

Myo Eun Masuaku: Pasifika Scholarship Recipient

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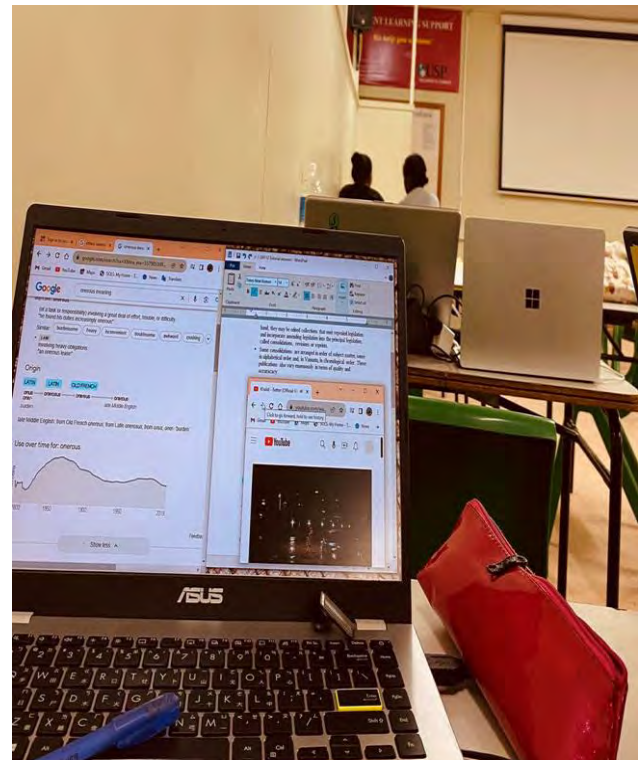
“We all have dreams but in order to make them a reality, it takes an awful lot of dedication, determination, effort and self-discipline” – Jesse Owens.



My first semester of university has provided me with many challenges and lessons, not only for my university career, but for the rest of my life. The fact that this semester of college is already over seems surreal. I was nervous but excited during the orientation sessions. It seems like it was only yesterday. The first semester of studying combined degrees of the Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Law flew by.

As I reflect on these months, I recall telling myself, at least once a week, that I wanted to drop out of school. The thoughts were followed by breakdowns, crying fits and calls of defeat. The past few months haven't been at all easy. There were times I thought I wasn't intelligent enough to attend university. I was constantly engulfed in a swarm of stress.

The work load is greater than I expected. It took a significant amount of time to adjust to all of the assignments, reading and writing requirements. Managing a laptop with a flat battery, along with other technical problems, added to the workload. With the 2023 Pacific Games rapidly approaching, I also needed a great deal of planning and flexibility to support this event. For several months, there was a daily power outage in Honiara, Solomon Islands. It lasted at least five to six hours a day, due to the preparations and modifications implemented. As a student, using a laptop with technical problems is difficult, especially because most classes and courses are now offered online rather than in-person. It is challenging when there is a power outage every day, and you are trying your best to study.



Even though I had no idea what I would be learning, I knew that I wanted to learn as much as I could. I'm relieved this class wasn't just about law simulations and mock trials. This semester I learnt about new and important topics. My perspectives on Law and Arts have evolved because of studying this course.

More significantly, I discovered that you can never be sure what challenges life will present. I've discovered that it's not always fun and games. There will be times when you realize the benefits of spending time alone. There will be days when you are up at two in the morning because you have three examinations the next day. I've learnt from my first semester that while there are

plenty of wonderful things about attending college, it's also okay if things don't turn out the way you had hoped. Unexpectedly, you will meet new people, live new experiences, and create new memories.

Even though this semester was one of the most challenging aspects of my life, I'm not upset about it at all. Considering how successfully I've adapted to this new academic environment and knowing that I can make it through the remaining years ahead, gives me a sense of empowerment and hope. Learning how to train your ear to certain intervals and dissonances takes a fair amount of practice and patience. Nevertheless, the knowledge I have acquired is worthwhile, despite all the stress and sleepless nights. I've developed new modes of thinking and am aware of the advantages of practice, diligence, and resilience.

Pasifika Scholarship Fund:



The Pasifika Scholarship Fund was initiated in 2017 by the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Australia. WFWP Australia is committed to provide young adults living in the Pacific Islands an opportunity to access empowering education programs. The scholarship is for persons who do not have the financial means to attend university, but who have a driving desire for education.

The program supports young adults who are passionate about getting an education to become future leaders, and who align their beliefs and goals with the values of WFWP International: 'Living for the sake of others'.