

## **Tri Gold Medalist says UniFiji one of the Best Places for Tertiary Education**

For the students who are thinking of pursuing their further studies, I would say the University of Fiji is one of the best places that you would consider studying. It not only provides affordable tuition fees but also have highly qualified staff who will also help us in gaining skills which will prove beneficial for our future.

These were the sentiments shared by the recipient of 3 gold medals, Sheemal Kumar. Sheemal was the recipient of the Chemistry, Biology and School of Science and Technology Gold Medal.

Sheemal said she was privileged to have got 3 Gold Medals.

“I just want to thank the University for giving me such an honour. A heartfelt thanks to all those lecturers and well-wishers who had always helped me in difficult situations. My dad has always been my pillar of strength, his hard work and dedication towards his work has led me to have a mind-set of reaching great heights. My family's love and support has always been with me through these years, especially my sisters, who had my back on every difficulty I faced,” she said.

The 24-year-old said that she decided to study at UniFiji because of the financial benefits.

“I could continue to live at home (Nadi), saving on rent, bills, and the cost of my education was 20% less expensive in comparison to attending other places. I have always been interested in science, it helps us to explain the phenomena around us from how we get fruits from a plant to how humans are formed,” she said.

She said that she cherished her University life and had looked back on her memories with fondness.

“Looking back at some of my memories, I have met some of my best friends which I have today, I also became mature enough to understand the value of time, and I also learned dedication, hard work, motivation and self-actualization,” she said.

Sheemal says there is no success without any difficulties or sacrifices.

“These years of studying has not been easy for me, I would say that science is not an easy field to study, especially when it comes to Chemistry. I had several sleepless nights trying to figure out things which I did not understand and at the end I was paid back for it through my achievements. There were times, when I had to return home late at night after my lab sessions and the major difficulty was my transportation. Sometimes I had to walk through the silent streets in order to get home but through my family’s support, I was able to overcome those moments,” she said.

Sheemal sees herself as a PHD graduate successfully contributing towards the field of science.