

SINU LAUNCHES PART- TIME STUDY



Faculty of Nursing, Medicine and Public Health Students
Photo Credit: Samuel Liosulia

Solomon Islands National University is now providing a solution to create a more flexible schedule for those with a full-time job, family commitment and even those who have a minimal budget by launching Part-time Study beginning in semester 2, 2020.

Part-time students will be allowed to enroll with only one or two units per semester whilst enjoying same benefits as full-time students on all University facilities, such as libraries, computer laboratories and study huts.

This is a convenient opportunity for all individuals who would like to further pursue their career.

Interested applicants can simply apply and register online at:

<http://www.sinu.edu.sb/sinu-admissions/>

Note that semester 2 enrolment will commence from 31st August to 4th September 2020.

This is a great opportunity not to be missed. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Manager.SAS@sinu.edu.sb or
EOVC.Academic@sinu.edu.sb

Or Drop by the Student Academic Services Office, Kukum Campus, from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Saturday.

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Professor [Dr] Prem P. Rai

Outgoing Dean Professor Prem Rai made his Mark at FAFF

Professor Prem Rai joined Solomon Islands National University on the 27th of January 2017 as the Dean of the School of Natural Resources & Applied Sciences [SNRAS]. SNRAS is now upgraded to Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [FAFF], with the new organizational restructuring SINU undertook in 2019.

Even before Professor Rai arrived in the Solomon Islands, he was mentally prepared to make a shift from UPNG to SINU. He was familiar with the history of SINU and Professor Prem Rai was determined to be a part of what he described as “a young and developing institution full of challenges and opportunities.” He saw scope for improvement towards growth and development at SINU and most specifically, at FAFF.

Upon his arrival at SNRAS, Professor Prem Rai noticed that the school had limited infrastructure and it was located in a muddy area. There were few classrooms available to cater to students and insufficient office space for a few staff members that were present. As the Dean, he completed and opened in 2017, the wind-wind house which accommodates up to 150 students in a lecture and refurbished two air conditioned container offices for his staff. A new fully furnished classrooms with ceiling mounted projectors, more office spaces and kitchenette was also completed. The ground-breaking of the new equipped science Research and Teaching Building was done in late 2017 and completed in October 2019 which housed the state of the art Science Laboratory. Road upgrade which leads from the lower end of admin block to the car park on the top hill and construction of better car parks and concrete walkways was also completed in 2018. Proper security gate and fencing of the agriculture farm was erected to protect the area from the public. Renovation of Poitete campus in the Western Province which is still underway; with one staff house, the boy's ablution block, dining hall and the boy's dorm completed. Renovations yet to be

completed are girl's dorms, second staff house, 2 classrooms, an office block and the girl's ablution block.

Professor Prem Rai was also aware of the prevalence of certificate level programs and that SINU was still affiliated with the former institution (SICHE). However, Professor Rai made it his priority to make a change at FAFF. He was dedicated to make various improvements to the infrastructure, upgrading of academic programmes and develop proper recruitment of academic staff.

In 2017, FAFF was offering Certificate and Diploma in Agriculture, Certificate in Environmental Studies and Certificate in Forestry. Professor Prem then introduced in 2018, Diploma in Environmental Studies, Diploma in Tropical Forestry and Bachelor of Agriculture. In 2019, Certificate in Agriculture was also offered in Distance and Flexible Learning mode. Now FAFF is in the process of creating the Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Bachelor of Environment Studies. Academic staff was then increased from 9 in 2017 to a total of 25 in 2020.

Professor Prem Rai also strengthened relations with stakeholders in the Solomon Islands and overseas institutions to assist with further developments in FAFF. He also initiated research projects and collaborations moreover; he explored the possibility of funding sources from the UN and other agencies. Professor Prem Rai came to SINU with a purpose and that was to address underlying issues that exist within FAFF. Several significant events occurred during his term with FAFF and it sure has a great impact on SINU as a whole.

Professor Prem was also appointed as the acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor on the 1st of December 2017 until July 1st, 2018. Following this event, he was then appointed as the Acting Vice-Chancellor from July 2nd, 2018 until March 3rd, 2019. Thus, he had concurrent duties whilst upholding these important positions.

In his farewell ceremony, Pro-Vice Chancellor Academic Dr. Jack Maebuta thanked Professor Prem on behalf of current and future FAFF Students, SINU community and Solomon Islanders for his immense contributions to Faculty, the University Council and the Nation as a whole. Dr. Maebuta wished Professor Prem blessings and continuous success in his future endeavors. Professor Prem announced his retirement as Dean of FAFF in June 2020.

Ends//...

FAO signs LOA with SINU

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Solomon Islands through the project “Integrated Forest Management Project” through a Letter of Agreement (LoA) is supporting SINU to establish Bachelor of Environmental Science and Bachelor of Forestry course curriculum in this university.

FAO along with executing partners Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Ministry of Forestry and Research and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is committed to lay down the strong knowledge foundation in the Solomon Islands for producing graduates and high quality professionals to serve the environmental, ecological and forestry sector demands in government and private sector development works and will finally strengthen country knowledge base in such thematic areas.

This project will also open up new international collaboration for SINU and establishing credentials among international universities. The goals of this agreement are to develop degree level course curriculum in Forestry and Environmental Science and Institutional

Capacity Building, establishment of School’s Nursery facility for training, school’s training workshop for value added forest products, Herbarium / Biodiversity knowledge Centers and computer and laboratory facility for GIS and Land-use Planning.

The School of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences (SNRAS), renamed Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (FAFF), of Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is committed to train future professionals with the goal to develop the needed capacity to fulfil capacity gaps in the fields of agriculture, natural resources stewardship and environmental sciences.

This year, the department is in the process of planning and developing two bachelor degree courses of environmental and forestry studies. The bachelor program will be three years course with four units per semester. It is anticipated that each unit will be worth 15 credit points and the total credit points for the three-year program is 360.

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SINU Extends Study Week

To all students:

Study break has begun last week and we are sure students are studying smart. You have been given an extra week from August 10th to 14th to prepare well for your upcoming exams.

Please note that the library opening hours has been extended to cater to your needs. Library opening hours are from 8:00 am to 12:00 am daily, 7 days a week.

All the best in your studies and exams!



Students Studying.
Photo Credit: Samuel Liosulia

Mary Tahu on the role of mangrove biomass and rates of decomposition in supporting climate change adaptation in Marovo Western Solomon Islands



**Ms. Mary Tahu, Senior Lecturer and Part-time PhD.
Student at SINU**

The loss of mangroves and their ecosystem good and services from over harvesting degradation land reclamation pose a threat to the livelihoods of coastal communities (Warren Rhodes et al.2011). The impact of climate change coupled with increasing exploitation of mangrove vegetation, decline of material and biological productivity is affecting peoples livelihood a well as causing coastal erosion. Solomon Islands mangrove forests are valuable for food security supporting livelihoods of about 85% of the people as well as being critical for protecting coastlines (WWF 2015).

Mangrove biomass and decomposition rates are important for the support of food webs, coastal protection, blue carbon capture and climate change adaptation. Biomass particularly woods and roots make important contributions to elevation gain of the soil, so their decomposition is important for keeping up with sea level rise and therefore important for climate change adaptation. Therefore the study aims to investigate the variation of mangrove biomass over the Marovo Lagoon. Marovo Lagoon is a wetland of global significance and hotspot of biological diversity (Hviding 2008) as well the ongoing logging activities since 1970s is causing turbid waters and decline in fish catches (Duke et al.2007) as such the study tries to address these research questions 1) what is the current status of mangroves along the coastal areas in Marovo 2) what environmental parameters influence mangrove production and decomposition in the field and 3) which

mangrove species decompose faster or release nutrients to nearby ecosystems.

The litterbag method was used to assess the decomposition rates of mangrove species namely *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Ceriops tagal* and *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*. Based on the result the decomposition rates of the three species were categorised as medium to high in Marovo lagoon. The decomposition rate varied among species with *B.gymnorhiza* showing higher rates of decomposition compared to the *R.apiculata* and *C.tagal*. The rate of decomposition was higher at the seaward compared to landward sites. The relationship between the variables (salinity, pH, Electrical conductivity, turbidity and water temperature with decomposition rates of mangrove species showed a significant but weak correlation. This was because salinity and other parameters do not vary widely among sites.

The researcher is currently in the second year of study and has collected data on roots decomposition and litter deposition from July to December 2019. So far the limitations faced were the availability of proper equipments for testing of parameters on site, consistency in funding support and the need for more training on the statistical analysis for data analysis. Some of the few activities worthy of attention over the years were presentations during workshops in Brisbane in 2018 and 2019 on the following topics: Indigenous knowledge of mangrove ecosystems and sea level rise in Solomon Islands and the importance of mangroves to the marine ecosystems. Part of the research in Marovo lagoon was also featured in the book of abstracts at the University of Bremen, Germany under the oral presentation on Functions of Tropical Marine Ecosystems under Environmental change. To date a paper on the topic Litter decomposition of mangrove species in Marovo lagoon, Solomon Islands was submitted to the Wetlands Ecology and Management Journal and is currently under review.

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Opportunities @ SINU

**Are you a private business in
need of further employee
training and development???**

Great News!!!

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Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the Prime and ONLY National University of Solomon Islands.

Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Region.

Our VISION: "A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the Pacific Region."

Our Mission: "Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands."

Craving for something delicious to eat during breakfast, lunch or dinner?

Don't delay- start your day the LOKOL way at Lokol Fusion Café & Bar located at the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, SINU Kukum Campus.



LOKOL FUSION CAFÉ & BAR

SERVES BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

menu

Be a LOKOL on Friday Nites

LOKOL Fusion Friday Nights Anytime from: 4:00pm

Fish & Chips: Fresh-caught Snapper or Kingfish, served with Salad & Kumara Chips or French Fries	\$50
Pizza: Margarita, Hawaiian, BBQ Chicken & Vegetarian	\$99
Deep Fried Chicken: served with Kumara Wedges & Coleslaw	\$65

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For Enquiries and Bookings

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SINU Kukum campus**

Monday - Friday 7:30AM TO 2:30PM

Friday EVENINGS 4:00PM TO 9:00PM

Keep CALM AND LETS DO IT THE LOKOL WAY



Don't Delay — Start your day the LOKOL way

LOKOL Fusion Breakfast Anytime from: 7:30am

Scrambled Eggs: Four Fresh Eggs with Spring Onion, Tomato and Toast	\$50
All Day Breakfast: Farm-Fresh Eggs Fried, Scrambled or Poached served with Grilled Tomato, Sausage, Bacon and Toast	\$50
The Lokol Omelette: Made with four Fresh Eggs with Tomato, Spring Onion, Sausage and Cheese	\$60
Fruit salad: Fresh Papaya, Pineapple, Banana and Watermelon	\$25
Coffee: Espresso & Selection of Tea's [Plus \$5 for Takeaways]	\$25

LOKOL Fusion Lunch Anytime from: 11:00am to 2:30pm

Fish & Chips: Fresh-caught Snapper or Kingfish, served with Salad & Kumara Chips or French Fries	\$50
Stir Fries: Beef or Chicken or Fish served with Rice	\$40
Curry Selections: Beef or Chicken or Fish served with Rice	\$50
Toasted Sandwich: Tuna & Chicken served with Salad and French Fries	\$50
Beef Burger: served with Salads and French Fries	\$75

LOKOL Fusion Student Menu Available All-Day till 2:30pm

Fish & Chips: Fresh-caught Snapper or Kingfish, served with Kumara Chips	\$10
Hot Dogs: Fresh Buns & Sausage served with tomato source	\$10
Pre-Packed Sandwiches:	\$5
Muffins:	\$5
Tea or Coffee cups	\$3

LOKOL Fusion Everyday SPECIALS!!! - View Blackboard Menu