

UniFiji Offers New Course

The University of Fiji is offering a new course in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) called "Introduction to Geographical Information Systems" from Semester 2, 2018.

The course is part of the Bachelor of Environmental Science programme under the School of Science and Technology. It is among the major objectives achieved from the recently concluded USAID funded Pacific American Climate Fund (PACAM) project.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to GIS, with particular emphasis on spatial data structures, data entry and editing, digital cartography, spatial queries, and introductory spatial analysis.

Students will be able to comprehend fundamental concepts of GIS, learn the fundamentals of how geographic information is stored and geo referenced, develop skills in sourcing, manipulating and interpreting spatial data, use GPS and other geographic information programs and services commonly available through the internet and cell phones today, create high-quality maps and associated graphics and text that clearly communicate spatial information and analyses among other skills after successfully completing the course.

According to Priyatma Singh from the "School of Science and Technology, GIS and its various applications are fast gaining popularity and carry multiple benefits. GIS-related career path are lucrative and is one of the most sought after skill in industries. This course will expose students to the theory and practices necessary for future use of GIS tools. The course includes a comprehensive set of lab activities to compliment the lectures.

The course is currently being targeted for Science students but in the near future, due to the applicability of the course, it could be used as electives for other programmes.