

Fiji

Study

Introduction to internships & philosophy

A key component of the Semester in Development Fiji program are the university courses, offered through our partner, Fiji National University (FNU). As a participant in the Semester in Development, you will be enrolled as an international student at FNU, Fiji's national public university. Your FNU registration fees, tuition, course materials and transcripts are all covered within the SID program cost. The academic portion of the SID program allows you to engage with relevant topics, taught by local professors, while earning credits that transfer back to your home university.





The Semester in Development’s academic component emphasizes small class sizes, instruction from local professors, as well as curriculum tailored to the program themes and location.

The courses include seminar style discussions and projects that relate to the internship component of the SID program. After successful completion of the courses, you will receive an accredited transcript through FNU.

Courses through the SID Fiji program are focused on the environment, sustainability and climate change mitigation. While the courses are offered within the university’s Environmental Science department, the content is designed to be accessible to students from all academic backgrounds.



Classes at Fiji National University

As a participant in the Semester in Development: Fiji program, you'll be automatically enrolled in two courses at Fiji National University, located in Suva. You'll spend each Friday on campus at FNU with your fellow cohort members. The courses are offered through FNU's School of Applied Science, within the Environmental Sciences department.

The first week of classes at Fiji National University will include an orientation, with a campus tour and a trip to the Student Academic Office, where you'll be issued an official FNU student card. Your professors will also provide an overview of the course outlines, with deadlines for projects and assessments. The courses will include summative tests and projects, rather than a final exam.

The two SID Fiji courses offered by Fiji National University are ENS 701: Climate Change and the South Pacific & ENS 706: Environmental Impact Assessment.

Climate Change and the South Pacific provides an overview and understanding of key causes, impacts and mitigative measures for climate change in the South Pacific region as well as globally. Topics include climate change threats to Pacific islands, colonization and environmental transformation in the Pacific, the impact of climate change on coastal and marine resources, and climate change mitigation policies.

Environmental Impact Assessment provides a critical overview of the theory and practice of EIA as operated within both a local Fijian context, and an international context. Topics include EIA principles, process, reporting, and stakeholder engagement. Classes are 3 hours in length and are structured as a lecture-seminar hybrid. The classes are arranged specifically for Insight program participants. This means that class sizes are small, and that professors get to know you on a first-name basis.

Our FNU professors have arranged field trips for past SID cohorts, providing students with an opportunity for hands-on, real world application of course materials. Past field trips have included community visits along Fiji's Coral Coast to learn about the role of mangroves in climate resiliency, and a trip to Malolo Island in the Mamanucas to speak with village members about the Environmental Impact Assessment process in their community.



Transportation to Campus

Fiji National University's Nabua Campus is located about a 10 minute drive from the Insight student house. FNU arranges a shuttle bus on Friday mornings to pick up students from the SID Student House and take them to campus.

You'll be responsible for finding your own way home after class; cabs from campus to the student house cost approx. \$7 FJD (\$3 USD/\$4 CAD).





A day in the life

07:30
am

Wake up, shower, make breakfast and get ready for school!

08:30
am

Take the FNU shuttle to campus with your fellow SID cohort members. The FNU shuttle picks everyone up from the student guest house and brings you to campus each week.

09:00
am

You spend the morning attending your ENS 701 course – Climate Change and the South Pacific. Today you're learning about the impact of climate change on coral reefs. The class is split into a lecture for the first half, followed by a break and a discussion period for the second half.

12:00
am

Lunch time! Nabua campus, where FNU's Environmental Science classes are offered is small; however, there is still a cafeteria with lunch options available. Local food dishes, such as curry with roti can be purchased for as little as \$4 FJD (\$2.50 CAD). The lunch hour also gives you the opportunity to catch up on readings or work on any upcoming assignments.

01:00
pm

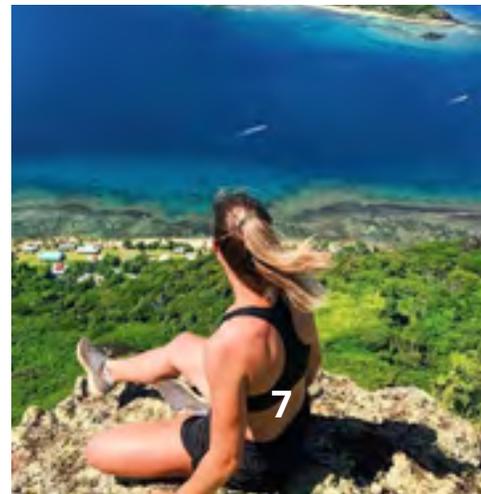
The afternoon is spent attending ENS 706 – Environmental Impact Assessment. Today you're working on a project where you identify how EIA processes connect to your internship host organization.

04:00
pm

You head home from campus, and stop at the Pure Fiji Zenergy fitness studio for a quick workout class to wrap up your day.

06:00
pm

You join your fellow SID cohort members for dinner, followed by live music and drinks in town to celebrate the weekend! Weekends are free for you to plan as you like – you might spend some weekends relaxing in Suva, or if you're feeling adventurous you might take advantage of Fiji's public coach bus system and go explore another part of the island.





Credit Transfer & Transcripts

Each academic institution has different instructions on how students can obtain course credits from an overseas institution. It is extremely important that you connect with your academic advisor at your home university as soon as possible to inquire about the steps you need to take in order to ensure that the FNU courses will transfer back.

For many universities, the typical method for obtaining international course credits is through a 'Letter of Permission' (LOP). Your academic advisor will be able to provide details of the exact requirements and deadline for the LOP process at your home university. Should you require the FNU course outlines as part of your university's LOP process, your SID Program Director can provide this to you upon request.

Following the successful completion of your courses at Fiji National University, Insight will arrange to have your official FNU transcript sent directly to the registrar's office at your home university. This will take place the week immediately following your completion of the program.



FAQs

Q: Will the courses transfer back to my home university?

A: We recommend that every student contact their academic advisor to confirm whether they will be able to transfer credits from Fiji National University. We have had students from a range of universities across Canada, the US and the UK successfully transfer the FNU credits back to their home university. The transfer process is outlined in more detail in the previous section, titled 'Credit Transfer & Transcripts'.

Q: Will I study alongside local students?

A: Insight's program schedule does not align with the Fijian academic calendar for each semester. This means that our courses are set up specifically for the SID program, and will only include SID participants. However, there are a number of opportunities to engage with local FNU students – whether it be through attending events hosted by the university or by joining FNU student clubs. Field trips often will include students from other courses as well.

Q: How are the courses graded?

A: While the subject matter is focused on climate change and the environment, the courses are designed to be accessible to students from a range of academic backgrounds and disciplines. The FNU professors are more than willing to offer additional assistance if required, and small class sizes mean that you'll be given one-on-one attention and support.



FAQs

Q: I'm not an Environmental Science student. Can I still take the classes?

A: While the subject matter is focused on climate change and the environment, the courses are designed to be accessible to students from a range of academic backgrounds and disciplines. The FNU professors are more than willing to offer additional assistance if required, and small class sizes mean that you'll be given one-on-one attention and support.

“ The Semester in Development made me really stand out to potential employers.

Thanks to the program, all of my interviews went really smooth. Living in Fiji was a big conversation topic during my interviews. The experience made me seem like a more interesting and well-rounded person. I was able to get a job with the company of my dreams soon after returning home, and I credit a lot of that to my experiences abroad, and my abilities to convey what I did in Fiji. In the last year since coming home, I've done so many more things that I would have never tried before. I am more adventurous. I used to say no to things a lot. I now say yes to opportunities a lot more than I ever used to or could have imagined. //

- Nadine Maier

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