

Professor Shameem Appointed Acting Vice-Chancellor

Professor Shaista Shameem was appointed the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University in late April 2020.

Professor Shameem has been the Dean of the Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law since 2016.

She first joined the University in 2009 as Associate Professor in the School of Law and, after a brief period away, rejoined the University in 2015.

Pandit Kamlesh Arya, Chair of Council and Pro-Chancellor said that the Council had appointed Professor Shameem to act as the Vice-Chancellor and take the University through the crisis faced by all higher institutions as a result of the menace of COVID-19.

Pandit Arya said Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Shameem had the requisite qualifications and experience to provide a forward-looking higher educational strategy in the new Fijian context.

Professor Shameem has Law, Arts and Social Science qualifications. She has a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD in Sociology) and a Doctorate of Juridical Science (SJD in Law). She is a Master of Arts as well as a Master of Law. She has a post-graduate Leadership qualification from the JFK School of Government, Harvard University.

Professor Shameem previously taught Sociology, Social Anthropology and Women Studies at the University of Waikato. She was the Director of the Fiji Human Rights Commission from 1999-2007 and the Ombudsman of Fiji from 2007-2009.

She was a journalist with the Fiji Times and Herald in the early part of her career prior to moving into academia. Professor Shameem worked as a human rights expert for the United Nations Human Rights Council from 2004-2010; in this capacity she provided advice and recommendations to the Council in the areas of mercenarism, private military and security companies, justice, and human rights institutions.

Professor Shameem is well-published in the areas of Sociology, Women Studies, Law and Human Rights. In 2006 she was the recipient of the Westpac Business Executive Award. Professor Shameem is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.