



FNU PROVIDES INCLUSIVE, **INTERDISCIPLINARY** **SOCIAL POLICY** PROGRAMMES

Ever wondered how national policies are formed and implemented to address critical issues faced in a country?

Do you want to be part of the process that provides an understanding and highlights the importance of national policies, especially in areas of social issues such as education, security, work, health, poverty alleviation and wellbeing?

Are you also intrigued to learn and understand other important topics such as diversity, social exclusion, human rights and how they are linked with national and global development?

If your answer is Yes, then enrol now at the Fiji National University (FNU) Interdisciplinary Programme in Social Policy to be part of the solution to assist with the nation's issues.

Students can either study Postgraduate Diploma, Masters, or PhD in Social Policy if they are able to fulfil the entry requirements.

Offered by the College of Humanities and Education (CHE) at Nasinu Campus, the programme provides training in Social Policy with analytical and research skills that prepare graduates to examine the origins of social policies within the broad context of national development.

The ideologies and strategies of development are critically examined from a post-colonial perspective to shed light on the challenges of social and economic development in developing countries.

The Social Policy programmes at FNU analyses the different roles of the government, family and kin, civil society and non-governmental organisations, the market, and international organisations in providing relevant and needed services in the country.

These include child welfare and family support, educational initiatives, housing support, poverty alleviation, unemployment support and training, pensions and health and social care.

"The national policies are always informed by, and designed from, the context and knowledge of globalisation, international relations and domestic socioeconomic and cultural conditions. These are aspects of policy that students need to be aware to enhance their understanding of either policy failures or successes" said CHE Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research and coordinator of the Social Policy programmes, Professor Nii-K Plange.

"Universities have the responsibility to equip students with the skills to understand the complexities of the world, participate meaningfully in national dialogue that respond to these challenges, and the policy interventions designed to effect positive social change as outcomes."

"Given the complex nature of these challenges, the search for solutions would, invariably, require multiple academic disciplinary orientations. To this end, the

university provides training in social policy, through an interdisciplinary degree programme, as an effective strategy of building the capacity of students to contribute to nation-building," said Prof Plange.

According to CHE Assistant Professor, Department of Ethics and Governance, Dr Asinate Mausio FNU's Social Policy programmes are solution-oriented and molds students to think critically, be innovative and provides guidance on conducting independent research to explore alternative strategies of reducing inequalities in accessing services.

"Developing countries like Fiji need policy experts in the public sector, and the social policy programme provides training for policy analysts and policy specialists," Mausio highlighted.

"We need to build our local stock of policy experts and our programme seeks to do just that."

Below is a brief outline of each programme and the minimum entry requirements;

Postgraduate Diploma in Social Policy

Students with a B+ average in any undergraduate degree can enrol in this one-year full-time studies programme. Five units are offered with teaching delivered through weekly lectures and self-directed work.

Master of Arts in Social Policy

Successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma with an average of B+ will qualify for accession into the Master of Arts in Social Policy Programme. The Master of Arts will be a combination of two high level courses in theory and Research methods and a Thesis under a supervisor. This is a two-year full-time programme.

PhD in Social Policy

The three-year full-time PhD in Social Policy will be a combination of two high level courses and Thesis under a supervisor.

Graduate attributes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Grasp the philosophical and academic origins of Social Policy as an interdisciplinary area of studies.
- Articulate the ongoing debates within the 'discipline' and apply them to policies at both the design and analysis levels.
- Utilise the technical skills in policy design and analysis as tools to assist organisations.
- Undertake independent work in policy design and analysis. Ability to communicate the critical issues in policy to undergraduate students and peers.

Career pathways:

Graduates career options include teaching, working as a Policy Adviser for national/regional and international organisations; Civil Society and Faith-based Organisations. Graduates can also work for the private sector or statutory organisations as Policy Research Officer or Adviser.



I knew from a young age that I wanted to impact the lives of fellow Fijians through education and social work. I enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Policy in order to better understand the core functions of policies mandated by the Government.

I have been in the education sector and over time, as a civil servant, I decided to enhance my knowledge of various ministry policies and how it affects us Fijians.

It is always a good feeling to continue learning and expanding my skills and knowledge.

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