
- Associate Dean Research College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) - adr-cbhts@fnu.ac.fj
- Associate Dean Research College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) - adr-cest@fnu.ac.fj
- Associate Dean Research College of Humanities and Education (CHE) - adr-che@fnu.ac.fj
- Associate Dean Research College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) - adr-cmnhs@fnu.ac.fj

Credit Transfer Arrangements

If an applicant has completed a part of PhD studies at another University and wishes to complete their research at FNU, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research (PVCR) and HDRC will deliberate a decision on the application.

Normally HDR candidates who have completed two-thirds of their research at another university will not be accepted.

Facilitating First-and-Further Year Experiences @ FNU



Greetings to all, and a special warm welcome to our first years! We commend our continuing students who managed to brave the challenges of last year during campus closure and congratulate our first-years on joining our FNU family. As you begin your educational journey at FNU, remember that you don't have to do this alone!

Many good, enthusiastic people stand ready to have your back, to offer encouragement and support, and to shine a light on your path. Doing this work is not "just a job" for the people of the Center for Learning and Teaching Enhancement (CLTE for short, pronounced as 'see-light'). We support students because doing so is our passion. Our passion for your

success begins even before you arrive on campus, and our friendly and dedicated Student Success Specialists are eager to help you start your higher education life. So let us look at a primer of our free-of-charge support services at CLTE.

Managing your transition to FNU



First-Year Experience (FYE) app

Most things at FNU may be new to you as a first-year: new friends, new expectations, and a distinct learning atmosphere. You might feel a little out of place at first, but don't worry—the FNU FYE app is here with multiple features to help you get the latest updates, create your personalised timetable, get your questions answered, and assist others by answering their questions. You can download the app for free from the Google Play Store for Android devices and the App Store for Apple devices and log in with your username and password as soon as you enrol at FNU.



Succeed@FNU

Succeed@FNU is a free online course available on Moodle to prepare you for your learning at FNU. The course consists of four modules that will assist you in identifying your potential, becoming familiar with FNU's expectations and regulations, learning about the support systems available at FNU, and learning the importance of taking care of yourself. If you complete this course, you can rest assured that you are an informed student and know where to get relevant support services.



First-Year Fridays

You can learn about university life, share your experiences, and get your doubts cleared via discussion with our friendly Student Success Specialists during these Friday virtual sessions from week 2 to 5. You may join these sessions by clicking on the Zoom link provided on the schedule advertised on the CLTE website and FNU PR.

Peer-support Programmes

noquBuddy noquBuddy Programme

This programme, administered from week 1 to 7 of the semester, connects first-years (noquBuddy Mentees), both local and international, with second-year or above full-time FNU students (noquBuddy Mentors) who help them settle well at university by overcoming any hurdles. Both the mentors and mentees can apply by filling in simple registration forms on the CLTE website. International Student Mentorship Programme also pairs first-year international students with mentors. Additionally, we have in place a first-year survival guide and an international student guide for your navigation.



Peer Assisted Learning (PAL)

Collaboration among peers is an especially effective mode of learning. PAL, a structured peer support academic programme, is a great opportunity for group collaboration in your course to compare notes, discuss important topics, develop strategies for learning, and network with peers in a supportive environment. We welcome you to join our PAL sessions, facilitated by peer leaders, in targeted challenging courses to uplift your performance. These 1-hour sessions run from week 3 to 15 of the semester. All you must do is check the PAL schedule on FNU PR or CLTE website and turn up.



Remote Study Groups

Here's another peer support programme for collaborative learning, in case your course is not supported under PAL. We can assist you to join or form a study group where you can ask questions to clarify your doubts, discuss and re-learn content. Upon your submission of a remote study group form, we will connect you with students in the same course, organise and set up your group, and create a Moodle space.



Math Help Hub (MH²)

MH² provides you with mathematical and statistical support and guidance in both face-to-face and virtual modalities. You can attend a maximum of two sessions per week by booking in advance by emailing us after selecting a time slot from the schedule provided on FNU PR or CLTE website. Complementing this, Foundation Mathematics Proficiency Assessment, an optional, non-credit, online diagnostic tool helps you assess your mathematical skills. If you identify any areas that need more attention, you can drop in for an MH² session.



English Language Hub (ELH)

ELH, an easily accessible tutoring service facilitated by our ESL-qualified Student Success Specialists dedicated to honing your writing and communication skills, is offered to all FNU students in both face-to-face and virtual modalities. You can view the schedule on FNU PR or CLTE website and attend as many sessions as you want. We also offer 3 English as Second Language courses (Beginning to Intermediate English as a Second Language, Intermediate English as a Second Language, Upper English as a Second Language) that you can register for by emailing us.



One-on-one consultation

One-on-one consultation is a private and confidential, personalised session with a Student Success Specialist where you get an opportunity to discuss, examine, and develop specific strategies to address your academic concerns. You can book only 1 session per week by emailing us. After booking a session, attendance is necessary unless you have notified us of cancellation or re-schedule.



Online Enrichment Courses

Learning to Learn Online (LTLO) and Learning with Academic Integrity (LAI) are non-credit, self-paced courses to provide you with the necessary skills to succeed in university studies. LTLO will develop your skills to become a competent online learner. You will learn strategies to manage your online learning, plan online assignments, communicate with an online instructor, and manage your assignments. LAI will help you better understand academic integrity regulations at FNU. FNU is stringent about dishonest academic practices. Completing this course will help you exhibit good academic practices and apply FNU's policy on academic integrity in your work, practice proper referencing and citation and utilise Turnitin to avoid plagiarism in your assignments. You can register for both the courses by emailing us and accessing them by logging into Moodle.



Guide to Effective Learning

We have volumes of guides on multiple topics that complement and enhance your educational experiences. These will be available to you throughout your learning journey at FNU and you can access them any time by logging into your Moodle account.



Glossary of Terms

You will encounter some new terms and abbreviations frequently at FNU. You need not worry as we have a glossary of terms that you can access anytime on the CLTE website.



Workshops and webinars

We conduct workshops and webinars throughout the semester on a range of topics that include Zoom, Mendeley, Active Listening, Word Processing, Proofreading, PowerPoint, Reflective Writing, Literature Review, and Paraphrasing. Two upcoming webinars for first-year students are Enhancing my Learning in my First Year @ FNU, and Surviving my First Year @ FNU, to orient you to FNU and CLTE support services. You can join these webinars by clicking on the Zoom links on the CLTE workshops and events page.

Ready to get started? Make an appointment for the services you want to take advantage of to enhance your learning and personal success. We would love to hear from you!

For further assistance, contact us by emailing at clte@fnu.ac.fj

Visit our website <https://clte.fnu.ac.fj/> for more information. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Dr Deepak Prasad
Associate Dean – Learning & Teaching Enhancement
Centre for Learning & Teaching Enhancement



Message to Students



At the College of Humanities and Education, you will find your interests served, your career paths clarified, and your purposes met! Do you have a passion for teaching, or being an educational leader? Do you have a talent for music, TV, graphic arts & design and art? Would you like to explore a career in sports science? Do you enjoy learning about

Literature, Language, Media & Communications, History and Geography? What about ethics, good governance and social policy? The College of Humanities and Education (CHE) offers a diverse range of programmes from Certificate to PhD-level Teaching in all these areas.

Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba - Dean College of Humanities and Education

Fiji is blessed with good agricultural land and climate, however the major constraints to production in Fiji is the lack of technology and technical knowledge. The College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) at FNU can impart this technical knowledge. At CAFF, we have courses, which teach the management of crops, livestock, fisheries and

forests. In a nutshell, our courses, delivered by the largest group of lecturers in the region, make the College a vibrant place to study and we look forward to welcoming students of all ages who are willing to join the renewable and sustainable industries of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry.

Professor Paul Iji - Dean College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Our society changes rapidly due to new discoveries and developments in engineering, science and technology. Tools, gadgets, instruments, equipment and machines in our everyday life are changing fast, hence, engineering, science and technology are the engines of each society. There is a high demand for specialists and professionals who understand our

technical world, as well as being able to build, operate and implement new technologies. The mission of the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) is to teach future generations to cope with future challenges in science, engineering and technology. CEST offers students a wide range of TVET and higher education programmes at varying levels.

Professor Tibor Pasinszki - Dean College of Engineering, Science and Technology

Bula, Namaste, Kia Orana, Talofa Lava, Malo e Lelei, Mauri and warm Pacific greetings from the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences' (CMNHS)! CMNHS has played a historical and vital role in the history of training medical, nursing, dental and allied health professionals from Fiji and the region. Established in 1885, the College is now a state-of-the-art health professional education, training and research facility

addressing health issues relevant to Fiji and the region. We provide contemporary, industry-relevant, and internationally-recognised programmes to meet the health needs of Fiji and the South Pacific. Many CMNHS graduates are in leadership roles in their countries and are regional experts in their chosen fields of medicine.

Dr Donald Wilson - Acting Dean College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences



Bula Vinaka, Namaste, Noa'ia

The essence of education is about 'broadening the mind' and we at the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) at Fiji National University (FNU) invites you to join us in your journey to broaden your mind. CBHTS is the Business School of Fiji's National Public University,

committed to both higher education and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training).

FNU is a dual sector university and the core purpose of CBHTS flows from this - we are a dual-sector business school, excelling in both Higher Education and in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Prof Arun Abraham Elias - Dean College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies

The Fiji Maritime Academy (FMA) is the sole Maritime Education and Training provider in the Republic of Fiji, offering institutionally accredited programs to fit your maritime career interests. The programmes we offer are a balance of practical skills, solid theory, and the use of computer technology, which will allow students to obtain

new knowledge and skills when pursuing their careers. One of the key goals of our programmes is to help our students become independent learners. FMA strives to provide world-class standards so that Fijian seafarers would be able to find employment opportunities on Foreign Going vessels, thereby bringing in more revenue to the country.

Captain Rajitha Semage - Chief Executive Officer Fiji Maritime Academy



Bula Vinaka to all students!

The National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) was established in the early 1970s, as a result of the government's strong commitment to workforce development. Since its inception, NTPC has been one of the country's leading training providers, with the primary goal of alleviating skill shortages in the workplace. The NTPC's core functions are to ensure

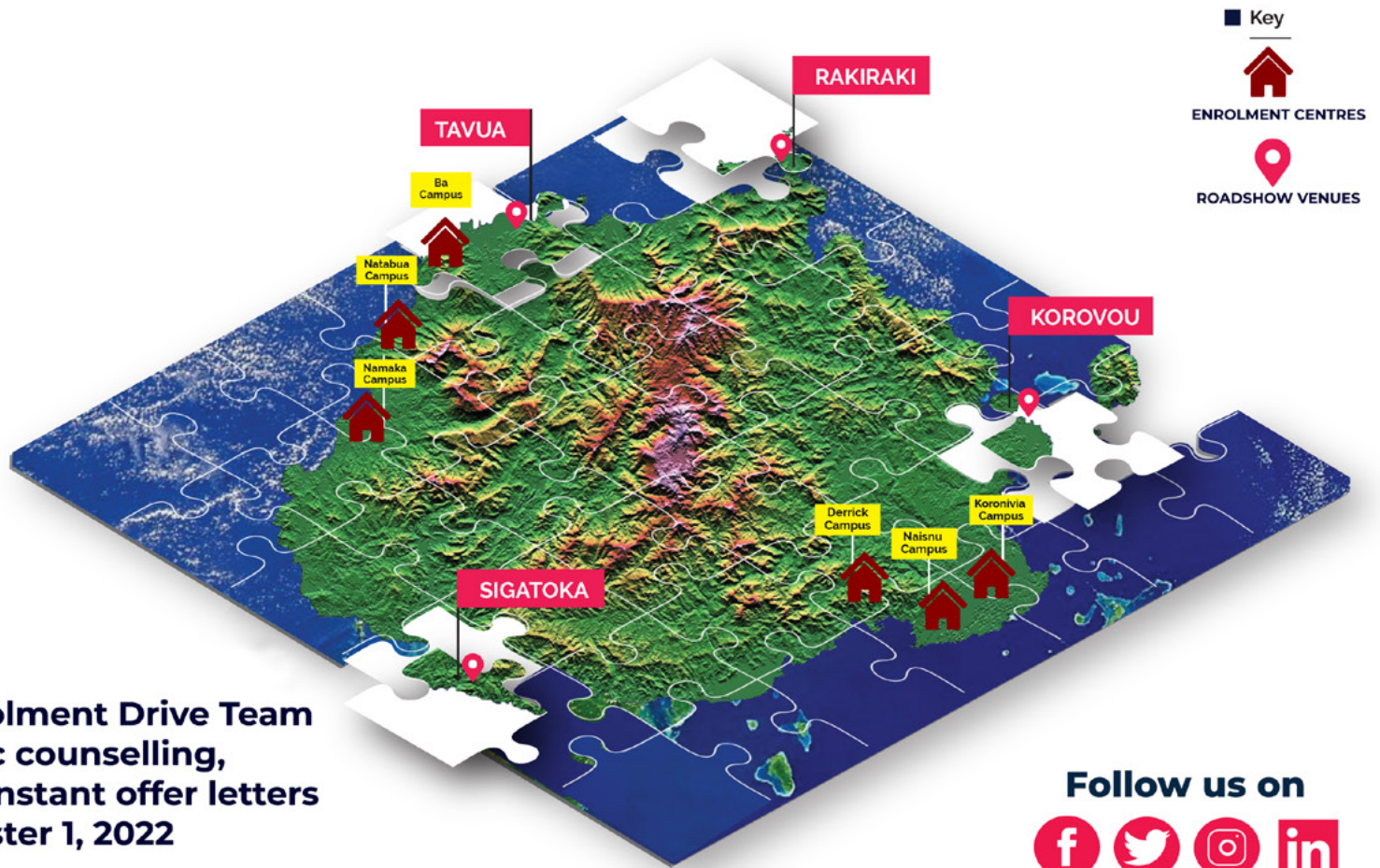
that industries' in-service needs are met at all times; manage a quality apprenticeship system in Fiji; promote productivity and business excellence programmes in the industry; act as the National Productivity Organisation for Fiji on behalf of the government. Since 1973, thousands of students have joined NTPC and used their skills and knowledge to contribute to Fiji's national progress.

Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata - Director National Training and Productivity Centre

SEMESTER 1, 2022 ROADSHOW AND ENROLMENT CENTRE VENUES

■ DATE: 10 | 11 | 12 | 18 | 19 MARCH

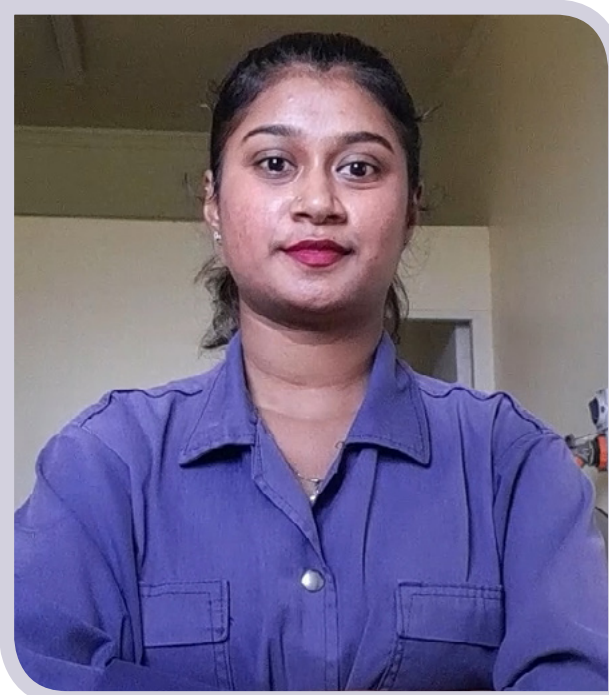
■ TIME: 9am - 3pm



Join the FNU Enrolment Drive Team for academic counselling, applications and instant offer letters for Semester 1, 2022

Follow us on

Set goals and be inspired – Lal



Growing up in a farming community in Navua, Kirti Krishika Lal enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially assisting her family working in the rice paddock. So it came as no surprise that Lal decided to pursue studies in agriculture at university.

According to Lal, the hands-on training with the blend of theoretical study offered at the Fiji National University (FNU) encouraged her to enrol after she completed high school.

Now, the 26-year-old is a proud graduate in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture programme from FNU's College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

Throughout her three years of study, Lal said a major highlight was her work placement with the Ministry of Agriculture, where she was based in the crop extension unit for six months and spent three months working in the Ministry's farm management unit.

The successful alumna mentioned that the practical component of her studies was an incredible experience that

accelerated the overall learning experience and highlighted the importance of gaining on-site knowledge.

"I enjoyed my first experience in the work environment. From fieldwork, interacting and counselling farmers to report writing and providing assistance in miscellaneous office errands, I have done it all. I was also able to develop good interdisciplinary communication skills through my experience of working with a versatile and experienced team," said Lal.

Looking back on her time at FNU, Lal is grateful to have gained the amount of hands-on experience she did, helping her to thrive in her current position working as the farm supervisor at Pacific Feeds PTE Limited's Lily Dale Farm in Bau, Nausori.

"Being a supervisor comes with a lot of responsibilities and as the supervisor on-site, on and off hours, I have about ten staff directly reporting to me daily working in the different areas on the farm. I not only handle the office and paperwork but am involved with the on-hands job assisting my workers on the farm," stated the FNU graduate.

Lal stated that agriculture carries a lot of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) percentage in Fiji's economy and the market has plenty of revolutionary opportunities that any graduate or otherwise can tap into hence she is encouraging the prospective students to delve deeper into this area.

"FNU's Bachelor of Science in Agriculture programme has offered me the unique opportunity to work in close contact with the lecturers and tutors. I formed great friendships and was always comfortable asking for help from the teaching staff."

"At the same time, the University's connection with industry partners has enabled me to learn directly from those in the workforce and the skills gained will no doubt help me well into the future."

Reminiscing her earlier days, Lal said her late father and her mother were her biggest motivation and although she misses her father, she is thankful to her family, especially her sister Reshmi Lal, for guidance and always believing in her.

Her advice to current and prospective students is "Enjoy your university life to the fullest, but prioritise your studies simultaneously because what you do in the present decides your future."

Outreach Testimonial

“It was really nice of the FNU Outreach team to visit us and explain in detail about the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) study opportunities available at FNU. I have also applied for the Certificate IV in Automotive Engineering because I don't want to miss out on the chance of receiving one of the 5,000 TVET placements supported by the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Service (TSLs). Vinaka FNU.”

Iowane Taukeisalili
Head Boy
Automotive Engineering Student
Montfort Boys Town – Lami



FNU KONA

The University will have a FNU KONA in Suva, Navua and Lautoka to assist students with their admission and registration. FNU KONA is a Student Information Express Booth where our new and continuing students can drop by to pick and drop applications, meet our team, ask questions and win fabulous prizes.

9.00am to 3.00pm

5th, 12th, 26th March and 2nd April

- Tappoo City Suva,
- Shop n Save supermarket, Navua
- Sugar City Mall, Lautoka

Cookery studies help Vinau excel

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2019, Vani Cikaitoga Vinau, who was working in the hospitality industry, was one of those unfortunate ones who lost her job. However, she saw this as an opportunity to start anew. After much thought, she decided to practice her knowledge and skills attained through her Certificate IV in Cookery attained from the Fiji National University (FNU). Having spent her early years assisting aunts in catering for village functions, the FNU alumna had a budding idea to open her own catering business, make money, and be self-sufficient.

According to Vinau, FNU provided her with a clear path to meaningful careers that met the needs of the evolving job market.

"I thought to capitalise on the opportunity. I was confident that the skills I had gained during my studies at FNU had prepared me well to venture into my own business," she said.

FNU was a launchpad for discovery for Vinau and a place where faculty members shape individuals' lives through education and exposure to a new world of possibilities. "The culinary arts education provided me with the backbone of knowledge and skills to help me to excel in my business," she said.

Vinau started her academic journey at FNU in 2015 by enrolling in the Certificate IV in Cookery. She then upskilled and graduated last year with a Trade Diploma

in Culinary Arts offered through the College of Business Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS).

"I have learned from instructors who have decades of industry experience in restaurants, hotels and resorts," the Savusavu lass adds. Whether it was technical or theoretical knowledge or practical application of cooking, serving and managing food, I was guided. It truly felt personal, and I could craft my path and explore food preparation techniques."

Students completing or have completed Year 12 or 13 have the opportunity to undergo Semester 1, 2022 studies in the Trade Diploma in Culinary Arts or any other 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 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 I and II studies from the Technical College of Fiji or equivalent.

Students can visit our website on www.fnu.ac.fj to learn more.



Narayan pursues a career in Joinery



Mentored by his father, who was a skilled carpenter, Sahil Ashitosh Narayan took a liking to working with tools and slowly began learning the basics of the trade.

After leaving school, Narayan joined the Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) Cabinet Making and Joinery programme.

Narayan graduated in 2019 after completing modules one to 17.

"Cabinet making and joinery is all about being creative. It takes a lot of patience and thinking and once the final product is ready you feel a lot of satisfaction," said Kumar.

Narayan, a Melbourne Works Fiji employee, attributed his motivation and inspiration to his tradesman father.

"I used to watch my dad do carpentry and joinery work since I was a small kid and it motivated me to carry on the work that my dad has taught me," he said.

"The work requires physical strength and intellectual ability especially calculations. I also enjoy operating new tools and learning new techniques of building. We also communicate with other tradespeople and this builds close working relationships and we learn a lot from each other."

Narayan believes the path to success is filled with challenges and learning patiently is key to excelling in the industry.

"If you are a hands-on person who prefers to work and be creative, this is one of the most exciting career opportunities. There will be new skills to learn with new machines so people need to try to learn as much as they can," he said.

"NTPC assists individuals in achieving their life objectives and living a prosperous life with a steady

career. After completing the qualification, one will be able to obtain a highly recognised qualification from FNU. It also helps workers' productivity, promotion opportunities and earn higher pay."

The programme is intended to equip participants with information and abilities for setting up training, which includes planning, organising, and problem-solving, to set up skills to perform. This course's competencies are equal to level 3 of the National Qualifications for the Cabinet Making and Joinery trades. A total of 17 modules are available for skill evaluations in the course of cabinetmaking and joinery.

For more information on the course, please contact us via email at info.ntpc@fnu.ac.fj or call us on 2417779.

Outreach Testimonial

"Thank you to the FNU Outreach Team for enlightening us on the study opportunities available for us at FNU. We were provided clear advice on the courses available in our interest areas and the application processes in order to apply and enrol at FNU. The University gives us the chance to pursue tertiary studies, as they state, Your Future, Our Mission."

Sera Bulewa
Head Girl
Ballantine Memorial School



Student Information Services



EduBot

An artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot called EduBot is now available on the FNU website. Edu-Bot is an automated messaging platform which provides personalised messages/answers to users visiting the FNU's website who wish to chat with an FNU staff.

The chatbot is designed to pick up on keywords and provide instant responses and help the user navigate their way through the website. **EduBot will be online 24 hours from 14 February to 14 April 2022.**



Call Centre

A Call Centre will be available from 9am to 5pm on weekdays commencing 1 March to 31 March. Prospective students, parents and guardians with queries regarding FNU's programmes, application process, entry requirements and payment plans can contact our call centre representatives.

Callers will also have the option of speaking to a staff in the Hindi and iTaukei language. The Call Centre numbers are;

- TFL – 3432966
- Vodafone – 9103413

Sauliga – Shoeshine boy to Successful Alumni



Semi Tekivili Sauliga (right)

Sauliga said he was also grateful for the student finance scheme implemented at the time, as it helped pay his tuition fees. Through the initiative, he often worked at the Registrar's Office at Nasinu Campus during his free time.

"FNU supported me in many ways. It helped me achieve my study goals, built my character, supported me financially, made me resilient and increased my level of critical thinking."

Career

After graduating with his higher education diploma, Sauliga worked as an Environment Consultancy Assistant. He was also a commercial farmer and seafood vendor.

In 2014, he returned to FNU to upskill his qualifications and undertook the Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) programme.

He balanced studies with his work life and family commitments as a father. During this time, he worked as a Quality Assurance Specialist with Pacific Batteries, a Community Liaison Officer with the Mamanuca Environment Society and an Environmental Officer at the Water Authority of Fiji.

In 2016, Sauliga started work in his current role as a Conservation Officer with the iTaukei Affairs Board.

He is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the development of natural resources in the province of Naitasiri.

"My role also includes building community capacity development so that they are informed and knowledgeable on sustainable development," Sauliga explained.

"I also integrate traditional and scientific approaches of building community resilience towards climate change and enforce compliance to regulations such as the Environment Management Act 2005 through consultation and collaboration with investors."

Never one to shy away from challenges, Sauliga decided to study during a pandemic and enrolled in FNU's Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Science and Management course in 2020.

He completed the programme last year and proudly received his graduation certificate earlier this month.

Motivation

"My mother, Meresiana Baleivanua, has always been my primary source of inspiration and my wife Salome has been the most supportive companion," Sauliga said.

"I would also like to acknowledge my three children and family and friends who have assisted and motivated me throughout my studies at FNU and now in my career."

Sauliga said being committed and having faith and good time management skills were lessons he wished to impart to current and prospective students of FNU.

"Even if you think that no one else cares or is supportive of your goals, all you need is to believe in yourself and you will be amazed at what you can accomplish," he said.

Life was never a bed of roses for Semi Tekivili Sauliga. As the second youngest of five siblings, Sauliga grew up witnessing his mother struggle to provide for her family and vowed to one day provide for his family and repay his mother's sacrifices.

Fuelled by this silent promise, Sauliga left his village of Kedra, Dogotuki in Macuata, Vanua Levu in 2009 on his first trip to Suva to complete his final year of high school at John Wesley College.

"It was hard leaving my mother, but I knew I had to do this for my family," he shared.

"As little as we had, my mother would still ensure we had good meals, received primary education and shared whatever we had with others."

"I was and will always be motivated by her saying – *Luvequ, qai nanuma nai vakarau ni veisusu ko tuberi kina.* (My son, always remember your humble beginnings.)"

Early struggles

A year after high school, Sauliga began seeking employment to be financially independent and found himself in the heart of Suva City as a shoeshine and wheelbarrow boy.

"I had to do something to survive, and this was a choice I had," he shared.

"Being a wheelbarrow boy is a humble but honest job and I would spend days helping farmers transport their produce from the carriers and other transport to the market to sell."

"The more trips you have, the more money you get. I did this for two years before I found

employment as a security guard."

Education

Sauliga was not deterred by the little he earned and decided to enrol at the Fiji National University in 2011.

His passion for the environment and childhood memories of seeing natural resources and habitats destroyed due to lack of planning and consultation influenced Sauliga to enrol in the Higher Education Diploma in Environmental Science course at FNU.

The course is offered by FNU's College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) at the Derrick Campus in Suva.

"I chose FNU because it offers entry pathways at different levels, which meant that people could still achieve their university goals by enrolling in a course and gradually upskilling themselves," he said.

"You can enrol at Certificate level and progress through to trade and diploma courses and then to degree and postgraduate programmes. This was important to me because despite my current life situation at the time, I was determined to achieve the promise I made as a young boy."

"The teaching I received then at FNU was what I would describe as simple yet professional and effective. Simple in the sense that I was able to easily understand the concepts and theoretical work being taught by the lecturers and apply these to practical scenarios."

"Although I entered university as a very shy and quiet person, the lecturers, classmates and campus life helped boost my confidence."

The Fiji National University's Nikua is a monthly newsletter which aims to promote the University's activities to the wider community.

This newsletter is produced by the University Marketing and Communications team. For views or comments please email mprc@fnu.ac.fj or contact 3394000.

Publisher: Fiji National University | Editor: Ranbeer Singh | Design & Layout: Rusiate Vada | Division Head: Director Marketing and Communications Karen Lobendahn
Writers: Charlene Lanyon, Shireen Lata, Salesini Chaudhary, Pravin Narain

Contributors: Professor Lisa Harrison, Professor Roland De Marco, Dr Ronald Kumar, Dr Valentine Hazelman, Dr Deepak Prasad

"Registered with the Fiji Higher Education Commission as a University under the Higher Education Act 2008. Registration Certificate Number RG 0091"

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

FOLLOW US ON



Published in partnership with

