



# South Africa Field Epidemiology Training Programme

## Call for applicants for 2023 intake

### Background

The South African Field Epidemiology Training Programme (SAFETP) is now accepting applications for the 2023 intake, from qualified health professionals with interest in public health and commitment to public service.

[Field Epidemiology Training Programmes \(FETPs\)](#) have been established in many countries around the world to provide training and develop competencies that are essential for effective disease detection, investigation, control, and prevention, with a goal of enhancing the health security of communities. FETP trainees spend minimum time in the classroom (less than 25% of the training time) and maximum time in the field, where they develop practical skills to collect, analyze, and use data to address priority public health issues and inform policy decisions.

The South Africa FETP is hosted by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), a division of the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS), for the National Department of Health (NDoH). SAFETP offers a full-time two-year residency programme, which provides training and practical experience in applied epidemiology, and aims to develop specialist skills to evaluate and strengthen public health surveillance systems, investigate and control outbreaks, and conduct field studies to address public health priority issues. Training is provided mainly through on-the-job service provision and learning activities. A trainee who successfully completes the programme is awarded a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Field Epidemiology from either the University of Pretoria or the University of the Witwatersrand.

The next cohort of trainees will begin in January 2023 and end in December 2024. Professionals who are interested in joining the cohort should submit their applications before 31 July 2022. Applicants 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 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. A limited number of bursaries/scholarships may be available for select applicants fulfilling predefined criteria.

Limited places may be offered to applicants from selected Southern African countries who meet the entry requirements, and are supported by their governments. Such applicants must be eligible for the required visa/permit to study in South Africa. The applicant must also ensure that their employer/government has agreed to fully cover the costs related to their participation in SAFETP for the 2 years of training - including salaries/stipends, university registration and tuition fees, living expenses while studying in South Africa, etc.

### Contact details

For enquiries please contact the following people:

#### SAFETP Secretariat Office

Eudie Hlabioa

Telephone: +27 11 386 6542

E-mail addresses:

[EudieH@nicd.ac.za](mailto:EudieH@nicd.ac.za)

OR

[fetpadmin@safetp.org](mailto:fetpadmin@safetp.org)

Website:

<https://www.safetp.ac.za>

#### University of Pretoria

René de Waal

E-mail: [rene.dewaal@up.ac.za](mailto:rene.dewaal@up.ac.za)

#### University of the Witwatersrand

Pascalina Munyewende

Telephone: +27 11 717 2492

Email:

[Pascalina.munyewende@wits.ac.za](mailto:Pascalina.munyewende@wits.ac.za)

### Closing dates for applications

#### University of Pretoria

31 July 2022

#### University of the Witwatersrand

31 July 2022

#### SAFETP Office

31 July 2022



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 additional information regarding educational requirements:*

- \* *All degrees should be in a human/animal 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.*
- \* *The University of Pretoria curriculum is designed to offer a BSc (Hons) Epidemiology and Biostatistics degree in Year 1 and an MSc Epidemiology and Biostatistics degree in Year 2. Applicants who have already completed an appropriate Honors or Masters degree that includes **at least two full courses in epidemiology and two full courses in biostatistics** qualify to enroll directly into the MSc programme.*

## How to apply

### Applying to SAFETP

If you meet the requirements you can complete an online application form using this link: [Click here for the online 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. Qualifications that were obtained outside South Africa must be accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) ([Click here to visit SAQA website](#))
8. Non-South Africans from non-English speaking countries are expected to pass a 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:

[Click this link to access the UP online application page](#)

Select to apply to study BSc (Hons) with specialization 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 should apply for the MSc Epidemiology and Biostatistics

#### University of the Witwatersrand:

[Click this link to access the Wits online application page](#)

Select to apply to study Master of Science in Epidemiology, and then select "Field Epidemiology" as the field of study.

You can also visit the following page to get more details about the Master of Science in Epidemiology degree and the discipline-specific requirements: [Click this link to visit the page](#)

- \* *It is your responsibility to ensure that you submit a fully completed online application before the deadline. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the closing date will not be considered.*
- \* *SAFETP residency is highly competitive. All applications go through a rigorous selection process. The success of your application will be determined by the **quality of your application, including your performance during in-person interviews and written assessments.***
- \* *Correspondence will be made with shortlisted candidates only. If you have not heard from SAFETP within 8 weeks of the final dosing date, please consider your application to be unsuccessful. You can visit our website ([www.safetp.ac.za](http://www.safetp.ac.za)) for more information about SAFETP.*

**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 a degree programme offered by the university does not guarantee acceptance into SAFETP, and also does not guarantee that the applicant will register with that institution if accepted into SAFETP.