



FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FNU News

ECCAM Scholarship opens opportunities for overseas students to study at FNU

Regional and international students from selected countries have an opportunity to pursue a range of higher education programmes at the Fiji National University (FNU) under the Education for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (ECCAM) project.

ECCAM, is a mobility project funded by the European Union between FNU, University of West Indies in Trinidad & Tobago and the University of Guyana, designed to increase the availability of trained and qualified high-level professionals in the Caribbean and Pacific region.

Fellow ECCAM doctorate students Coreen Jacobs-Chester and Paul Kuman are currently completing their three-year doctorate studies programme in the fields of social sciences and public health at FNU.

The duo, who are from Guyana and Papua New Guinea respectively, said studying in Fiji enabled them to develop both academically and personally as well as an opportunity to learn and experience new culture and traditions of the Fijian people.

“I am doing my PhD in global studies and interdisciplinary studies so I want to use all that I have learnt here to move on to other areas such as cultural studies when I return to being a lecturer at University of Guyana,” Jacobs-Chester said.

“This is my last year as the scholarship ends in October and I was honoured that FNU is my host institution.”

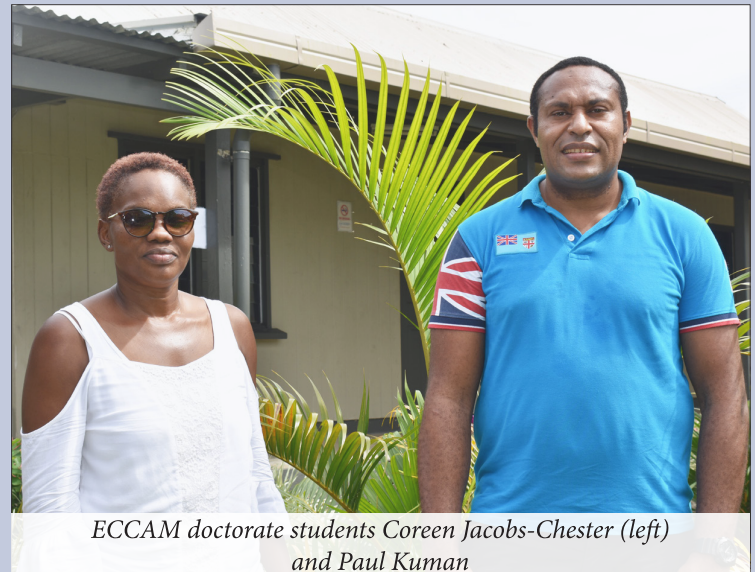
“Personally, Fiji is not the first country I’ve travelled to for study purposes but it has been a remarkable experience because one of the main things I have learnt from this country is the pride for culture,” she said.

Kuman, a staff member of the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), said his research in environmental health would focus on the impact of cyclones on the management of non-communicable diseases in Fiji.

“I am focusing on diabetes as it is prevalent in Fiji and cyclones are also the

most frequently occurring natural disaster in Fiji,” Kuman said.

“The research will look into how the management of diabetes is affected during these periods and the plans and strategies that Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the Government has in place to address this.”



ECCAM doctorate students Coreen Jacobs-Chester (left) and Paul Kuman

“The research is divided into two parts – the service providers’ perspective and experiences and the second component will focus on the patients themselves.”

Kuman said he hopes the completed research would help influence national health policies regarding the issue.

“I plan to return to UPNG and develop programmes based on my research that will be completed here in Fiji.”

There are currently 18 regional and international students studying at FNU under the ECCAM Scholarship.



INTRA-ACP MOBILITY

