

## South Pacific Form Seven Certificate (SPFSC)

The SPFSC is an accredited qualification offered to Pacific Island nations for entry into tertiary studies or secure employment. The Pacific Community's (SPC) Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) currently offers this assessment in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu at the Year-13 level.

A total of 14 subjects including Mathematics (Calculus), Mathematics (Statistics), English, French, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Accounting, Economics, Geography, History, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Agriculture, Tourism and Hospitality are offered through the SPFSC programme. All subjects have internal assessment components and an external examination.

The internal assessment (IA), comprising between two to four tasks in each subject, are developed and moderated by qualified professionals, under the stringent supervision of EQAP's Curriculum and Assessment team.



SPFSC curricula is informed by the constructive alignment principle which inspires an outcomes-based approach or design.

In addition to targeted workshops, other SPFSC quality assurance processes include the support of dedicated study and teacher guides and other resources that are hosted on a Moodle learning management system, the use of an online system (PacSIMS) to record and manage school based information, the stringent moderation of examination papers and scoring rubrics, the tagging of specific learning outcomes to the assessment items in the assessment tasks, and the final verification of internal and external assessment reports by EQAP's Curriculum and Assessment team.

The professionals tasked with the development, moderation and scoring of SPFSC assessments are either teachers or retired teachers who specialise in one or two of the SPFSC subjects on offer. These professionals are required to successfully complete the micro-qualification in the development of assessment instruments in order to be considered for work as SPFSC consultants.

Since the realignment of the SPFSC curriculum to the constructivist approach in 2017, students' achievement results have markedly improved across the board. Despite the challenging learning environment caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, SPFSC students' posted an impressive 89 per cent success rate in 2021. This impressive achievement was possible due to the Australian Government's decision to repurpose some earmarked innovation funds under the EQAP-DFAT partnership to subsidise students' examination fees. Under normal circumstances, students' registration fees allow for the SPFSC programme to be self-sustaining.



### **Pacific School Information Management System (PacSIMS)**

The SPFSC assessment is supported through the Pacific Schools Information Management System (PacSIMS), one of SPC's advanced cloud-based system that has managed the SPFSC information since 2017. The information includes student and teacher details, curriculum information, assessment information, and a variety of customised reports.

### **Francophone Assessment**

Since its inception in 2004, the programme has been administered in English. However, this changed in 2021 when the Francophone version of the assessment was administered in 7 schools in Vanuatu. The SPFSC Francophone programme was requested by Vanuatu's Ministry of Education, in its attempt to harmonise the two education systems – Anglophone and Francophone.

Prior to the development of the Francophone version of SPFSC, Francophone students were required to study an additional year in high school in order to get entrance into universities in the region and abroad. In addition to serving as a prerequisite to undergraduate studies and increasing chances for employment for Vanuatu's Year 13 students, the SPFSC serves to provide equal access to quality education for both Anglophone and Francophone students in the country.

[Find more information here:](#)

