

'FEES FREE' INITIATIVE SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT'S COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY

To further support the upskilling of the nation's workforce, the Cook Islands Government will be covering the costs of a select number of courses at local training and educational institutions for the remainder of 2020.

As part of Phase II of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan (ERP), the Government introduced the training subsidy to assist the business community and their employees by addressing a chronic skills gap that continues to hinder economic growth.

Working in tandem with the training subsidy, Government has created "Fees Free" – an initiative that covers the full costs of a select number of courses delivered by the Cook Islands Training and Tertiary Institute (CITTI) and the University of the South Pacific - Cook Islands Campus (USP).

Eligible courses are offered between June and December 2020, and include certificate level courses and short courses in trades at CITTI, as well as select certificate level courses at USP that have a local delivery component.

You do not have to be on the training subsidy to access 'Fees Free', anyone looking to study should contact CITTI or USP. For those interested in increasing their skills set, courses are available in electrical engineering, culinary arts, leadership, business administration, ICT, and much more (for a full listing, please visit www.mfem.gov.ck).

A limited number of 'Fees Free' courses offered by

CITTI are available for prospective students in the Pa Enua. Applicable certificate courses offered by USP are available online with local tutors in Rarotonga, and will also be made available online for the Pa Enua.

Through 'Fees Free', the Government is advancing the post-COVID-19 economic recovery and supporting the upskilling of our workforce to target the skills shortage that we continue to face. The aim is to see an improvement in productivity, and create a stronger economy post-COVID-19.

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