



SINU Concludes Orientation Week as VC Formally Welcomes First-Year Students

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) successfully concluded its Orientation Week (O-week) program for first-year students on Friday 7 February 2025.

The week-long program, which began on Monday 3rd February, provided new students with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with SINU, its academic programs, formalities, and facilities. The orientation took place across the university’s three campuses: Kukum, Ranadi, and Panatina.

The program concluded on Friday morning with a welcome address from SINU Vice Chancellor (VC), Professor Transform Aqorau, who formally welcomed the first-year students to the university.

“It is a great honour and privilege to stand before you today as we conclude your Orientation Week and officially welcome you to the Solomon Islands National University – your university, your future, and your home for the next few years,” said Professor Aqorau.

He congratulated the students on their achievement, acknowledg-

ing of their time at SINU, encouraging students to embrace learning, seize opportunities, and take responsibility for shaping their future.

“You are now part of a community of scholars, innovators, and future leaders. The choices you make from this day forward will shape your experience, define your success, and ultimately determine the impact you will have in your chosen fields and in our society.” He described SINU as a "University of Opportunity and Growth," stating that it is more than just a place of learning but a space for transformation.

“We are committed to academic excellence, research, innovation, and service to our nation and the Pacific region. Our goal is to ensure that you, our students, are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values to thrive in an ever-changing world,” he added.

Professor Aqorau encouraged students to develop effective study habits, emphasizing time management, active engagement in learning, and maintaining a balanced approach to academic and personal development.

“Education is not just about passing exams but about gaining



First year students attending orientation at the Kukum Lecturer Theatre

ing the challenges they had overcome to reach this milestone.

“You have arrived at a place where knowledge meets opportunity, where ideas are shaped, and where futures are built. Today marks not just the end of your Orientation Week but the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your life.”

Professor Aqorau emphasized the importance of making the most

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knowledge that will serve you for a lifetime. Most importantly, enjoy the process of learning, embrace curiosity, explore new ideas, and challenge yourself to think critically.”He also highlighted the university’s commitment to promoting a community built on values of integrity, respect, and inclusivity.

“At SINU, we believe in treating each other with kindness and dignity. You come from different provinces, backgrounds, and walks of life, but here, you are one community, a community that supports, uplifts, and respects one another.”

Encouraging students to actively participate in university life, he highlighted the importance of engaging in student organizations and extracurricular activities to create meaningful connections and experiences.

Professor Aqorau also spoke about the crucial role students will play in the development of the Solomon Islands, describing them as the country’s future policymakers, educators, entrepreneurs, scientists, and leaders. “The knowledge and skills you gain here will not only shape your personal success but will also contribute to the growth and progress of our country and the Pacific region.”



Dean of Faculty of Business & Tourism Studies Dr Elliot Mugamu shares key advice to the students



SINU Vice-Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau shares his remarks to the students



Dean of Faculty of Education & Humanities Dr Patricia Rodie also shared helpful study tips for the students



Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Dr Eric Katovai highlights the importance of time management during his remarks



Student Academic Services (SAS) Registrar Mr Humphrey Marau explains the important role of SAS and its services

SINU and UNDP signs MoU

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tuesday 11 February. SINU Vice Chancellor, Professor Transform Aqorau, and the Resident Representative for the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, Munkhtuya Altangerel, signed the MoU at the SINU Vice Chancellor's office at Kukum Campus, in the presence of representatives from both parties. Speaking at the signing ceremony SINU VC Prof. Aqorau described

the MoU as a landmark partnership between SINU and UNDP, stating the signing marks a significant step forward, not only for SINU but also for the broader aspiration of Solomon Islands.

“This agreement symbolizes more than just a collaboration—it represents a shared vision for sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, environmental stewardship, and good governance. It is a commitment to equipping our students, faculty, and researchers with the knowledge and tools to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our nation.

“At SINU, we recognize that a university is more than just a place of learning; it is a driver of national development. Our role is to ensure that the knowledge we generate translates into real impact—impact that can transform lives, communities, and our national economy. Through this partnership with UNDP, we are creating pathways for research, innovation, and capacity-building that will empower the next generation of Solomon Islanders to take charge of their future.”

“This collaboration will strengthen our institutional capacity, expand opportunities for students and staff, and contribute to evidence-based policymaking. It will support initiatives that foster entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability—areas critical to our nation's long-term prosperity. Prof. Aqorau said the partnership aligns perfectly with SINU's strategic vision to position SINU as a centre of excellence, not only within the Solomon Islands but also in the Pacific region. He said by working with UNDP, we are bridging the gap between academic research and real-world application, ensuring that our university plays an integral role in the sustainable development of our country.

“To our partners at UNDP, we are deeply grateful for your trust and commitment to working with us. This partnership reflects our mutual dedication to fostering development through education, research, and collaboration. Ladies and gentlemen, today's signing is not just an agreement on paper; it is a call to action. It is a recognition that by working together, we can address critical development challenges and unlock new opportunities for the Solomon Islands.”

With that, the VC extends his heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has contributed to making this collaboration possible. I look forward to seeing the tangible benefits that will emerge from this partnership and the positive impact it will have on our students, our communities, and our nation. Thank you, and may this partnership flourish for many years to come.”



SINU Vice Chancellor, Professor Transform Aqorau, and the Resident Representative for the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, Munkhtuya Altangerel



SINU and UNDP representatives after the signing of the MoU

SINU Acknowledges Student Buddies

Students who were engaged during the Orientation Week (O-Week) to help the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) successfully deliver a historical orientation for its first-year students were recognized with certificates.

Twenty-five students in total were engaged as student buddies during the orientation week to guide the first-year students around the five faculties at SINU.

Speaking during the closing of the orientation week, SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau congratulated and thanked the students for taking the leading role, which saw SINU deliver one of the best orientation programs since transitioning into a university a decade ago.

Pro Vice Chancellor Academic Dr. Eric Kaotvai recognized the efforts of the students by awarding them certificates of recognition during the closing of the orientation week.

In the meantime, the student buddies who were engaged during the orientation thanked SINU for assigning them to the task, stating they learned a lot during the weeklong program. With that, the students

said they are looking forward to such events in the future, expressing their readiness to serve again if the university requires their assistance.

The student buddies played a crucial role in welcoming and supporting new students, ensuring they felt comfortable navigating their new academic environment.



Highlight of the Orientation Closing Program was the certificate ceremony held to acknowledge the student buddies.

Staff Profile

Name: Lydia Maeke Ghemu

Province: Central Islands Province

Age: 59

Work station: Faculty of Education and Humanities

Department: Secondary Education Department, School of Humanities.

Job title: Associate Dean - Teaching and learning

Qualification: Masters in Arts - Curriculum and Teacher Education

How long have you been working here? 30 years

Tell us about your job:

As the Associate Dean - Teaching and learning, I am responsible in supporting the Deans office in areas pertaining to the teacher training activities that the faculty is mandated to carry out. The mandate includes, Supporting the Deans office in planning out the academic activities. Helping out in the enrolment processes at faculty level, the planning of teaching and learning activities and final graduation of teachers ; supporting the Deans office in collaborating with other SINU faculties .

Supporting the Deans office in working with stakeholders of the faculty.

What do you like about SINU and your job? SINU, and from what SINU was as the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education, has given me the opportunity to grow and be grounded in my career as a teacher and as a teacher educator. I appreciate a lot of the sense of collegiality within the workspace I have been and still in. I appreciate the respect and the positive regard that colleagues have towards each other. To be part of the development of the many Solomon Islanders teachers who have passed through this great institute is very rewarding. You know that you are part of the growth and development of young children, adolescents and adults out there, be they near or far out in the remote areas.



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Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the Prime and ONLY National University of Solomon Islands.

Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Region.

Our VISION: "A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the

Pacific Region."

Our Mission: "Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands.