

**ICMR School of Public Health
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY (ICMR)
AYAPAKKAM, CHENNAI 600 077**

No.NIE/F/01/IB/2010/

Date: 1st January 2010

**MASTER OF APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY
(Field Epidemiology Training Programme)**

Information Brochure - 2010

01. INTRODUCTION

ICMR School of Public Health at National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) has been conducting a two-year Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) leading to Master of Applied Epidemiology (MAE) degree awarded by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, since 2001. The MAE degree is recognized by Medical Council of India (MCI) and included in the first schedule of the IMC Act.

The academic session for the current year commences on 1st July 2010.

02. GOAL AND CORE COMPETENCIES

The primary goal of the programme is to facilitate the development of a cadre of public health professionals who are practitioners of epidemiology at the field level and competent in addressing public health needs and priorities efficiently and effectively.

The course aims to develop and strengthen the following seven action-oriented competencies among the students.

- (1) Master epidemiological science
- (2) Investigate outbreaks
- (3) Manage public health surveillance
- (4) Conduct epidemiological studies
- (5) Protect human subjects in research
- (6) Oral and written communication
- (7) Programme management and Evaluation

03. COURSE DESCRIPTION

(a) Course organization

The MAE-FETP course is a 24-month “learning-by-doing” programme. This course consists of two parts. One part extends for 6 months (25% of course duration) ‘on campus’ training during

which the student receives theoretical inputs through residential contact sessions at NIE at intermittent intervals covering topics like applied epidemiology, bio-statistics, public health surveillance, communicable and non-communicable disease prevention and control.

The other part extends for 18 months (75% of course duration) spread over in 3 sessions of 6 months duration, each. During this period, the student has to plan and execute epidemiological projects of immediate relevance to public health practice at field placement site (usually the district/worksite identified by NIE in collaboration with the sponsoring State/Agency). The student has to prepare a Bound Volume (BV) containing reports of various field activities. The student also has to carry out a dissertation project on a public health problem in the district/state during the third field posting.

The student has to carry out the following field projects during the three field postings.

First field posting (six months)

- Situation analysis
- Analysis of surveillance data
- Description of surveillance system
- Journal critique
- Investigation of outbreaks

Second field posting (six months)

- Evaluation of a public health programme
- Evaluation of surveillance system
- Preparation for the dissertation project (literature review, protocol preparation)
- Investigation of outbreaks

Third field posting (six months)

- Dissertation project (data collection, analysis and report)
- Investigation of outbreaks

(b) Course credits

The MAE-FETP course carries a total of 80 credits. Various field projects account for 52 (65%) credits. The course work, practical assignments and examinations during the contact sessions account for 28 (35%) credits.

(c) *Viva voce*

A panel of examiners (internal and external) duly appointed by NIE and SCTIMST will conduct a *viva voce* examination focusing on the student's dissertation project.

(d) Faculty

The faculty consists of qualified and experienced officials of (1) ICMR School of Public Health at National Institute of Epidemiology, (2) Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, and (3) other ICMR institutions. The visiting faculty includes experts from State governments, private organizations, academic institutions and consultants from WHO and CDC, USA.

(e) Training methodology

During the contact sessions, training is imparted through didactic class room lectures, field visits, attendance at seminars / conferences / workshops, class and home assignments, class room discussions, practical and case study exercises and critical review of medical / public health literature / journals. During field placements, students are expected to plan and implement field projects assigned to them.

(f) Guidance and supervision

Students are closely guided and supervised throughout the training programme by the NIE faculty, experienced local preceptors identified by NIE and expert consultants for MAE–FETP at NIE. NIE faculty coordinates and facilitates the training of students during contact sessions as well as field postings.

04. SPONSORING AGENCIES

The sponsoring authority (Government / Private) should depute the candidates for 2 years on a full time basis. To facilitate the field activities of the students, the sponsoring Government agency should provide the following to students at their respective field placement sites:

- A field placement site at District/State level, in consultation with NIE
- Line manager to facilitate and supervise the student's work at field placement site
- Office space for the students to work
- Access to public health data
- Access to computer, telephone and internet facilities, if available within the office
- Assistance with travel within the State for epidemic investigation and surveillance activities

In case of private candidates, NIE would explore the possibility of facilitating the above-mentioned arrangements with their respective State government authorities/Sponsoring Agencies.

05. ADMISSION TO THE COURSE

Admission is open to government sponsored and private candidates. Seventeen (17) candidates will be admitted to the July 2010 academic session. Preference will be given to candidates sponsored by the Central/State Governments / Union Territories and Armed Forces.

(a) Eligibility Criteria

Candidates fulfilling the following criteria are eligible to apply for the course:

- M.B.B.S. degree recognized by Medical Council of India
- Working in public health, preferably in State or Central Government Department or in Medical institutions, sponsored on deputation for two year on full-time basis
- Three years experience in public health related activities
- Age up to 40 years as on 1.7.2010. May be relaxed up to 5 years for deserving candidates. Age relaxable for SC/ST/OBC candidates as per Government of India rules. Age-limit relaxable for ICMR candidates.

(b) Course Fee

There is no course fee for the candidates sponsored by the State/Central Government Departments/Armed forces.

For the non-sponsored government/private candidates and the sponsored candidates from private institutions, the course fee is Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One lakh only) (non-refundable), payable at the rate of Rs.50,000/= (Rupees Fifty thousand only) per year, at the beginning of each academic year.

(c) Method of selection

The applicants are required to submit a one-page statement of purpose on “Why I am interested in the MAE-FETP course” along with the duly filled-in application form.

A Selection Committee constituted by SCTIMST will select the candidates based on the following:

- Review of the application form
- One-page statement of purpose
- Written test (if necessary)
- Personal interview at NIE, Chennai

Reservation of seats will be as per the norms being followed by SCTIMST. Mere possession of the eligibility criteria will not entail selection for the course. The decision of the Director, SCTIMST, shall be final for selection of the candidates.

(d) Application Form

The prescribed application form can be downloaded from the Institute's Website: www.nie.gov.in

The prescribed application form given in the website or its photocopy alone should be used. Application in any other form will not be considered.

(e) Application Fee

Applications should be submitted along with the application fee of Rs.600/= (Rupees Six hundred only) by means of a Demand Draft drawn on any nationalized bank in favour of “SCTIMST” payable at Thiruvananthapuram.

Applications without the application fee will not be considered.

(f) Sponsorship

Sponsored candidates should enclose **Sponsorship Letter** from the employer, in original in the specified format (enclosed), along with the application or produce at the time of interview.

(g) Last Date

The last date for receipt of the completed applications at NIE is **1st March 2010**.

(h) Submission of application

Duly filled in prescribed Application Form with Application Fee and necessary enclosures should be sent to the following address.

The Course Co-ordinator, MAE-FETP
ICMR School of Public Health
National Institute of Epidemiology
Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Ayapakkam
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 077

Candidates should submit an advance copy of the application in the prescribed form with the Application Fee of Rs.600/= (original Demand Draft) and other enclosures by Registered/Speed Post, to reach NIE, directly, on or before the last date. They should send a copy of the Demand Draft along with their original application through proper channel.

(i) Contact details

Email: nieicmr@gmail.com	Phone: 044-26136417 / 26136420
Website: www.nie.gov.in	Fax: 044-26136426