

MSc STUDENT OPPORTUNITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

DEADLINE: 29 March 2021 (24:00pm (GMT+2))

The University of Pretoria Institute for Sustainable Malaria Control (UP ISMC) has a Scholarship opportunity funded by Ninety One SA (Pty), to pursue a **Masters in Environmental Health** in the **School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH)** at the **Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria**. The selected applicant will work on a study titled: **“Malaria vector epidemiology and contributing climatic and environmental factors to malaria incidence in Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.”**

In South Africa, despite intervention implementation, there continues to be persistence and resurgence of malaria. The Vhembe District, falling in the Limpopo River Basin (LRB), has recently been documented as having the highest malaria case incidence per population ratio. This has necessitated the need for mosquito surveillance and epidemiological assessment to determine current vector ecology and behaviour. The aim of this study will be to understand the mosquito vector composition and identify primary, secondary and novel vectors in the Vhembe District as an understudied hot zone for malaria transmission in South Africa. It is further aimed to incorporate climatic and environmental factors contributing to transmission and persistence, towards development of malaria prediction models for the study region. Methods will include field collection of malaria vectors across multiple sites, morphological and molecular identification of vectors, *Plasmodium* sporozoite detection and determination of climate and environmental contributing factors to vector presence and malaria transmission.

Value of scholarship: R100, 000.00 in 2021 for fees and living expenses.

Eligibility:

- Possess a BSc Honours or equivalent from an accredited Institution
- South African citizen
- Experience in medical entomology, environmental health, epidemiology, microbiology and/or a relevant field
- Full-time student (unemployed)
- Black student (Black per BEE codes – South African citizen)
- The research performed will form part of dissertation towards a Masters in academic year 2021
- Below 35 years of age (31 December 2020)

Application instructions:

Please submit a one page cover letter and a two page CV (including peer-reviewed publications and conference outputs) outlining experience and qualifications relevant to the research topic outlined, to **Dr Megan Riddin**: megan.riddin@up.ac.za before **24:00 pm (GMT) 29 March 2021**. Ensure proof of qualifications and academic record are provided.

For any queries contact Dr Megan Riddin: megan.riddin@up.ac.za and/or Dr Taneshka Kruger: taneshka.kruger@up.ac.za.