

Bachelor of Public Health and Primary Health Care

The University of Fiji will offer a new programme, Bachelor of Public Health and Primary Health Care, from Semester 1, 2019.

The programme is a one of a kind in the Pacific as it combines the two major areas of wellness: Public Health and Primary Health that is tailor made for health needs of the region while encompassing global health.

The programme introduces the students to the Concept of Wellness, pre-empting Diseases Outbreaks, Mitigation of diseases and Disaster Management Preparedness. This opens the door for innovative research, process and interventions to counter problems or Health Crisis in the Pacific. It incorporates Public Health Concepts with Primary Health Care and looking at “Hospital as Ivory Temple of Disease” as documented in Parks Textbook of Community Medicine which prioritizes Wellness rather than treating diseases.

It probes into early intervention to counter NCD Crisis in the Pacific Neglected Tropical Disease, Emerging and Re – emerging Infectious Diseases and Disaster Preparedness.

Some of the content of the programme includes:

- Pacific NCD Crisis
- Disaster Management & Public Health Preparedness.
- Climate Change & Disease Control
- Disease Outbreaks
- Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases including Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Indigenous Health

The programme is reasonable in price and is open for students with a pass in Year 13 with 2 science subjects and a pass in English. Mature students with at least 1 year working experience in the field of medicine or health and also those with a GPA of 2.5 in Foundation studies can also apply.

Speaking at the press conference, the Dean of the Umanand Prasad School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dr. Elick Narayan stated that students who take up the programme would also get practical exposure to the field. He mentioned that the students would be incline and affiliate with the health centres, the nursing stations etc for the practical aspects of the programme.

The medical programme at The University of Fiji is accredited by Association of Medical Education in the Western Pacific Region which part of the World Federation of Medical Education affiliated with the World Health Organization.