

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) focus area(s)**APPLICATION DEADLINE****31st July 2020****BACKGROUND**

Field Epidemiology Training Programmes (FETP) have been established in over 55 countries globally. These programmes are based on the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention two-year residency training programme in applied epidemiology, which commenced in the 1950's.

The South African Field Epidemiology Training Programme (SAFETP) is now accepting applications for the 2021 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 to 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) in Field Epidemiology from either the University of Pretoria or 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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicant must be registered with their respective professional bodies
- Applicant must be fluent in spoken and written English
- Applicant must be computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook for use in communication, word processing, analysis, presentation and report generation. Knowledge of a statistical package will be an advantage
- Applicant must have a valid driver's license and be willing to drive a hired car
- Applicant must provide proof of current physical residential address for future purposes of Domicilium citandi et executandi.

Work experience requirements:

- Professional experience in a health field or other fields relevant to health
- Experience of working in the public health system is desirable

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

- 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 fulfil the minimum educational requirements** of the University of Pretoria, the University of Witwatersrand and the SAFETP.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:

- The 2021 cohort will begin in January 2021 and end in December 2022. Applicants are required to apply at both the University of Pretoria and the University of the Witwatersrand.
- South African applicants working currently 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.
- 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.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applicants must apply online to both the [University of Pretoria](#) and the [University of the Witwatersrand](#) (Select **Field Epidemiology** in the [MSc Epidemiology Programme](#) of the University of the Witwatersrand).
- Applicants must also apply to the SAFETP [here](#).
- You will need the following documents to complete the online application process:
 - Certified copies of qualification certificates
 - Certified copies of transcripts from the universities
 - A concise two-page CV
 - Statement of Purpose: In 500 words or less describe your career goals and your interest in applying for SAFETP residency
 - Two completed reference forms. You can download the template form [here](#)
 - Proof of application to the universities
 - Applicants whose qualifications were obtained outside South Africa must have their original degrees accredited by - the South African Qualifications Authority ([SAQA](#))
 - 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
- **Copies of the e-mail confirmation that you receive when you submit your application to the University of Pretoria AND the University of the Witwatersrand should accompany the documents that you submit with your online application to SAFETP.**

Application guidelines can be found [here](#) and on the attached document.

Please send a complete copy with all supporting documents, that you have submitted online to the Faculty Research Office – natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

31st July 2020

CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES

University of Pretoria contact person: Rene de Waal (rene.dewaal@up.ac.za)

Reuben Semanya (reuben.semenya@up.ac.za)

Faculty contact person: Natasha Jeftha (natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za)

University of Witwatersrand contact person: Lerato Podile (Lerato.podile@wits.ac.za)