
NEWSFLASH

Launch of the Certificate of Justice



The University of the South Pacific & Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative

Certificate of Justice

The [University of the South Pacific](#) is delighted to announce the introduction of a new **Certificate of Justice**, which will be launched by the School of Law starting in **February 2018**.

This Certificate is specially designed for: (a) **lay adjudicators** (for example: Village and Island Court Magistrates, Justices of the Peace and Land Commissioners) and (b) **court administrators** (for example: court clerks, registry staff and/or judges' associates), who will benefit from foundation-level legal training but cannot commit to the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) program or do not meet its entry requirements.

The purpose of this Certificate is to raise the competence of new and existing lay court actors, whether adjudicators or administrators, by providing an introduction to the justice system, the role of courts and the function of law.

On completion of this Certificate students will be able to:

- **Describe** the role of the courts within the legal system and constitutional framework;
- **Describe** principles of justice, including fair trial, within the context of Pacific courts;
- **Discuss** how the principles of professionalism and ethics affect the work of Pacific courts;
- **Explain** basic principles of criminal and civil law and procedure; and
- **Use** legal reasoning to decide simple disputes in criminal and civil law and procedure.

This Certificate has been designed in collaboration with the [Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative \(PJSI\)](#). It is a sub-degree level program which is set to Level IV of the Fiji Qualifications Framework.

Program Description

The Certificate of Justice has been designed as a one-year part-time program which can be undertaken by someone who is working full-time in the justice sector. It will require approximately 11 hours of study each week.

There are 4 courses in this Certificate:

COJ01: Introduction to Law

This course introduces participants to the various kinds of laws that exist in USP member countries, and how they are made, applied and enforced in these countries. The course starts by considering principles of justice and professionalism for court actors. It provides a historical introduction to the development of laws in USP member countries then moves to examine the laws of the State. The course concludes by considering the rules of custom

that exist in countries of the region and how they relate to the laws of the State.

COJ02: Courts and their Processes

This course provides an overview of different types of actions and procedures that may be found in Pacific courts. It then focuses in more detail on civil courts and procedure and criminal courts and procedure. The section on civil courts in this course is designed to offer a basic introduction to the composition, jurisdiction and operation of civil courts. The section on criminal courts in this course is designed to offer a basic introduction to the composition, jurisdiction and operation of criminal courts.

COJ03: Criminal Law

This course is designed to offer a basic introduction to criminal liability and sentences. It covers the elements of some important offences and defences, the ways in which a person may commit an offence, the range of sentence options, and the principles and process of sentencing.

COJ04: Civil Law

This course increases students understanding of the law of contracts and the law of torts. Students are also introduced to legal principles relating to remedies in contracts and torts and reasoning processes for determining disputes in contracts and torts.

COJ01 and COJ02 are prerequisites for undertaking COJ03 and COJ04.

Subject to assessing demand, USP will explore with PJSI the feasibility of extending this 1-year Certificate into a 2-year Diploma that can provide a stairway for students to enter a LLB program.

Calendar

The program for the 2018 online cohort will be taught in USP's regular semesters.

Semester 1 2018

Teaching: 5 February-23 March; 2 April-18 May

Exams: 4-15 June

Semester 2 2018

Teaching: 9 July-24 August; 3 September-19 October

Exams: 29 October - 9 November.

COJ01 and COJ02 will be taught in Semester 1; COJ03 and COJ04 will be taught in Semester 2.

Course Delivery and Assessment

The Certificate will be offered online to a selected cohort from the jurisdictions of the

Pacific region. It will use USP's online learning management system: Moodle. Each course will have a website where the course coordinator posts news, study topics, readings, activities and assignments, and where students will have the opportunity to interact with the coordinator and each other. Examinations for each course will be sat at students' local USP campus.

If there are sufficient applications (30+) from one jurisdiction, the School of Law may offer a program geared to the law of that jurisdiction, using a blended delivery model with online content supplemented by some intensive face-to-face teaching in the jurisdiction.

Assessment will be: 50% coursework; 50% final examination.

Tuition Fees

Students will enrol at their local USP campus and pay a fee specific to that campus in the local currency.

Per course, 2018 fees are: FJ\$535; NZ\$510; AU\$440; US\$330; Tala920; Pa'anga450; VT31,850.

Per total Certificate, 2018 fees are: FJ\$2,140; NZ\$2,040; AU\$1,760; US\$990; Tala3,680; Pa'anga1,800; VT127,400.

Financial assistance

Courts or students should make their own inquiries about eligibility for financial assistance from their Chief Justice or sources such as their country's scholarship program.

Entry Requirements and Applications

Completion of Form 4/Year 10 plus a minimum of 2 years relevant work experience. Applications must be supported by a written recommendation from the Chief Justice or Registrar of the relevant Pacific Island Country. This recommendation must certify that the applicant has adequate levels of English expression to undertake a course in English.

Note that numbers in each cohort will be restricted. Selection criteria for the online cohort will allow as many jurisdictions as possible to participate.

Please manually complete an *Application for Admission (Undergraduate)* form, which can be obtained at <https://www.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=5449> or from your local USP campus. Return the form to the campus or send it to fane.rai@usp.ac.fj on or before **Friday 19 January, 2018**. Online registration will not be available.

Further Information

For further information, please contact Professor Eric Colvin: eric.colvin@usp.ac.fj.

PJSI is funded by the New Zealand Government and implemented by the Federal Court of Australia



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