CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME IN BORDER SECURITY

Programme Overview and Rationale: The proposed Masters programme will be a progression from the USP Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) funded Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security (PGDBS). The PGDBS was initially created to meet the tertiary training needs of regional immigration officials engaged in border security. It has since advanced (in terms of content and assessments with real-world applicability) to cater to the tertiary training needs of law enforcement officials and other stakeholders engaged in varied aspects of border security.

Owing to the success of USP's current Border Security offerings and a similar request from PIDC for higher level tertiary training options, which has been endorsed by their executive board, the administrative process has commenced for the development of Masters in Border Security. The programme will build on the postgraduate diploma and create further opportunities for participants to engage with key concepts, policies and best practices necessary to navigate the Pacific's border security landscape.

Law enforcement organizations across the region have expressed concerns over staff retention as there are no profession specific Masters programmes offered throughout the region and such a qualification is necessary, in many contexts, for staff progression and promotions. International options are not easily accessible as they are costly and require large periods of absenteeism, which places a further strain on human resource capacity. USP is able to provide the most feasible option to meet the tertiary training and capacity building needs of the region. PIDC has also formally agreed to fund the creation of the new programme and to fund staffing for 5 years post-development.

Full title of Programme: Masters of Arts in Border Security

Duration of full-time Programme: 2 years (4 years part time)

Mode of delivery: Online

Completion Options: The Master's programme will consist of a thesis only option (masters by research) OR a second option (masters by coursework) including the completion of eight courses (including six core and two elective courses) as follows:

Core

1. PP404: Border Management and the Security Context
2. PP405: Ethical Issues in Leadership and Command
3. PP406: Border Security Intelligence and the International Security Environment
4. PP407: International Cooperation, Partnerships and the Border Security Context
(To be developed in 2024)
5. Emerging Technologies in Border Security
6. Research Essay in Border Security

Electives (2 courses from the following)

1. PL409 Diplomacy, Negotiations and State Craft
2. PL400 Regional Diplomacy in the Pacific Islands
3. SO408 Issues in Social and Public Policy

Entry requirements: The general admission requirements for the Masters will be:

a) hold a university degree or equivalent; or
b) completion of the USP Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security; or
c) hold a university postgraduate diploma from a recognized tertiary institution in a security related field with a minimum of three years related professional experience.
d) MA thesis (thesis only) option will be reserved for applicants fitting two circumstances: they have completed the degree of bachelor from a recognised university with a 4.0 cumulative GPA in courses at 200 and 300 level of the relevant discipline; or they have successfully completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.