

UNIVOIS NEWSLETTER

Historic Milestone as Solomon Islands National University Graduates 1,005 Students



Some of the graduands pictured among the 105 students who successfully graduated from the Solomon Islands National University.

Of the 1,005 graduands, 632 are female, representing 63 per cent of the graduating class, while 373 are male, representing 37 per cent. The Vice Chancellor said this strong female representation was an encouraging sign for Solomon Islands and the wider region.

“When women and men are both given the opportunity to learn, lead, and serve, the whole nation is strengthened,” Professor Aqorau said.

The University also acknowledged 41 international students from Vanuatu who graduated as part of the April 2026 cohort, highlighting SINU’s growing regional role in education and human resource development.

Professor Aqorau paid special tribute to the 33 high achievers who graduated at the top of their programmes with a GPA of 4.0 and above. He said their achievements reflected discipline, perseverance, consistency, and a refusal to settle for less than their best.

In his address to the graduands, the Vice Chancellor encouraged them to carry forward four important values: responsibility, integrity, leadership, and lifelong learning.

He reminded the graduates that their qualifications represent the investment of their families, communities, sponsors, and country, and urged them to use their knowledge and skills with honesty, humility, and good judgement.

Professor Aqorau also acknowledged the many people behind each graduate’s success, including parents, guardians, spouses, children, siblings, sponsors, mentors, lecturers, librarians, administrators, technicians, cleaners, drivers, and all who supported the graduands throughout their journey.

“In our islands, the wantok spirit reminds us that no one succeeds alone—every achievement is carried by many hands,” he said.

The Vice Chancellor noted that the graduates are entering a world marked by global uncertainty, economic volatility, climate risks, unemployment, service delivery challenges, and rapid technological change. However, he said this is precisely why education matters.

“In times such as these, nations need wise nurses, ethical business leaders, dedicated teachers, resilient farmers and fishers, capable technicians, creative entrepreneurs, thoughtful public servants, and citizens whose minds are steady and whose hearts remain open,” Professor Aqorau said.

He urged the graduates not only to inherit the future, but to shape it through service, innovation, professionalism, and commitment to their communities and country.

Professor Aqorau also expressed appreciation to the Solomon Islands Government, the SINU Council and leadership, academic and professional staff, the graduation committee, sponsors, development partners, community and church leaders, families, friends, and partners in industry and the private sector for their continued support to the University.

“To the graduating class of April 2026: congratulations. You have earned this day. Wear your achievement with gratitude, but also with purpose. Let your knowledge serve people. Let your skills build communities. Let your character strengthen institutions. Let your leadership bring hope,” Professor Aqorau said.

The ceremony concluded with the Vice Chancellor offering a blessing from Numbers 6:24–26 and wishing God’s blessing upon Solomon Islands and Solomon Islands National University.

Congratulations to the SINU April 2026 graduating class.

Solomon Islands National University on Thursday 31 April celebrated the achievements of 1,005 graduands at its April 2026 Graduation Ceremony, held under the theme “Shaping the Future: Knowledge, Technology and Nation Building.”

Speaking at the ceremony, SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau congratulated the graduating class and reminded them that their education carries both personal and national significance.

Professor Aqorau said the theme of the graduation was more than a slogan, describing it as “a statement of purpose” that reflects the role of a national university in preparing minds, forming character, strengthening communities, and helping Solomon Islands imagine and build a better future.

This year’s graduating cohort reflects the breadth of SINU’s contribution to national development, with graduands coming from nursing, medicine and health sciences; education and humanities; business and technology; agriculture, forestry and fisheries; science and technology; technical and vocational education and training; and distance and flexible learning.

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CDFL Honours 100 Students with Certificates of Attainment in Historic First Ceremony



Arts students proudly pose for a group photo with their certificates.

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Centre for Distance and Flexible Learning (CDFL) marked a significant milestone on Thursday, 19 March, by awarding Certificates of Attainment to 100 students who successfully completed their pathway studies. The ceremony, held at the Pavilion on the Panatina Campus, was conducted under the theme: "Learn Anywhere, Grow Everywhere, Empower the Solomon Islands."

Speaking during the certificate award ceremony, Manager CDFL Obed Zutu said in 2018, CDFL starts offering this University Pathway Program. At that time programmes were called: Preparatory Community Study Certificate (PCSC) and Tertiary Community Study Certificate (PCSC).

Mr. Zutu said these were called the second chance education programme. Giving those who cannot continue their secondary education in the normal system another chance to continue their educations and achieve their life time goal or dreams. He said the entry requirement is just any school leavers from Forms 3-6 where he said lately in 2020, the programme name changes to UPC – University Preparatory certificate level 1, 2 & 3.

"Since 2018, there have been thousands of school leavers passed through. Some have taken their own pathways to higher education. Others were admitted to SINU faculties. Some of them are here this afternoon go receive their certificate of completion or appreciation."

He said this will be an annual event and we anticipate more to received their certificates in November this year 2026."

"I would like to congratulate these alumni who will be receiving their certificates today. You were once unplaced in the normal school system. But through this second chance education program, you are able to pursue your life time goal and career dream in SINU faculty studies."

"I would like to thank our past and present Management, support staff and tutors for your commitment and willingness to support, tutor, mentor students have come through these second chance education programmes."

"I appeal to the current administration and tutors to continue render and display this commitment this year and into the future."

Also speaking as the guest of honour, Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic (PVCA), Associate Professor Eric Katovai, thanked CDFL Manager Mr. Zutu and staff for guiding students through the second-chance pathway, and congratulated the awardees on their achievement.

In his keynote address, Associate Professor Katovai highlighted that CDFL's work reflects SINU's broader mission to widen access to education and ensure it remains inclusive and transformative.

"I remind the certificate awardees that SINU takes a deliberate and strategic approach to providing alternative education pathways. These pathways exist to ensure that anyone, regardless of prior setbacks, can pursue and achieve their educational aspirations. Second-chance education is not remedial; it is an intentional response to structural limitations within our national education system."



PVCA Associate Professor Eric Katovai presents a certificate to an Arts Student



Dean of Faculty of Nursing, Medicine & Health Sciences Dr Humpress Harrington presents a certificate to one of the science students.



Samuel Kwaoga Head of School of Built Environment presents a certificate to one of the science students.

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Science students pose for a group photo with their certificates.

He emphasized that the Solomon Islands' education system currently does not accommodate all students progressing to Form Six, and therefore the label "high school dropout" often reflects systemic inadequacies rather than an individual's potential, intelligence, or capability.

"Being a product of second-chance education does not make anyone a second-class scholar or citizen. Your pathway may have been different, but it is no less legitimate or valuable," he said.

To illustrate this, Associate Professor Katovai shared the story of a student who entered university through a second-chance pathway, completed a Bachelor of Science degree, followed by an Honours degree, a Master of Philosophy, and is now a PhD candidate under his supervision at the University of the South Pacific.

"His journey demonstrates that determination, discipline, and belief in oneself can overcome early educational barriers. I encourage the awardees to draw confidence from such examples and to remain steadfast in their ambitions," he said.

"I congratulate the students for successfully completing the pathway programme and progressing into SINU's formal academic programmes. Their transition represents not only personal achievement but also the fulfilment of the University's mandate to expand opportunity." He concluded by reminding students of the importance of faith, perseverance, and hard work:

"With God, all things are possible. While challenges will arise along your academic journey, faith and determination will carry you through." The event was guided by CDFL's vision,

"To be the leading provider of Distance and Flexible Learning in the Solomon Islands, delivering transformational education through online and in-person experiences that inspire."

Most of the students who received their Certificates of Attainment are now enrolled in SINU diploma and degree programmes, studying fields such as science, social science, and business.



CDFL LCS Coordinator Jonny Tasa invites students to the stage to receive their Certificates of Attainment.



CDFL Manager Obed Zutu delivered the welcome remarks.



Guest of Honour, Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic (PVCA) Associate Professor Eric Katovai shared the key note address



Two Business students celebrate their achievement as they proudly display their certificates.



Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic (PVCA), Associate Professor Eric Katovai, presents a certificate to an Arts student.

SINU consults with Choiseul Provincial Government



SINU consultation team and Choiseul Provincial Government team gathered for a group photo following a successful meeting in Taro, Choiseul Province.

A team from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) has successfully held a consultation with the Choiseul Provincial Government with the aim of expanding SINU into Choiseul Province. Authorized by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services (PVCC), Dr. William Parairato, the team, led by Mr. Cypriano Nuake, Chief Quality Assurance Officer, travelled from Honiara to Taro, Choiseul Province, on Saturday, 28th March 2026.

The consultation was held on Monday, 30th March 2026, at the Choiseul Provincial Assembly from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Representatives from the Provincial Government included the Honourable Premier, Hon. Harrison Pitakaka; Provincial Secretary, Mr. Geoffrey Pakipota; Minister for Natural Resources, Hon. Michael Papo; Minister for Works, Infrastructure, Lands and Physical Planning, Hon. Richard Sese Teao; and Planning Officer, Ms. Cynthia Baripapa, who met and discussed with the SINU consultation team.

During the meeting, the SINU team leader, Mr. Nuake, conveyed apologies from the PVCC for not attending the consultation. He then delivered greetings from the SINU Vice-Chancellor to the Honourable Premier, the Provincial Government, Members of the Assembly, officers, and the people of Choiseul Province.

The team leader outlined the purpose of the visit, emphasizing SINU's strategic plan to expand into the provinces and the need for collaboration with provincial governments, including Choiseul, to support land acquisition and the establishment of a provincial campus.

In response, the Choiseul Provincial Government, led by the Honourable Premier, expressed strong support for SINU's proposal, acknowledging its importance in improving access to tertiary education and contributing to provincial development.

The province indicated its willingness to collaborate with SINU, particularly in facilitating land identification within the proposed township, and encouraged the University to develop a detailed proposal to guide the next steps.

Following the consultation, the team visited the Provincial Government's PE plot at the proposed relocated Choiseul Township. In the evening, a dinner was hosted by the SINU team to show appreciation to the Honourable Premier for his warm reception and support.

The SINU consultation team comprised Mr. David Maekiki (Acting Director Properties, Facilities & Projects), Mr. Allan Alulu (Project Supervisor), Mr. Terere Aaron (PVCC Executive Officer), Ms. Cinderella Letona (Legal Counsel), and Mr. Wilson Saeni (Public Relations Officer), led by Mr. Cypriano Nuake, Chief Quality Assurance Officer.



SINU team visited the Choiseul Province proposed development site



From left: SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau, Carson Korowa, Chief Executive Officer SPO, Dr Kapila Mallah, Visiting Professor in Economics, SINU; ICCR Chair, and Dr Luke Forau , Governor, CBSI.

SINU Hosts Timely Public Symposium on Global Oil Shock and Economic Implications

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU), under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Transform Aqorau, has successfully hosted a public symposium titled “From the Middle East to the Pacific: Understanding the Global Oil Shock and Its Economic Implications.”

Held on Wednesday, 25 March at SINU’s Kukum Campus, the event drew a large and diverse audience, with hundreds of participants from various sectors attending to gain insights into the global and local impacts of oil price shocks and their implications for the Solomon Islands.

The university brought together three prominent speakers for the symposium: Carson Korowa, Chief Executive Officer of South Pacific Oil Limited; Kapila Mallah, Visiting Professor in Economics at SINU and ICCR Chair; and Luke Forau, Governor of the Central Bank of Solomon Islands.

The speakers delivered timely presentations on global oil markets, supply chain disruptions, and the potential economic consequences of prolonged geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly the ongoing conflict involving Iran. They also outlined practical measures to help mitigate and manage the potential impact of oil supply disruptions at the national level.

The symposium concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, allowing participants to engage directly with the panel on key issues affecting the country’s economic outlook.

Participants, both those who attended in person and those who followed the event via livestream, commended SINU for organizing a relevant and timely discussion. Many acknowledged the university’s role in fostering informed public dialogue on critical global issues and their local implications.

Some of the participants at the symposium asked questions for clarification following presentations by the panelists.



SINU AND OCEAN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA LAUNCH JOINT OCEAN RESEARCH CENTRE



Members from both parties posed from a group photo following the successful signing of the MOU.

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and Ocean University of China (OUC) have officially launched the Solomon Islands–China Ocean Research Centre following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The MOU was signed in Honiara on Monday, 13 April, by SINU Acting Vice-Chancellor Dr William Parairato and President of Ocean University of China, Professor Zhang Junfeng.

The agreement enables both institutions to collaborate on student training and research in marine-related fields. The initial focus will centre on the research theme: “Resilience and sustainability of coastal regions, integrating scientific inquiry with development priorities for the Solomon Islands.”

Key areas of student training and research will include:

- Integrated surveys of coastal ecosystems, hydro-meteorological conditions, and socio-economic indicators in the Solomon Islands;
- Ecosystem service assessment and valuation of coastal zones;
- Suitability zoning and prioritisation of coastal nature-based solutions based on ecosystem service valuation; and
- Governance pathways based on resilience assessments for coastal social-ecological systems under climate change.
- Additional research priorities under the MOU include:
- Climate change adaptation initiatives focusing on how the Solomon Islands can respond to changing oceanic conditions;
- Economic development through research that enhances the value of the country’s maritime resources;
- Community engagement to ensure local participation in research initiatives; and
- Policy impact, with a focus on translating research findings into actionable national policies.

According to the MOU, three priority actions for 2026 have been identified: a joint training cruise in China’s coastal waters, an international meeting on the Southern Ocean, and the delivery of an oceanography course. Plans for 2027–2028 will be developed based on the outcomes and effectiveness of the 2026 initiatives.

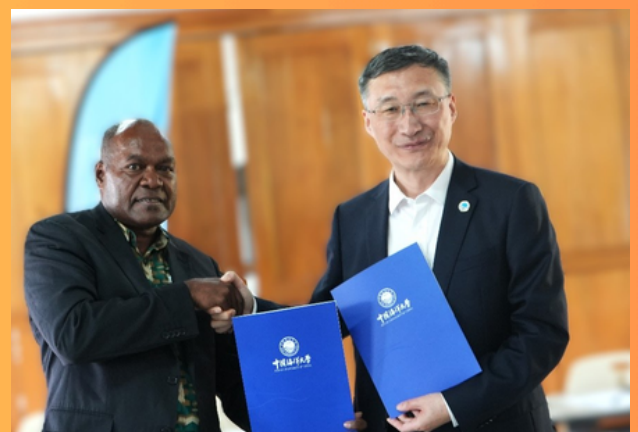
The Centre will be governed through a structured framework comprising:

- A Steering Committee to provide strategic direction and oversight, consisting of representatives from both universities and experts in marine-related fields;
- A Director, appointed on a rotational basis between SINU and OUC for a three-year term, responsible for the Centre’s operations and programme implementation;

- An Advisory Board made up of scholars, industry experts, and policymakers to guide research priorities and ensure alignment with global best practices;
- Joint funding efforts from government, non-government, and private sector partners; and
- Shared intellectual property ownership between SINU and OUC, subject to mutual agreement and institutional policies.

Both institutions reaffirmed their strong commitment to the partnership and expressed optimism about the successful implementation of the MOU and the long-term benefits of the Centre.

The MOU signing was witnessed by SINU Chancellor Sir Dr Nathan Kere; SINU Council Chairman Dr Morgan Wairiu; Dean of the Faculty of Education and Humanities (FEH), Dr Patricia Rodie; Dean of the Faculty of Business and Tourism (FBT), Associate Professor Elliot Mugamu; Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (FAFF), Dr Vaeno Wayne Vigulu, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Dr Clyde Puilingi and; Head of Department of Fisheries, Dr Kofi Apreku, along with officers from the Vice-Chancellor’s Office and visiting members from the Ocean University of China.



SINU Acting Vice Chancellor Dr. William Parairato and President of Ocean University of China, Professor Zhang Junfeng, shake hands while displaying copies of the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Name: Nicholas Dexford Beliga
Province: Malaita
Programme: Diploma of Nursing
Year of Graduation: 2024
Current Role: Probationer Nurse (NRH)



How did SINU prepare you?

SINU provided me with the right mix of theory and practical, hands-on skills that are relevant to my chosen career. Throughout my studies, I developed critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills. The practical classes built my confidence and prepared me for real workplace pressure.

Most memorable SINU experience

My most memorable moment was getting through the most challenging semester of my final year. It was not easy; at one point, I doubted whether I would make it. However, through commitment and hard work, I was able to complete my programme. Passing those courses and walking across the stage on graduation day was a moment of pure pride. That achievement marked not the end, but the beginning of a new journey. For me, SINU was not just about attending classes; it was about the family we built while learning.

Key achievement since graduating

Since graduating from SINU in 2024, I have been fortunate to join the supervised probation programme under the Solomon Islands Nursing Council. I have continued to build my skills, and I am proud to apply what I learned at SINU in serving clients and delivering quality health services to my community and the nation.

Advice for current students

- Prioritise your studies and learn with purpose.
- Manage your time well.
- Do not be shy to ask questions—SINU is full of people who are willing to help. Use that support.
- Always show up on time, meet deadlines, and learn from your mistakes.

**Are you a SINU graduate with a story to share? We want to hear from you!
Contact the Marketing & Promotions Office at pro@sinu.edu.sb to be featured in
our next Alumni Feature!**

W E L C O M E**TO OUR TEAM****Diana Dialgeli Luitolo, Senior Internal Auditor**

My name is Diana Dialgeli Luitolo, aged 34, and I am the Senior Internal Auditor at Solomon Islands National University (SINU). I hold a Master of Commerce in Professional Accounting from the University of the South Pacific, a Bachelor of Business (International Trade) from Victoria University, Melbourne Australia and I am an Associate Member of CPA Australia and the Institute of Internal Auditors Australia.

I bring over five years of progressive leadership experience in internal audit, having served as Deputy Director and Manager of Internal Audit at the Ministry of Finance & Treasury, and Assistant Manager Internal Audit at the Solomon Islands National Provident Fund. Earlier in my career, I worked at the Bank of South Pacific as a Regulatory Reporting Officer and Customer Service Officer, and at Solomon Island Visitors Bureau now known as Tourism Solomons as an Temporary Assistant Accountant. These roles gave me a strong foundation in financial reporting, customer service, and accounting operations, which complement my audit expertise.

I am originally from Malaita Province and currently reside in East Honiara. Outside of work, I enjoy reading, cooking, and spending time with my family.

W E L C O M E

TO OUR TEAM



Meet Rose Funita, Housekeeping Staff at BICS

My name is Rose Funita. I am 33 years old and come from Malaita Province. I hold a certificate in Customer Service from APTC and previously worked as a Logistics Officer at Marinepia Shipping Ltd before joining SINU. In my free time, I enjoy reading.



Meet Jessica Sutahi, Housekeeping Staff at BICS

My name is Jessica Sutahi. I am 29 years old and hail from Malaita Province. I hold a certificate in tourism. I formerly worked as a janitor at Island Sun, and I also did housekeeping at private residences before joining SINU. Apart from my job, my hobby is singing; I love singing during my free time.



Meet Margaret Takona, Tutor in Therapatic Massage

Margaret Takona is a 32-year-old female from Temotu Province. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy and brings her academic training and professional skills to her work in the health sector.



Meet Nelson Resta Lonaruru, Tutor in Biostatistics

Nelson Resta Lonaruru is from Isabel Province and holds a Diploma in Public Health from Solomon Islands National University (2018) and a Bachelor of Health Promotion from Fiji National University (2022).

He began his teaching career at SINU as a part-time Public Health tutor from 2024 to 2025 before becoming a full-time Bio-statistics tutor in 2026 within the Faculty of Nursing, Medicine and Health Sciences.

He is committed to supporting students in public health studies and has a strong interest in epidemiology, health research methodology, bio-statistics, and the use of Epi Info in public health.

SPORTS UPDATES

SINU Staff benefits from coaching and sports administrator training



Sports in Community Administrator Training and facilitators

Staff from the Solomon Islands National University have benefited from a week long training on Coaching and Sports in Community Administrator Training under the Oceania Sports Education Programme (OSEP).

The training which was made possible through collective effort from SINU and the National Sports Council (NSC) allow SINU staff to equip themselves with qualification in Coaching and Sports administration. Speaking during the official opening,

SINU Campus Life Acting Director Samson Bisafa said training marks an important step in our collective effort between SINU and NSC to strengthen the role of sport in community development and where ever we are.

Mr.Bisafa reminded participants that as administrators, you play a vital part in ensuring that sports programmes are well-organized, inclusive, and sustainable.

“Through this training, you will gain valuable skills in planning, management, and leadership that will help you create stronger pathways for athletes, coaches, and officials.”

“I would like to acknowledge the partnership between SINU and NSC through the Memorandum of Understanding that has made this training possible.”

“It is through such collaboration that we can continue to build capacity and empower individuals to drive positive change through sport.”

“I encourage you to actively participate, share your experiences, and learn from one another.”

“The knowledge you gain here will not only enhance your professional growth but also contribute to the broader vision of using sport as a tool for education, health, and community development.”

“Let us approach this training with commitment, curiosity, and a spirit of teamwork. Together, we can ensure that sport continues to be a powerful force for progress in the Solomon Islands. I wish you all a successful and enriching training.”

The training which started on Monday 20 April ended successfully on Friday 24 April at the Friendship Hall in Honiara.

SINU staff who attended the training thanked SINU, NSC, OSEP, and workshop facilitators for successfully delivering the training.



Coaching participants



Meet one of the inspiring students who are making their mark at SINU in 2026.

Name & Programme: Nelson Hageara, fourth year diploma in Survey, Faculty of Science and Technology (FST)

Where are you from? Isabel Province

Why choose Solomon Islands National University? I chose SINU because it offers surveying courses that suit my interests and career goals. I also chose SINU because it is our national university, and I want to learn from our own professionals in the field of surveying. In addition, studying at SINU allows me to stay close to my family, relatives, and friends while pursuing my education.

Best part of your studies: The best part of my studies so far is learning about surveying, both in theory and in practice. I have gained valuable knowledge on how surveys are conducted and how to use surveying equipment and instruments, which has been both eye-opening and exciting. I also enjoy spending time with fellow students and staff who share the same passion and interest in the field of surveying.

Future goals: My future goal is to successfully complete my studies, secure a good job, and support my family. In the long run, I hope to establish my own surveying company and become my own boss.



Advice for new students: My humble advice to our students is to prioritize your studies, set clear goals, complete your assignments on time, and always give your best effort in everything you do.

About us:

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."



 Solomon Islands National University
P.O. Box R113
Honiara
Solomon Islands

 www.sinu.edu.sb

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For Newsletter inquiries, contact our Marketing & Promotions Office on:

Phone: (677) 42600 Ext 252 or 42631

E-mail: pro@sinu.edu.sb

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