

Thousands of students confirm attendance at FNU's Open Day



FNU Hairdressing students brief the visiting school about the programme during the 2018 FNU Open Day

Choosing the right study programme and aligning it to the career path that you desire is critical for your future and this is one of the key reasons why you should attend Open Day's organised by Universities.

This is the message from the Fiji National University (FNU) Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey to secondary school students in the country, ahead of the 2019 FNU Open Day.

FNU's Open Day will be held on 18-19 July at Valelevu Grounds in Nasinu, Labasa Civic Centre and Natabua Campus, in Lautoka.

"Think about what subjects you enjoy, what subjects you are good at and what kind of job will give you the most satisfaction, then pursue your dream," said VC Healey.

"Some people are naturally good with numbers and enjoy solving complicated puzzles, so choosing to study accounting might be a good choice. Others enjoy outdoor life and working with animals, so studying agriculture with the aim of looking after farm animals might be attractive to them. It is important to pick a subject that will lead to a career doing something you will enjoy and to which you are best suited," added VC Healey.

More than 8,500 students from 78 schools across Fiji have so far confirmed their participation at the annual 2-day event. More confirmations are expected to be received as the event draws closer.

All the FNU's five colleges, College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF), College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism (CBHTS), College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST),



FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey with students from Baulevu High School during the 2018 FNU Open Day.

College of Humanities and Education (CHE) and College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) as well as the National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) will set-up displays and interactive demonstrations, providing visitors a chance to experience University learning.

"Our Open Days bring together all our colleges onto a single venue so that students can wander around and get a sense of whether they want to study anything from carpentry or automotive engineering to medicine or dentistry. All the different subjects are showcased at one event," said VC Healey.

"There are so many more choices of subjects to study at university than at school and, for Year 12 and 13 students, most do not know much about the range of subjects or the careers to which different subject choices might lead. Coming to our Open Day allows students and parents/guardians to browse the different subjects on offer, chat to current students about life at university and discuss with staff the best subjects for them to study."

According to the senior academic, many students, sometimes are often overwhelmed with information and find difficulty to select the right study programme. He said coming to Open Days helps to provide relief to such stress and anxiety.

"Leaving school and going to university is a big step and it is important to make a well-informed choice. We are here to help you. Please come along, talk to our friendly students and staff and they will open your eyes to the range of subjects you can choose and the career possibilities that lie ahead of you," VC Healey said.

Apart from the displays, some of the other highlights for the two-day event is free entertainment from the Fiji National University Student Association (FNUSA), quiz competitions coordinated by the Colleges, prizes given out by sponsors including Bank of the South Pacific (BSP), Vodafone Fiji Limited, CJ Patel and The Fiji Times Limited.

"We also work hard to make our Open Days fun, with free food and drink and entertainment offered by our Students' Association. It's a great day out, which will leave school students much better informed about their next step in life," said Professor Healey.

A photo booth has also been set up for the public with props relating to prospective career choices. The photos taken at the booth during the day will be provided instantly at no cost.

The FNU Open day will be held from 9am-5pm.