



Tertiary **Scholarships**
& **Loans** Service

Empowering Fiji's Future



2023 Garland Of Achievements

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLs) had undergone tremendous transformation from August 2021 till date. It was during this period that TSLs attained milestone achievements under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Hasmukh Lal with guidance and support from the TSLs Board.

2. CEO's MESSAGE



2023 has been a year of change in various ways. In line with Coalition Government's vision on funding of tertiary students, substantial policy change took place with nine (9) schemes of scholarships and one (1) scheme of study loans now in place. To assist with economic recovery, allocation of micro credentialing grants increased for Construction skills set and was opened for Automotive and Tourism sectors. With Apprenticeship Scheme being a huge success in 80's and 90's in preparing work ready and job fit graduates, Government set aside incentive grants with TSLS to assist employers and apprentices.

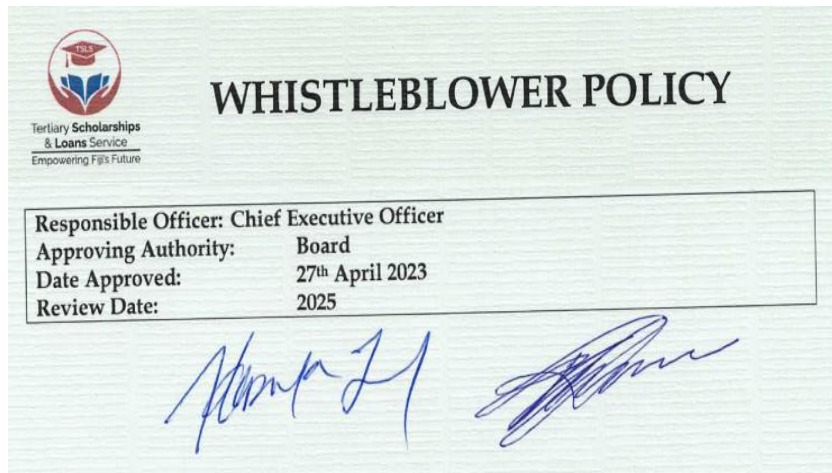
With change in the governance memberships, TSLS is indebted to former Chairman and Board of Directors for their oversight, support and keeping checks on strategic directions and unwavering commitment to the organizational vision, mission, and values. The achievements in their tenure speaks volume and TSLS wishes them best in their future endeavors. The new Board will respectfully build on, add value and unequivocally committed to positioning the organization with innovative strategies and future focused service delivery. With new functions to be added, the new Board has assured solidarity to the management in governance guidance.

The operational excellence continuous to get recognized and paying dividend to the organisation in terms of efficiency, productivity and providing far greater access to the services and information required by the public.

3. POLICIES, FRAMEWORK & PLAN

A. WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

The Whistleblower Policy was established to encourage all individuals to report on significant wrongdoing without fear of being victimized or facing any form of discrimination by others. Therefore, this Policy aims to ensure that members of the public as well as TSLS employees can freely report or disclose any fraudulent acts, unethical behavior, breaches of relevant TSLS laws and policies with sufficient evidential proof of such acts or actions.



B. TALENT DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION POLICY

The Talent Development and Retention Policy provides guidance for effectively managing talent within the Tertiary Scholarship and Loan Services. The Policy aims to provide attract, develop and retain a diverse pool of talented individuals who will support and contribute to the organization's vision, mission and Strategic Plan objectives. It further provides management with a structured approach to develop staff potential and retain talent within TSLS.

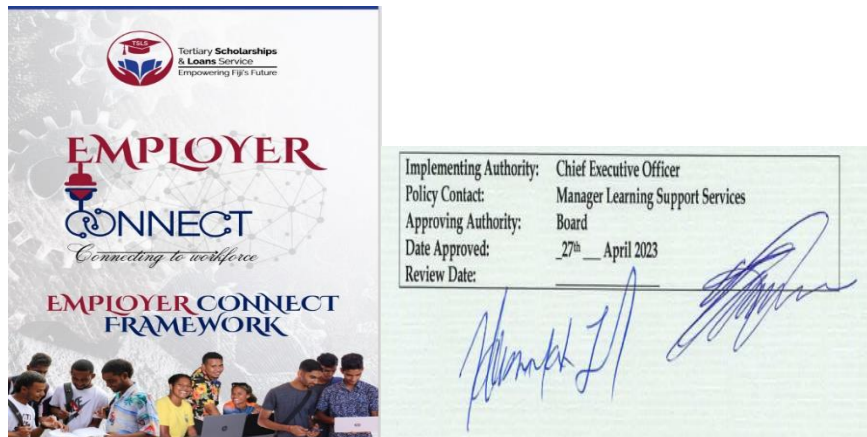


TALENT DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION POLICY

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Approving Authority:	TSLS Board
Date Approved:	26 th July 2023
Review Date:	2026

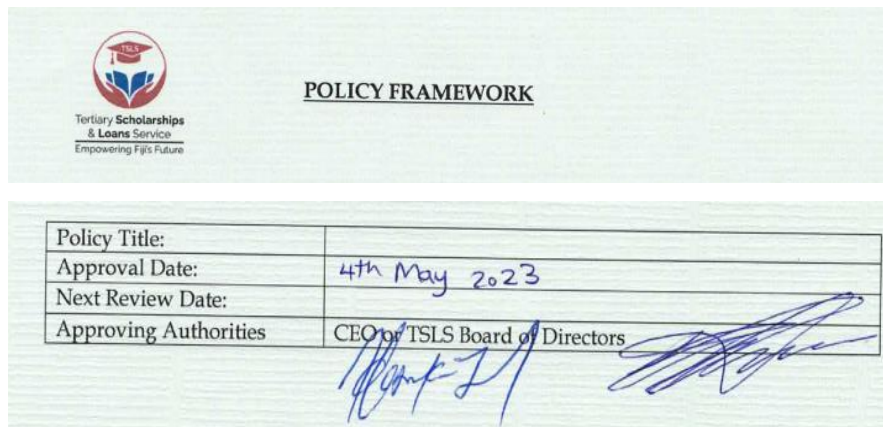
C. EMPLOYER CONNECT FRAMEWORK

The Employer Connect Framework aims to provide guidance and support system to sponsored and funded students who have graduated with potential employers. This collaborative approach system provides a connecting support link between new graduates and the potential employers to ease the search for employment opportunities and recruitment, respectively.



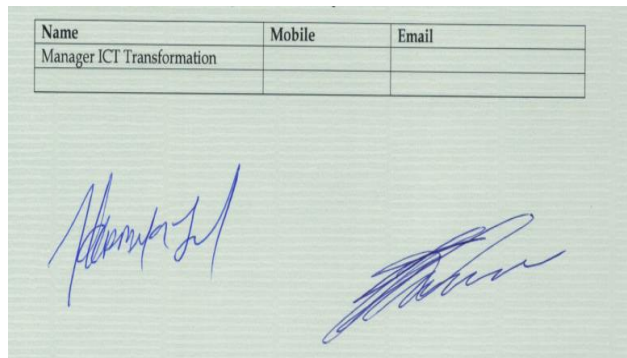
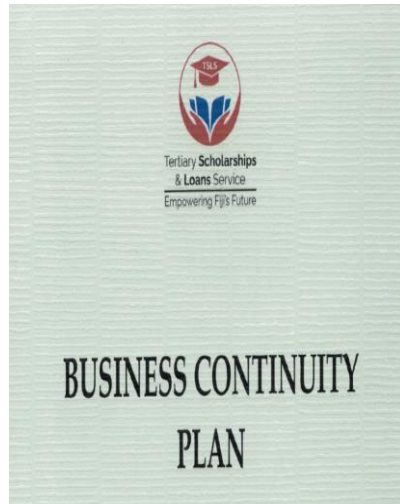
D. POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Policy Framework provides TSL with guidance in developing new policies, amending existing ones and making periodic reviews on the same. It further provides clear steps on policy and procedure pertaining to the development, consultation, review, amendments, approval and implementation stages to ensure TSL is in line with its core functions, compliance and governance. Therefore, the Policy ensures that TSL standardize policy development, amendments, and reviews accordingly.



E. BUSINESS CONTINUITY & DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

The Business continuity Plan outlines the process that ensures TSLS to continue operating during disruptions or an emergency event. The Policy also ensures the protection of the processes, assets, and human resources. To establish a BCP for TSLS will prevent, respond, adapt, recover, and learn from any type of disruptive event. The major focus of business continuity plans are assets, staff, and safety.



F. ICT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN

The ICT Digital Transformation Plan aims to provide TSLS with a comprehensive roadmap to leverage technology effectively in support of its mission to invest in tertiary education opportunities and build human capital in Fiji. Therefore, the Plan aligns with TSLS's vision to offer opportunities to Fijians through scholarships and study loans with aim to empower Fiji's future through knowledge, skills and talent.



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<small>TSLS will continue using distinct awareness strategies to communicate and disseminate information to stakeholders. To enhance public presence TSLS will engage in student-oriented forums, community-based awareness sessions and use different techniques, voice to reach the different age groups. TSLS has thus far invested in digital transformation, investing in areas where our clients are and will continue to find ways to maximise TSLS's reach.</small>	
<small>TSLS ICT Digital Transformation plan</small>	
<small>1</small>	

4. MOU's & PARTNERSHIP

A. FIJI AIRWAYS

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Tertiary Scholarships and Loan Service (TSLs) and Fiji Airways on Friday 28th July 2023, will pave the way for more Fijian to eventually join Fiji's National Airline as pilots and aircraft engineers.



Fiji Airways Managing Director Andre Viljoen and TSLs CEO Dr. Hasmukh Lal with the signed MoU.

B. FIJI INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (FICA)

The Fiji Institute of Chartered Accountants (FICA) and the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLs) is pleased to announce a landmark collaboration, solidifying commitment to the development and advancement of the accounting profession in Fiji. The collaboration, sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to foster a robust partnership that benefits aspiring accountants and the industry.



TSLs CEO Dr. Hasmukh Lal and President FICA Rajeshwar Singh after signing the MoU at TSLs HQ, Garden City, Raiwai.

C. TSLS ENTERS PARTNERSHIP WITH ENGINEERS FIJI

The Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS) and the Engineers Fiji (EF) have entered new partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The collaboration aims to foster a partnership that benefits aspiring engineers and the engineering industry. The MoU will allow constructive information and data sharing that will allow quality of scholarship intakes and allocation of awards for the engineering programmes.



TSLS CEO Dr. Hasmukh Lal and Vice President of Engineers Fiji, Mr. Terence Erasito after signing the MoU at TSLS HQ, Garden City, Raiwai.

D. TSLS INKS LOA WITH TWO NZ UNIVERSITIES & ONE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY

To add more eligible institutions for overseas scholarships, the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS) has signed two Letter of Agreement (LOA) with University of Canterbury and University of Waikato in New Zealand and one with University of Canberra.



TSLS CEO Dr. Hasmukh Lal and University of Canterbury distinguished Professor and Pro Vice - Chancellor Pacific, Steven Ratuva signing the LOA in New Zealand.



TSLS CEO Dr. Hasmukh Lal and University of Waikato Vice - Chancellor Professor Neil Quigley after the signing of the LOA in Waikato, New Zealand.



TSLS CEO, Dr. Hasmukh Lal and University of Canberra Pro Vice - Chancellor Mr. Chris Gartner and team after the signing of the LOA in Canberra, Australia.

5. LAUNCH OF TSLS COMMUNITY AWARENESS HANDBOOK 2023

TSLS Community Awareness Handbook 2022 was launched by the Minister for Education, Honorable Aseri Radrodro during the Key Stakeholders Awareness Workshop at the Holiday Inn.



6. EMPOWERMENT DRIVE 2023

TSLS has created a robust communication and awareness plan by which it wishes to maximize its outreach programs and create extensive awareness among teachers, students, communities, provincial councils, community leaders etc. 3. As such, TSLS visited schools in the Central, Western and Northern Division from 20 September to 6 October [67 Schools in Central Division, 32 Schools in Northern Division, 45 Schools in Western Division and 25 Maritime school sessions via zoom], to educate and equip students with first-hand information on TSLS scholarships and eligibility criteria. TSLS provided information to around 17,115 students during the school visits.



7. LEARNING SUPPORT

A. EMPLOYER CONNECT FRAMEWORK LAUNCH

The Minister for Employment, Productivity, and Industrial Relations, Honorable **Agni Deo Singh** launched the TSLS Employer Connect Framework on 29 June 2023. The TSLS Employer Connect Framework aims to connect sponsored and funded students who have graduated, with potential employers.



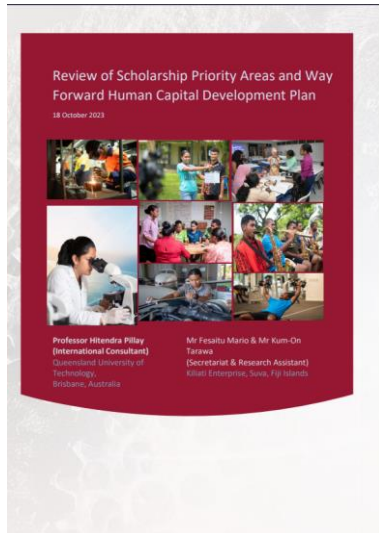
Minister for Employment, Productivity, and Industrial Relations, Honorable Agni Deo Singh during the launch of the Employer Connect Framework.

B. TSLS STUDENTS ALLOWED TO WORK ON PART-TIME BASIS

The Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Service (TSLS) sponsored students may work on a part-time basis for a maximum of 20 hours per week. This provision is in line with TSLS Employer Connect Framework launched by Honourable Minister of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Honourable Agni Deo Singh in June. This is an option but not mandatory. The students must seek approval from TSLS.

8. REVIEW OF PRIORITY AREAS

The Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Service (TSLS) had engaged the services of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to develop a 10-year Human Capital Development Plan (HCDP). The QUT approved Professor Hitendra Pillay as the international expert to develop the plan in line with the terms of reference. The plan has been developed and will be submitted to Ministry of Finance on 18th of October.



Handing over of the HCDP to the Assistant Minister for Finance, Hon. Esrom Immanuel

9. FORGIVING OF TELS DEBT

A Cabinet meeting was held on 17th January 2023. A working Committee (with TSLs being Secretariat) was established to discuss the way forward plan for forgiving TELS debt. The Bill was tabled in Parliament to amend the TSLs Act.

Amendments to the TSLs ACT

Section 16B of the Act is newly introduced to address the cancellation of debt under loan agreement:

- Loan repayments of those students or former students that have been fully paid off are deemed to have been cancelled.
- Students or former students that have yet to fulfill their loan repayment and are working in either private or public sector will automatically have their loan agreement converted into bonding conditions and will need to serve their term in Fiji.
- Students or former students that have migrated overseas will still need to continue repayment until all is cleared. If the student or former student residing overseas defaults in repayment, the responsibility is then shifted to their guarantors to continue repayment until all outstanding loan is paid off. Once the repayment is fully paid, they will need to obtain a clearance letter from FRCS.
- All repayments made by students or former students prior to 1 August 2023 whether partial or in full will not be reimbursed.

BILL NO. 14 OF 2023

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS SERVICE ACT 2014

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment) Act 2023.

(2) This Act comes into force on 1 August 2023.

(3) In this Act, the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Act 2014 is referred to as the “Principal Act”.

Section 16B inserted

2. The Principal Act is amended after section 16A by inserting the following new section—

“Cancellation of debt under loan agreement

16B.—(1) Notwithstanding section 16, loan repayments under a loan agreement by a student or a former student prior to 1 August 2023, except for loan repayments under a loan agreement by a student or a former student who was under a loan scheme prior to 1 August 2023 while working in the private or public sector and is yet to fulfil his or her loan repayment, are deemed to have been cancelled.

2 Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment)— of 2023

(2) Subject to subsection (1), all loan agreements entered into by a student or former student prior to 1 August 2023 are deemed to have been converted into bond agreements.

(3) The terms and conditions of the bond agreements under subsection (2) will be determined by the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service.

(4) A student or a former student who was under a loan scheme prior to 1 August 2023 must fulfil the bond conditions as set out in the bond agreement under subsection (3).

(5) A student or a former student who was under a loan scheme prior to 1 August 2023 and has made partial repayments, must have the option of continuing the loan repayment or fulfilling the bond conditions set out in the bond agreement under subsection (3).

(6) A student or a former student who was under a loan scheme prior to 1 August 2023 and is residing abroad, must continue to make loan repayments under his or her obligations under the loan agreement.

(7) A guarantor for a student or former student who was under a loan scheme prior to 1 August 2023 is obliged to make loan repayments if the student or former student, as the case may be, has left the country prior to 1 August 2023 and defaults on loan repayment or fails to fulfil the bond agreement.

(8) A student or a former student who was under a loan scheme prior to 1 August 2023 and intends to travel abroad for medical, vacation or temporary work purposes is required to provide nominated guarantors for travel clearance.

(9) For the purposes of this section, the Service and the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service must act in good faith in accordance with the Act to resolve issues arising out of the enforcement of the schemes, loan repayments or bond conditions.

(10) A student or former student who has paid his or her loan repayment or fulfilled his or her bond conditions must be issued a clearance letter from the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service.

(11) A student or a former student who was under a loan scheme prior to 1 August 2023 and has fully or partially paid his or her loan repayment prior to 1 August 2023 will not be reimbursed.”.

Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment)— of 2023 3

Schedule 1 amended

3. The Principal Act is amended by deleting Schedule 1 and substituting the following—

“SCHEDULE 1
(Section 2)

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION

1. Advance Aviation Training (PTE) Limited
2. Auckland University of Technology
3. Centre for Applied Technology Development
4. Corpus Christi Teachers College
5. Fiji National University
6. Fulton Adventists University College
7. Keshals Business Education Institute
8. Massey University
9. Monash University
10. Montfort Boys Town
11. Navuso Agricultural Technical Institute
12. Pacific Flying School
13. Pacific Polytechnics
14. Pivot Point
15. Queensland University of Technology
16. Sangam Institute of Technology
17. Service Pro
18. SPA Academy Fiji
19. Swinburne University of Technology
20. The University of Auckland
21. The University of the South Pacific
22. University of Fiji
23. University of New South Wales
24. University of Newcastle
25. University of Sydney

4 Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment)— of 2023

26. Vishan Infotech
27. Western Sydney University”.

10. 2024 SCHEMES - NEW FINANCIAL YEAR

 Tertiary Scholarships & Loans Service Empowering Fiji's Future		2024 Schemes – New Financial Year
Grants		
Micro Qualification/ Competency Based Training Scheme		1800
Apprenticeship Scheme		400
Total Grants		2,200
Scholarships		
Masters & PhDs by Research Scheme		30
Merit Based Overseas Scheme		40
Merit Based Higher Education – Level 7 Local Scheme		700
Merit Based Skills Qualification Scheme		200
Students with Special Needs Scheme		20
In-Service Scheme		50
New Scholarships Schemes Replacing Study Loans Scheme		
Higher Education (Level 7) with minimum cut off Mark Scheme		2200
Skills Qualification Based on Offer Letter Scheme		2780
Tuition Only Hardship Assistance Scheme		2600
Total Scholarships		8,620
Study Loan		
In – Service Scheme		100
Total		10,920

11. Launch of Online Application & Processing System for Scholarships

The Minister for Education, Honourable Aseri Radrodro, launched the Online Application & Processing System for Scholarships at the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Headquarters on Friday 15th December 2023.

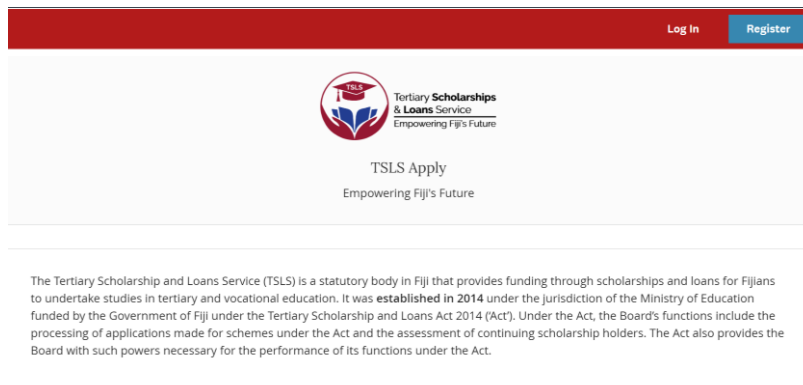
The Online Application and Processing System lays the foundation for TSLS to integrate modern day technology and digital innovation to enhance customer experience, strengthen ICT infrastructure and security, optimize business processes and internal systems, and foster a culture of innovation and collaboration. It also supports auto generated offer letters, bond form, and confirmation letters.

As we embrace this digital leap with our Apply Portal, TSLS is set to redefine the standards of educational support in Fiji.

Link for the video: [Online Application & Processing System Video.mp4](#)



Minster for Education, Honourable Aseri Radrodro



The Online Application & Processing System for Scholarships

12. Launch of Employer Connect Portal

The Minister for Employment, Productivity & Industrial Relations, Honourable Agni Deo Singh, launched the Employer Connect Portal at the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Headquarters on Friday 15th December 2023.

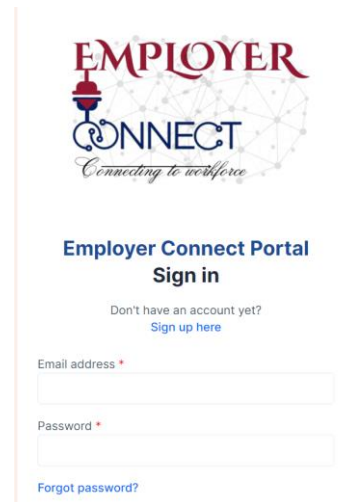
The newly developed portal will allow graduates to search for job vacancies according to their area of specialization. The portal allows graduates to create their own profile, upload and update their resumes and be notified if they get shortlisted for an interview.

Employers will also be able to use the Employer Connect Portal to post their vacancies, and sieve through the list of graduates seeking for a job.

Link for the video: [Employer Connect Video.mp4](#)



Minster for Employment, Productivity & Industrial Relations, Honourable Agni Deo Singh



The Employer Connect Portal

13. Unveiling of the TSLS 10-Year Anniversary Logo

The Minister for Education, Honourable Aseri Radrdro and Minister for Employment, Productivity & Industrial Relations, Honourable Agni Deo Singh unveiled the 10-Year Anniversary logo at the TSLS headquarters on Friday 15th December 2023.



14. Online Account Statement Request

The Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service introduced the Online Statement Request Form replacing the manual application form which students were required to fill and email to TSLS. The new online application form is portal based and students are required to fill in their details online and submit. This allows request being submitted directly to the processing officer. The statement request is in 3 different categories of:

1. Temporary Travel Release
2. Bond Clearance
3. Clearance for Permanent or Long-Term Migration

The portal allows request to be processed within 5 working days and Statement Letters emailed directly to students email without them visiting TSLS office.

TSLS Tertiary Scholarships & Loans Service Empowering Fiji's Future Apply Now!

Complaints Contact Us Statements

Home Scholarships Study Loans Grants Learning & Support Know How to Apply What's in News Get to Know us

Statements

Temporary Travel Release / Bond Clearance / Clearance for Permanent Migration / Clearance for Long Term Travel

Statement Request Form

Please fill out the form below to request for a statement from TSLS.

Select the correct request type

Waiting for tsls.com.fj...

THE END



Tertiary **Scholarships**
& **Loans** Service

Empowering Fiji's Future