

How to apply

Short Courses

SAFETP Epidemiology Short Courses are normally conducted at the request of Provincial and District Departments of Health. Interested institutions should contact SAFETP for more information about the courses.

Residency Programme

Residency positions are advertised widely during the first half of each year and applicants go through a careful selection process.

Minimum admission requirements for the residency programme are:

- An honour's/bachelor's degree with prior research experience; OR
- A master's degree in a medical/health related field; OR
- A doctorate degree in a medical/health related field; OR
- A medical, veterinary or dentistry degree;
- Fluency in written and spoken English;
- Non-South African/non-SADC citizens need to pass the test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and have their original degrees accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

Preference is typically given to applicants who are nominated and sponsored by their respective institutions. Applications close by the end of July each year and classes begin the following January.

Application forms are available on our website:

www.safetp.ac.za

Contact details

For more information you can visit the website: www.nicd.ac.za

or contact the SAFETP at the following:

Postal address:

Project Coordinator, SAFETP
National Institute for Communicable Diseases,
Private Bag X4
Sandringham, 2131, South Africa

Telephone: +27 (11) 386 6542
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Promoting applied epidemiology for evidence-based decision making



Background

The South African Field Epidemiology Training Programme (SAFETP) was launched in 2006 to provide a platform for building field epidemiology capacity for health professionals.

The programme is a collaboration between the:

- National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) of the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS),
- South Africa National Department of Health (NDoH),
- University of Pretoria, South Africa
- University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Programme description

SAFETP training currently comprises two main offerings:

1. Basic field epidemiology short courses, and
2. A two year advanced field epidemiology residency programme.

Basic epidemiology short courses

SAFETP conducts Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accredited Basic Epidemiology courses consisting of two, one week-long didactic workshops in a three month period separated by a field project to apply field epidemiology principles to address a local public health need.

The courses are targeted towards all health professionals working in the South African public health system involved in communicable diseases control, disease surveillance, outbreak investigations and data management. This includes various cadres of the health system such as medical doctors, veterinarians, medical scientists, and other allied health professionals.



Two year residency programme

Programme structure

A two year service-orientated training, consisting of 25% didactic teaching and 75% field-based training. The programme is designed to train health professionals for positions as provincial and national epidemiologists, surveillance officers or other relevant positions.

During the field training, residents acquire practical skills in applied epidemiology while at the same time providing epidemiological support to the field sites. Upon completion, residents receive a Master's degree in Field Epidemiology from the collaborating university.

Field placement sites

Field placement sites consist of Provincial and District DoHs and different programmatic areas within the NDoH, NICD, NHLS, or National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH). In order to accommodate the needs of residents and their workplace funders, residents may be placed with their employing institutions.

Field activities

During field placement, trainees are expected to acquire skills in the following areas:

- Outbreak investigation and control
- Evaluation of public health surveillance systems
- Statistical analysis of health databases
- Conducting hypothesis driven research
- Scientific communication (presentations at meetings and conferences, writing abstracts, reports, NICD bulletin articles and manuscripts, etc.)
- Teaching skills
- Time management and personal organization skills

Epidemiology networking

SAFETP is affiliated with international networks of related training programmes, notably the regional African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) and the global Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET).

Through these networks, FETP trainees from around the world share experiences and expertise through conferences and other information-sharing platforms.

