



Australian
National
University



MASTER OF 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 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 over thirty years.

The program has been extremely successful with graduates making significant contributions to disease control both in Australia and overseas.

NCEPH runs the MAE program in partnership with field placement organisations including the Australian Department of Health, state and territory health departments and public health units and selected institutions

Graduates of the program 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, environmental and climate change impacts on health, 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.

If you have any questions about the program, please email or visit the website:

E: mae.nceph@anu.edu.au

W: [MAE program webpage](#)



National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health ANU College of [Health & Medicine](#)

MAE scholars

To date, 260 scholars have completed the MAE. 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 22-month program 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 on-campus teaching at three intensive blocks run throughout the program. 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. During the last 30 years, MAE scholars have investigated, responded to, and reported on over 300 outbreaks; have established, evaluated and analysed data from many surveillance systems; and participated in the response to local, national and international public health emergencies including the H1N1 influenza pandemic, SARS and COVID-19. The MAE program is a fully accredited member of TEPHINET—the international network of field epidemiology programs. MAE scholars have the opportunity of presenting their work at 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 \$62,100 in 2024 with CPI increase in 2025 on a pro rata basis of scholarship duration which is provided by the field placement and administered by the ANU. 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
- > provide a nurturing 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 accepts a limited number of scholars each year, which is dependent 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 program in July of each year. All applicants must fill in an online application form the MAE program through ANUs website. During this process applicants are also 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 with potential shortlist applicants are held with the MAE team in August each. This is followed interviews with field placements for those shortlisted in September and October, to ensure 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 MAE field placement organisation in February the following year.

Please see the website for information about when applications can be submitted:

[MAE program webpage](#)

