



Australian
National
University



MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY

JOIN THE DISEASE DETECTIVES

Do you want to be on the frontline of fighting emerging disease, putting your epidemiology knowledge into practice? Then the Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology (MAE) is the right program for you.

The National Centre for
Epidemiology &
Population Health

ANU College of
Medicine, Biology
& Environment

The National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) at The Australian National University (ANU) has run the Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology (MAE) - Australia's only field epidemiology training program - for the last twenty-five years.

The program has been extremely successful with graduates making significant contributions to communicable disease control both in Australia and overseas. NCEPH runs the MAE program in partnership with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia, the Department of Health and Ageing and field placement organisations.

Graduates have gone on to work in

health departments at local, state, national and international levels, as well as in research institutions and academia in the areas of vaccine preventable diseases, food- and waterborne diseases, sexually transmissible infections, non-communicable diseases, Indigenous health and international health.

Undertaking an MAE will give you the knowledge and experience you need for a challenging and rewarding career in epidemiology.

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MAE scholars

To date, over 200 scholars have completed the MAE, 15% of whom identify as Indigenous. Scholars entering the program usually have at least one undergraduate qualification and over half have either a PhD or MPH qualification. They come from a range of professional backgrounds including medicine, nursing, psychology and veterinary medicine, as well as from employment in public health agencies and research institutions to work in field placements across Australia.

All MAE scholars have a passion for public health and are selected into the program in consultation with potential field placement organisations.

Program structure

The MAE is a two year research degree that emphasises work-integrated learning - learning at work, from work, for work. For the duration of the program, MAE scholars are placed in a field placement such as in a health department, public health unit, research institute, reference laboratory, Indigenous health council or other suitable organisation.

The curriculum consists of five coursework subjects delivered as three two-week intensive blocks of on-campus teaching throughout the two year program, along with distance learning and applied field projects. Field projects are selected in consultation with field supervisors on the basis of their potential contribution to public health actions, programs, policies and practice. Experienced ANU staff and field supervisors oversee the work of MAE scholars while they are in the field placement.

Benefits of being an MAE scholar

The MAE is more than an education program; it provides you with work experience while you learn, meaning you have a healthy CV as well as an internationally recognised qualification when you graduate.

As a MAE scholar you will contribute directly to the public health functions and activities of your field placement.

You can expect to learn how to conduct epidemiology in the field setting and gain highly valuable skills for the public health workplace.

During the last 25 years, MAE scholars have investigated, responded to, and reported on over 300 outbreaks. In this time they have established, evaluated and analysed data from many surveillance systems.

Scholars have participated in the response to local, national and international public health emergencies including the responses to pandemic (H1N1) influenza and SARS.

In addition, the MAE program is a member of TEPHINET—the international network of field epidemiology programs globally. MAE scholars have the opportunity of presenting their work at annual TEPHINET conferences, or at other Australian conferences.

Past scholars have had their time in the MAE program accredited by the Australian Faculty of Public Health Medicine.

Support for MAE scholars

Candidates for the MAE may receive a tax-free scholarship of \$50,000 annually pro-rata, which is provided by the field placement and administered by the ANU. Alternatively, the scholar may be an employee of a field placement organisation that has agreed to release them from normal duties to complete the requirements of the MAE. The field placement also provides financial support for attending intensive coursework subjects at ANU.

The field placement

MAE field placements:

- > participate in the process of recruiting and selecting scholars;
- > provide financial support to scholars;
- > identify and supervise the field projects; and
- > nurture a work environment that enables effective learning while the scholar contributes directly to the workplace functions and activities.

Indigenous MAE scholars

The MAE program has a special interest in improving Indigenous health and many Indigenous scholars have completed the program. Indigenous candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

The application process

Applications for the MAE program are highly competitive. The MAE program usually accepts 8 – 10 scholars each year, depending on how many field placements are offering to host scholars. There is only one intake of MAE scholars each year.

NCEPH usually calls for applications for the MAE program during August each year. All applicants must fill in an online application for the Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology program at ANU. During the process, applicants are asked to answer supplementary questions on why they want to do the MAE and whether they would be willing to move interstate to take up a scholarship.

Selecting MAE scholars

The MAE program shortlists applicants for interview based on demonstrated prior study and work experience.

Interviews of shortlisted applicants are held in September and October each year. The placements participate in the selection of scholars in teleconference interviews. This ensures the best match between the scholar and the field placement.

Successful applicants for the MAE program will be advised in November and start in their field placement organisation in February the following year.

More information

If you have any questions about the program, please see our website. Alternatively, you can contact MAE Program convenor, Associate Professor Martyn Kirk:

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