RESUMPTION OF SEMESTER 1, 2020

The University of the South Pacific resumed its first semester from Monday 20 April through remote teaching. Professor Pal Ahluwalia, Vice-Chancellor and President of USP welcomed all students who have come on board.

Those students who have yet to join, were urged to join USP remotely through Moodle. For the past month, USP has been working hard to make sure that students are able to continue with their studies despite the disruptions caused due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Respective faculties have been disseminating key information regarding courses on social media, webpage and Tukutuku mail. Course Coordinators will make additional time to answer student’s queries, whether by live chat, phone, or email. CFL is running a series of online workshops to give guidance on how to achieve highly in online learning. Other sections of the University (such as the library, the Disability Resource Centre and the Counselling Center) continue to offer their services. Students will find details of these services on the USP website.

Acting DVC Education, Jito Vanualailai has formed a L&T Continuity Team made of the Associate Deans (ADs, L&T) and representatives from PTAE, PACE-SD, CFL, ITS, SAS and Communication Unit for M&E purposes and to monitor and report on weekly online participation of students and staff, and intervene if needed.

The team is working with the Course Coordinators whose courses have yet to reach 80% readiness. Re-install the SMS capability in Moodle, so that we can immediately have access to all our students via Moodle SMS. The team is carrying out a survey to determine whether students have sufficient resources to access the online materials.

Laucala Campus opening hours has been extended to 8.00pm from Tuesday 28 April 2020, in light of the announcement by the Honourable Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama made on Friday 24 April 2020 on the progressive relaxation of the health restrictions relating to COVID-19, which included the nationwide curfew starting at 10pm.

All students are urged to use the facilities that are open to facilitate their online learning. These include the computer labs and the library. All appropriate COVID-19 restrictions and requirements such as social distancing should be adhered to.

Undergraduate Courses

USP is pleased with response from students, who are also accessing teaching materials remotely through Moodle.

The University urges students to contact their course coordinators if they are experiencing any difficulties. As advised earlier, those students studying in trimesters or other terms, are to contact their Course Coordinators for further information, if you haven’t done so.

Postgraduate courses

For Postgraduate courses where student numbers are less than fifteen, if Course Coordinators wish, these can be taught face-to-face as long as Government measures such as a curfew, social distancing and other COVID-19 protocols are observed.

Continued on page 2
Postgraduate courses with student numbers in excess of fifteen will be taught remotely. Students are requested to contact their respective coordinators accordingly.

As part of COVID-19 contingency plans, existing lecture capture venues are used by lecturers to record their classes and made available in Moodle for students.

**Important Information for All Students**

- **Students in Fiji:** Students are strongly encouraged to continue accessing Moodle through Vodafone and Digicel where possible, as they have made provisions for their customers to access the USP website and Moodle for free. For Fiji Telecom customers, Telecom has doubled the amount of data available during this period.

- **Students in Regional Campuses:** Similar arrangements with network providers are being sought by Campus Directors. Regional students are requested to stay in touch with their respective Campus Directors for further information.

- **Campus Facilities:**
  - All recreational facilities including the gym, swimming pool and playgrounds at Laucala Campus will remain closed until further notice.
  - Other facilities on Campuses such as the Library, Book Centre, food outlets and computer labs will remain open from Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. Please note that these facilities will take into account social distancing provisions and there will be strict monitoring of numbers. Regional students, please stay in touch with your Campus Director for further advice.

- **Courses in Programmes that are not externally accredited**
  » As advised earlier, in Semester 1, courses in Programmes that are not externally accredited will have 100% Continuous Assessment with no further face-to-face tests or face-to-face final examination. However, if required, open-book tests and/or the final examinations can be conducted online. More information on forms of assessment will be provided by your Course Coordinators.

- **Courses in externally accredited Programmes**
  As advised earlier, for courses in an externally accredited Programme, where a face-to-face examination is required by the accrediting body, specific arrangements will be made to ensure that such exams are held at an appropriate time when Campuses reopen.

- **Change of Grading System**
  » Whilst USP is confident that students will be able to adapt to fully remote teaching, the University is cognizant that some students will find such learning challenging. If a student fails a course in Semester 1 2020, neither the course nor the grade will appear on the student’s transcript, nor will the grade affect their GPA.
  » To pass a course, a student will need to demonstrate, via performance, that he/she has met the learning outcomes of the course. This will differ for each course but students are requested to check with their Course Coordinators if in doubt.
  » A Fail grade means that you have not successfully completed a course. The failed course:
    » will not appear on your Official Academic Transcript
    » will not be used in any GPA calculations
    » will not prevent you enrolling in any further courses this year for which the failed course is a prerequisite.

  » If a student fails a compulsory or prerequisite course in Semester 1 2020, the student will still be required to re-take the course in subsequent semesters.
  » The 75% progression rule will not apply to progress to Semester 2, 2020.
  » This change in grading system will apply only to students who registered in Semester 1 2020.

- **Courses with labs, fieldwork, practicums, projects, internships, attachments**
  Where the above elements are required for the successful completion of a course, and cannot be accommodated with alternative arrangements, those elements will be deferred to a later date. Your Course Coordinators will provide further information when Campuses reopen. Until these elements are completed the course will be recorded as an IP (In Progress) or I (Incomplete). (Update will be required).

For more information, check your course Moodle pages and student emails www.usp.ac.fj
NEW OCEAN AND CLIMATE PHD PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

On 28 April 2020, the Norway-Pacific Ocean-Climate Scholarship Programme (N-POC) was launched in a virtual event hosted by Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

N-POC is an ambitious and interdisciplinary partnership in research and PhD training between long-term partners, the University of Bergen (UiB) in Norway, and The University of the South Pacific (USP).

During the official launch representatives from Norway and the Pacific Islands made statements, including Fiji’s Prime Minister Hon Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama and Norway’s Minister for International Development Hon Dag-Inge Ulstein.

Remarks during the launch were also made virtually by Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Pal Ahluwalia from USP and Rector Dag Rune Olsen from UiB, who both underlined the long-term partnership between these two ocean and climate science oriented universities.

Hon Bainimarama said that the new partnership, from the halls of USP and UiB, will cultivate the next generation of Pacific Island oceans leaders, bringing together the experiences of our people with world-leading oceans and climate expertise.

He emphasised that our ocean ecosystems buckle under the strain of climate change and reckless human abuses and that there is a need for young minds at the forefront of preserving oceanic food security, understanding how land activities impact coastal sustenance, leveraging traditional knowledge to secure sustainable livelihoods.

“We need ideas, born in Pacific minds and backed by science that can transform humanity’s relationship with the ocean and marine life. Thanks to the commitment of Norway, Fiji and our fellow Pacific Island Countries — more young people across the Pacific can contribute to the cutting-edge science behind the oceans-climate nexus,” said Hon Bainimarama.

Hon Ulstein said while launching the programme that the N-POC that addressing climate change and ensuring sustainable use of the ocean still remain a priority for Norway.

He said that in fact, the current pandemic and recent cyclones underline the need for genuine and long-term partnerships.

Hon Ulstein was delighted that the cooperation over decades between USP and UiB is now taken to a whole new level.

“Today we are launching a substantial package to reinforce the partnership on science and education,” Ulstein told the guests in the virtual launch.

“We are climate focused ocean states, with a common understanding of the importance of the ocean-climate nexus. To save our ocean, we need to base policy on the best available science. Someone must develop this science. That is a job for our excellent universities, in the Pacific and in Norway,” he said.

He expressed his excitement with the new programme, not the least the strong critical engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UiB’s leading role on SDG14, Life below water, through the university’s Ocean Sustainability Bergen virtual centre.

“Together we produce tomorrow’s scientific leaders within climate and ocean. We go beyond words and promises — this is partnership in action,” said Ulstein.

Professor Ahluwalia said that he is proud that we stand together in this partnership in a field of research where we both have so much to offer and so much at stake in terms of the impacts of climate change on our countries and the changes that are taking place to the ocean environment in the different oceanic regions in which we live.

He emphasised that the University of Bergen has for many years been our academic partner in this broader people to people partnership between nations.

“In recent times, we took that partnership to a new level with our Agreement to create a jointly funded professorial position in “Oceans and Climate Change,” said Professor Ahluwalia.

Mr Olsen said that he is proud and glad for the equal, long-standing partnership with USP, which today enters a new dimension. Our universities share the conviction that the ocean is central to understanding the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

Main objectives

The three main objectives of the N-POC programme are:

1. To build a strong interdisciplinary Pacific cohort of PhD researchers to address urgent challenges for ocean and climate;
2. To build new multidisciplinary Pacific research on the ocean-climate nexus for regional and global policy impact;
3. To build enduring partnerships between researchers and universities in Norway and the Pacific Islands.

For more information please visit; http://www.usp.ac.fj/news/story.php?id=3254
USP GRADUATES THE FIRST BATCH OF PEUMP FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Fifty-three (53) marine and fisheries officials from around the Pacific region are the first batch of The University of the South Pacific (USP) and Pacific European Union Marine Partnerships Project (USP PEUMP) scholarship recipients who are now eligible for graduation.

Over half of the 53 students eligible for graduation are women. Twenty-seven (27) PEUMP scholarship recipients completed the Certificate IV in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance (MCS) held from April – November 22, 2019.

The training targeted fisheries compliance officers across the Pacific ACP Countries - African Caribbean Pacific Countries (PACP) countries to equip them with the highly complex and evolving technical knowledge and skills required to effectively perform their duties.

A further 26 fisheries personnel across the region received PEUMP scholarships for Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (CTA) held from October 14 – December 6, 2019 enabling participants to become effective certified trainers in their respective agencies.

Although the COVID-19 global outbreak had forced the cancellation of USP’s graduation in March, provisions had been made for the eligible graduates to collect their certificates or have them mailed to their country of choice.

The recipients included fisheries stakeholders from government, non-government and communities from 15 Pacific ACP countries (PACP).

USP is one of four key implementing partners of the PEUMP Programme, a EUR 45M programme funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden. USP, through the PEUMP Programme, is focusing on building the capacity for Pacific islanders through education, training, research and development in fisheries and marine resources management.

Scholarship recipient, Jacqueline Nalomaca, a fisheries official from Fiji said, “it is not easy as a female fisheries officer to enforce rules and regulations when dealing with fishermen and the fact the Certificate IV in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance course ensured gender balance, was a great achievement given the dominance of male fisheries officers.”

Ms Nalomaca said, apart from gaining an additional certificate from USP, the learnings have been crucial to develop her skills in the area of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) to carry out her role professionally and safely and allowed her to get updated on compliance mechanisms.

Samoan fisheries official, Unity Roebeck, said the Certificate IV in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance course was “highly informative and taught me new knowledge and skills as well as a new perspective to my role, not only as a Pacific Ocean Custodian but as the Senior Fisheries Officer in the Aquaculture Section.”

In congratulating the graduates the Dean, Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment, at USP, Dr Anjeela Jokhan said, “the ocean is the lifeline of the Pacific peoples and through education, training and research there will be stronger fisheries and marine resources management through these qualified professionals.”
FIRST DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARRIVES THROUGH THE PACIFIC HUMANITARIAN PATHWAY ON COVID-19

50K KN95 facial masks and 20K protective masks have arrived in Nadi, Fiji, to be used in the fight against COVID-19. This essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), destined for Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and French Polynesia is being coordinated through the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C).

The Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C) was established by the Pacific Islands Forum to ensure required medical and humanitarian personnel and equipment can efficiently reach Member countries. This donation of PPE from the Jack Ma Foundation is the first time the PHP-C has been used.

“Pacific countries and territories responding to COVID-19 require essential medical supplies, so we welcome this donation by the Jack Ma Foundation. The PHP-C is ensuring the smooth transport of these supplies; our Pacific region is working together and taking care of each other,” said the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor.

The PHP-C provided regional coordination to ensure smooth delivery of these supplies from their origin in Shanghai, to Fiji. The PPE will be handed over to the World Health Organisation for distribution. 45% of supplies are destined for Papua New Guinea and 10% each for New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Fiji. These countries are all battling COVID-19 outbreaks and have requested assistance. The remaining PPE will be a buffer for Pacific Islands Forum member countries.

“This Personal Protective Equipment is just the first delivery facilitated by the PHP-C. We will continue to work with and respond to requests for support from Member countries to combat COVID-19, together with our partners including the Pacific Community, WHO, UN, Forum Dialogue Partners, Pacific private sector and civil society. We are all in this together,” said Dame Meg Taylor.

To prepare and respond to the threat of COVID-19, Pacific countries have put in place exceptional measures to control the movement of people and goods. In some cases, these measures are restricting the movement of medical and humanitarian supplies, equipment and personnel by the WHO and other actors.

The PHP-C addresses this through political leadership and regional coordination of medical and humanitarian assistance between Pacific Islands Forum Member states and regional and international organisations.

The 18 Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum have recognised COVID-19 as a major crisis and have invoked the Biketawa Declaration to collectively respond to COVID-19, as one Blue Pacific family.

Source: PIFS | For more information visit: https://www.forumsec.org/first-delivery-of-medical-supplies-arrives-through-the-pacific-humanitarian-pathway-on-covid-19/

DR GILIANNE BRODIE JOINS IAS AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The Institute of Applied Sciences, at The University of the South Pacific (USP) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Gilianne Brodie as the Institute’s Deputy Director. Dr Brodie is a former acting Head of the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences (SBCS).

She has over 30 years of experience in biodiversity & natural resource management in tropical and island ecosystems across tropical marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems with particular emphasis on conservation, invertebrates, endemic fauna and invasive species. She has published over 70 publications including over 30 refereed journal papers, several book chapters, applied technical reports and completed over 30 research and development projects primarily in developing countries or remote communities.

She holds a PhD in marine biology from James Cook University (JCU), Queensland, Australia, a Master’s of Science also from JCU and a Bachelor of Applied Science majoring in biology and chemistry from Charles Stuart University in New South Wales, Australia.
ACCESSING USP COMPUTER LABS

As part of The University of the South Pacific’s (USP) ongoing strategy to support students in accessing remote teaching during the current COVID-19 Pandemic, Laucala Campus computer spaces are now adapted to observe social distancing provisions.

Computer labs that used to have forty computers have been halved to twenty computers to observe COVID-19 protocols and to ensure students have adequate space to study and access their courses. All computer labs are dedicated to students and some, include sitting space to accommodate students using Wi-Fi hotspots.

Five (5) computer labs (ITS3, ITS4, ITS5, ITS8 and 9) are open until 8pm to cater for working students. Sixty computers have been relocated to the USP gym due to available space and proximity of handwashing stations. The computer labs and opening hours are reviewed daily, especially those labs that are open until 8pm, and are adjusted as required. ITS staff will be on hand to monitor student numbers.

Other facilities on Campuses such as the Library, Book Centre and food outlets will remain open from Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm, with social distancing observed at all times. It should however be noted that all recreational facilities including the gym, swimming pool and playgrounds at Laucala Campus will remain closed until further notice.

Students in our Regional Campuses are requested to observe national advisories and stay in touch with their Campus Directors on arrangements and further advice.

The University is constantly monitoring and reviewing the COVID-19 Pandemic and we request that USP staff and students regularly check their emails, USP website and USP social media outlets.

USP also encourages all staff and students to practice clean hygiene protocols, social distancing and limit travel and movement.

IF YOU ARE FEELING UNWELL, OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS FEELING UNWELL AND IS SHOWING SYMPTOMS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RESPECTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.
**STAFF PROFILE**

**Most memorable moment at USP?**

I was given the opportunity to learn about best practice models in my field from Harvard, Yale and Boston University in 2018. This is something I will always cherish and was grateful for the opportunity provided by USP. It is great that we have connections with leading Universities around the world, who we can learn and share knowledge from.

**Best part about your job?**

Meeting and helping students on a daily basis. I like to interact with students from various cultures and backgrounds. My role does not feel ‘boring’ and this keeps me engaged all the time.

**What three words would you use to describe your role?**

Friendly, resourceful, flexible.

**Favourite thing about USP**

Diversity: I personally like the diverse cultures of USP. Professionally, I like the innovative team that makes up USP to be the leading University in the Pacific.

**What do you like most about your Campus?**

I like the greenery and the jovial atmosphere of the University, from students ‘chilling’ under the trees, to students singing at the dining hall. Just the overall vibe of the place is refreshing.

**Where did you receive your qualifications?**

The University of the South Pacific. BA (Journ) LLB.

**USP really is the true meaning of diversity and inclusiveness. It is very inclusive and understands the needs of the Pacific. We have the best staff, best resources and excellent technological infrastructure that sets us apart from others.**

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**STUDENT PROFILE**

**Why did you choose USP?**

It's one of the leading regional tertiary institutions and most importantly the courses offered here have an extensive focus within the Pacific context. As a Pacific Islander, I think it’s important to have an understanding of our history, current affairs and what we can possibly do to better our future using the knowledge and skills obtained from our studies here at USP.

**What are your career goals?**

I aspire to contribute to the development of Solomon Islands’ media industry. I have a strong interest in the areas of television broadcasting and photojournalism-both of which can be very effective in portraying people's stories, covering development, politics and socio-economic issues.

**Preferred mode of study?**

Face-to-Face and blended. I enjoy interacting with tutors and students in class discussions. I find it more effective in terms of my learning experience.

**Which course have you enjoyed the most? Why?**

I really enjoyed JN203 (Television Journalism) because I have always been fond of working with cameras and dealing with the technical attributed of video-journalism. Despite the time-consuming nature of post-processing (editing), it is so satisfying to see the final product of your hard work, time and commitment.

**Where do you see yourself 5-10 years from now?**

I hope to see myself covering news stories regarding political, socio-economic issues and conflicts in my country.

**What extra-curricular activities are you involved in?**

USPSA, Education Chairperson and freelance photography, something that I am just venturing into.

**How is USP preparing you for the future?**

USP is providing me with a firm foundation of knowledge, skills and ethics that will enable me to contribute towards the betterment of my country, people and community. Especially improving the quality of reporting by media. In modern context, journalists are required to be multi-skilled - able to work in print, online or radio/television broadcasting - and these are exactly the skills that USP is providing us students under the Journalism programme.
### REVISED ACADEMIC CALENDAR YEAR

#### SEMESTER 1, 2020
- **20 April – 05 June**: Rest of Semester 1, 2020, dedicated to teaching & learning activities
- **08 June – 12 June**: Study/ Assessment Week
- **15 June – 26 June**: Examination/ Assessment Weeks
- **29 June – 10 July**: Grades submitted, including Mid-Year Break

#### SEMESTER 2, 2020
**STARTS ON 13 JULY**

Course Coordinators can include the Study Week (8 – 12 June) and the Exam Weeks (15 June – 26 June) for their continuous assessments if they do not plan to have a final examination component (update required)

**Trimester 1, 2020**
- **4 May – 15 May**: Trimester 1 Break
- **Before 15 May**: Final Exam/ Assessment
- **18 May**: Trimester 2, 2020, starts.

### USP Beat Magazine

USP Beat is published by the Strategic Partnerships, Advancement & Communications Office, The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

**Reports By:** Swashna Chand | Media & PR Officer

**Desktop Publisher:** Loriza M Bano

The views expressed in USP Beat are not necessarily the views of the University or the Managing Editor.

**Next issue**
MAY 2020

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www.usp.ac.fj

### REGIONAL CAMPUSES OPENING HOURS
(Latest information as provided by Regional Campuses office on 8 May 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPUS</th>
<th>OPENING HOURS</th>
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| **Cook Is**  | Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm  
Computer Lab: 24/7 access via student card only |
| **Kiribati** | Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm  
Computer Lab: Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm  
Saturday: 8am - 4pm  
Sunday: 12noon - 6pm |
| **Labasa**   | Monday to Thursday: 8am - 4.30pm  
Friday: 8am - 4pm.  
Library: Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm  
Saturdays: 9am - 1pm |
| **Laucala**  | Monday to Friday: 8am - 8pm  
Saturday: 9am - 5pm |
| **Lautoka**  | Office Hours (including Library and IT Labs)  
Monday to Thursday: 8am - 4.30pm  
Friday: 8am - 4pm  
Library and IT Labs: Saturday: 9am to 3pm  
Bookings can be made through email: uspautoka@usp.ac.fj |
| **Marshall Is** | Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm |
| **Nauru**    | Monday to Friday: 8am - 8pm  
Library: 9am - 5pm  
Saturday & Sunday: 2pm - 6pm |
| **Niue**     | Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm  
Computer Lab: Monday to Friday: 9am - 10pm  
Saturday: 10am - 2pm |
| **Samoa**    | Monday to Friday: 8am - 6 pm  
Campus curfew hours are from 6pm to 6am daily. |
| **Solomon Is** | Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm (staff only)  
Following national advisory - students not permitted on campus |
| **Tokelau**  | Monday to Friday: 8am - 4pm |
| **Tonga**    | Monday to Friday: 7am - 6pm  
Saturday: 8.30am - 1pm  
Computer Labs: Monday to Friday: 8.30am - 5.45pm  
Saturday: 9am - 12.45pm  
Library: Monday to Wednesday: 8.30am - 6.00pm  
Thursday and Friday: 8.30am - 5.00pm  
Saturday: 9am - 12.45pm |
| **Tuvalu**   | Monday to Friday: 8am - 4.30pm  
Labs & Classroom (students use only): 4.30pm - 12am  
Saturday: 8am - 2pm  
Sunday: 6pm - 12am |
| **Vanuatu**  | 7.30am - 5pm |

USP requests that students regularly check their emails, USP website and USP social media pages.