

Join the South African Field Epidemiology Training Programme (SAFETP)

Call for Applicants for the 2022 intake

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Closing dates for applications

University of Pretoria

31 July 2021

University of the Witwatersrand

31 July 2021

SAFETP Office

31 July 2021

Background

The South African Field Epidemiology Training Programme (SAFETP) is now accepting applications for the 2022 class, from qualified health professionals with interest in public health and commitment to public service.

SAFETP is hosted by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) of the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS), for the National Department of Health (NDoH). The programme is a combination of didactic and practical training in which the resident is grounded in the academic basics of applied epidemiology and is assigned to field sites where s/he learns by doing while being mentored by experienced supervisors during projects that address critical public health priorities.

This residency programme is a two-year, full-time training, from which residents graduate with a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Field Epidemiology from either the University of Pretoria or the University of the Witwatersrand. The 2022 cohort will begin in January 2022 and end in December 2023. **Applicants are required to apply at both the University of Pretoria and the University of the Witwatersrand.**

The growing field of public health and epidemiology in South Africa and globally brings exciting opportunities for graduates and professionals from health-related fields to become competent in applied epidemiology of diseases and conditions relevant to South Africa. It also develops their leadership and management skills relevant to public health system strengthening and management. The training focuses on investigations of public health outbreaks (an acute health event or other epidemiological activity) and using epidemiology and biostatistics to conduct descriptive and analytical studies.

Bursaries/scholarships may be available for select South African applicants fulfilling pre-defined criteria. South African applicants currently working within the South African government at various levels, who plan to take study leave to participate in the programme and afterwards return to their workplace, must have written approval from their departments for the entire two years. NICD staff that have been funded and granted study leave will be required to continue working for the NICD for at least two (2) years after completing the MSc programme.

South Africans and permanent residents who are funded by their employers must ensure that this funding covers their salaries/stipends, as well as university registration and tuition fees for the two-year training period.

For applicants applying from other African countries - the eligibility requirements still apply, and the international applicant must have the required visa and permissions to study in South Africa. The applicants must ensure that all the costs related to participation in SAFETP are fully covered for the 2 years of training - including salaries/stipends, university registration and tuition fees, accommodation, travel and accommodation to investigate outbreaks by their respective governments

*Join the growing field of public health and epidemiology in
South Africa and respond to health threats*



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND.
JOHANNESBURG



health
Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Application Requirements

Work experience requirements

- * Professional experience in a health field or other fields relevant to health
- * Experience of working in a public health system is desirable
- * Experience in health related research will be an advantage

Educational requirements

- * Medical, veterinary or dentistry degree ; OR
- * Doctorate degree in a medical/health related field; OR
- * Master's degree in a medical or health related field; OR
- * Honour's/bachelor's degree with prior research experience

Other key requirements:

In addition to work and educational requirements, the applicant must:

- * Be registered with their respective professional bodies
- * Be fluent in spoken and written English
- * Be computer literate and proficient in using the Microsoft Office suite for communication, word processing, analysis, presentation and report generation.
- * Knowledge of a statistical package will be an advantage
- * Have a valid driver's license and be willing to drive a hired car
- * Provide proof of current physical residential address for future purposes of Domicilium citandi et executandi.

Please note the following regarding educational requirements:

- * *All degrees should be in a health, laboratory or public health related field from an accredited university*
- * *A Bachelor of Technology (B-Tech) degree does not fulfill the minimum educational requirements of the University of Pretoria, the University of the Witwatersrand and the SAFETP.*
- * ***For the University of Pretoria:** Candidates applying for the MSc Epidemiology and Biostatistics degree must hold an appropriate Honors or Masters degree that includes at least two full courses in epidemiology and two full courses in biostatistics. The University of Pretoria's BSc Hons Epidemiology and Biostatistics programme is designed to fulfill these requirements.*

How to apply

Applying to SAFETP

If you meet the requirements you can complete an online application form using this link: [Application Form](#)

You will need the following documents to complete the online application process:

1. Certified copies of qualification certificates
2. Certified copies of transcripts from the universities
3. A concise two-page CV
4. Statement of Purpose: In 500 words or less describe your career goals and your interest in applying for SAFETP residency
5. Two completed reference forms. You can download the template form on this link: [Reference Form](#)
6. Proof of application to each of the universities
7. Applicants whose qualifications were obtained outside South Africa must have their original degrees accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority ([SAQA](#)).
8. Non-South Africans from non-English speaking countries are expected to pass the Test of English as Foreign Language ([TOEFL](#)) when accepted onto the programme

Applying to the University

In addition to completing the online application to SAFETP, you should also complete applications to BOTH, the University of Pretoria and the University of Witwatersrand, as follows:

University of Pretoria:

<http://www.up.ac.za/en/online-application/article/2445192/apply-at-the-university-of-pretoria>

Select to apply to study **BSc (Hons) with specialisation in Epidemiology and Biostatistics** as your first choice and **MSc Epidemiology and Biostatistics** as your second choice. Applicants who already have BSc (Hons) with specialization in Epidemiology and Biostatistics are encouraged to apply

University of the Witwatersrand:

<http://www.wits.ac.za/postgraduate/applications/>

Also visit the following page for the discipline-specific requirements: <http://www.wits.ac.za/publichealth/academic-programmes/postgraduate/master-of-science-in-epidemiology/>

Select to apply to study Field Epidemiology in the MSc Epidemiology Programme of the University of the Witwatersrand.

- * *It is your responsibility to ensure that you submit the completed online application; incomplete applications or those submitted after the closing date will not be considered.*
- * *Selection into the program will be primarily based on the **applicant's performance on the completed application, in-person interview, and other assessments on the day of the interview.***
- * *Correspondence will be made with shortlisted candidates only. If you have not heard from SAFETP within 6 weeks of the final dosing date, please consider your application to be unsuccessful. For further information, please visit the website: <https://www.nicd.ac.za/our-services/training-2/the-south-african-field-epidemiology-training-programme/>*

Please note: While SAFETP works closely with both the University of Pretoria and the University of the Witwatersrand to coordinate candidate selection processes, acceptance into the degree programme offered at either institution does not guarantee acceptance into SAFETP, and does not guarantee that the applicant will register with that institution if accepted into SAFETP.