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Pac-EVIPP+ MAE Fellowship Program  
Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology  
Guide for Applicants 2026





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For more information about the Pac-EVIPP+ program:

[Pacific Evidence for Informed Policies and Programs+ \(Pac-EVIPP+\) | ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health](#)

For more information about the MAE Program:

[Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology \(MAE\) | ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health](#)





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# Introduction

The Pacific Evidence-Informed Policies and Programs+ (Pac-EVIPP+) team secured a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Partnerships for a Healthy Region investment to foster collaboration among partners and programs across the Pacific and Southeast (SE) Asian regions. Our objective is to cultivate a skilled and resilient applied field epidemiology community in the Pacific and SE Asia regions. This involves creating and supporting advanced learning pathways, fostering multi-sectoral collaboration, and establishing networks for swift and effective responses to health security and public health threats. Part of this grant is used to develop and support a robust applied epidemiology workforce in the Pacific region through the provision of this fellowship.

The Pac-EVIPP+ Fellowship (referred to as the Fellowship) provides funding and support for selected Pacific Islanders to undertake the Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology (MAE) program at the Australian National University (ANU) (see Section 1).

The Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology (MAE) program is Australia's Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) and is accredited by, and part of, the international network of Field Training Programs in Epidemiology & Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET). The MAE Program is based at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) in College of Law, Governance and Policy at the ANU. A Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Applied Epidemiology (referred to as the MAE) is awarded upon successful completion of the MAE Program. The MAE is delivered over 22 months using an "on-the-job" training approach where students spend most of the program working and learning within field placements (Sections 2 and 3).

This is the second year the Fellowship has been offered. The 2025 MAE cohort includes two Pac-EVIPP+ Fellowship holders (referred to as Fellows) – one each from Fiji and Tonga.

## Purpose

This guide provides information to help Pacific Islanders determine if the MAE is the right degree to progress and support their career in public health.

Based on the information provided in this guide, potential applicants should discuss their expectations with their current workplace supervisor, and any potential field supervisors. Such discussions will determine if the requirements of the program are achievable and beneficial for both the Fellow and the workplace. It is recommended that potential applicants also discuss their application with ANU's Pac-EVIPP+ Coordinator.

If the MAE is the right program for you, and you have the support of your supervisor, this guide will assist you apply online. If you apply for the MAE Program you will automatically be considered for the Fellowship. A description of each section of this document is provided below.



Section 1 outlines the Fellowship and eligibility requirements

Section 2 provides information about the MAE program, including the core components.

Section 3 provides information about the role of field and academic supervisors.

Section 4 gives an overview of the application process.

Section 5 briefly outlines the selection process

Section 6 lists what you can expect if you are successful in your application.

Section 7 gives some sources for more information about the Pac-EVIPP+ and MAE programs.

Annex 1 to this document will help you complete your online application correctly.

## Section 1. The Pac-EVIPP+ MAE Fellowship

NCEPH may offer up to six fellowships from 2025 to 2028, known as the Pac-EVIPP+ MAE Fellowship (the Fellowship), for selected Pacific Islanders working within Ministries of Health to undertake the MAE Program at the ANU. The Fellowship is part of a collaboration between NCEPH and DFAT through the Regional Health Program grants—it delivers capacity-building research and training in Pacific Island countries and fosters professional development of field epidemiologists.

Pac-EVIPP+ Fellows are supported by a \$45-50,000 AUD per annum stipend (paid fortnightly) for the duration of the program. In addition, the Fellowship will cover ANU student fees, and all associated travel, insurances, and accommodation costs. A laptop will also be provided to the Fellow (with appropriate software and IT support) for the duration of the program.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for the Fellowship, applicants must meet program-specific academic and non-academic requirements listed below. Applicants MUST

- Hold a current position with their local Ministry of Health (MOH)
- *Have the support of their workplace (MOH) to complete the MAE Program*
- Hold a relevant Bachelor Honours degree or international equivalent with a minimum overall grade Second Class Honours-Upper (H2A), or an equivalent combination of qualifications, research publications and/or professional experience related to the field of study.
- Meet ANU's [English Language Admission Requirements for Students](#)
- If accepted into the program, have a valid passport.



## Section 2. MAE program

The MAE Program is a hands-on program aimed at building a highly skilled epidemiology workforce and strengthening capacity to prepare for, protect from, and respond to communicable disease and other health threats in Australia and the Pacific region.

The MAE is a full-time two-year (22 months) program aimed at public health staff who are, or whose future career may be, involved in field investigation and epidemiology and who want to further enhance their specialist skills. Successful applicants (Fellows) work at their national Ministry of Health in their usual role, attend intensive course blocks, complete self-directed learning modules and teaching seminars on line, identify and complete projects at their workplace that demonstrate the required program competencies, and submit a research thesis with details of those projects for examination. During the program Fellows may be considered for short work attachments in other Pacific countries, or within the region (including Australia and South-East Asia), as these opportunities arise.

Fellows must attend all intensive course blocks delivered through on-campus teaching at ANU (usually three to four course blocks of one to two weeks each over two years) where they complete training in outbreak investigation, public health surveillance, data analysis, applied research methods, and issues in applied epidemiology.

Fellows work with their supervisors to identify and complete projects that demonstrate understanding of course-block learning to meet the following core competencies required for the MAE program:

- **Investigate an acute public health problem or threat (typically a disease outbreak)**  
This project must involve direct contact with human subjects such as through interviewing cases or contacts in an outbreak. This project provides an opportunity for the Fellow to make epidemiologic decisions in the field—namely, to assess the problem quickly, ask the right questions, and to analyse the data.
- **Analyse a public health data set (such as surveillance data)**  
The purpose of this competency is for the Fellow to develop expertise in descriptive epidemiology, either by examining an existing set of data or by gathering data for an analytic epidemiologic study such as a case-control or cohort investigation. This competency can be met by undertaking routine analyses of public health data sets collected for public health surveillance purposes, such as annual, quarterly, or weekly surveillance reports.
- **Evaluate or establish a public health surveillance or other health system**  
The Fellow should establish, evaluate, or undertake a feasibility study to establish a surveillance system. This project should be useful for the local health authority and many MAE scholars elect to complete it in their first year.
- **Design and conduct an epidemiological study**  
The Fellow develops a research question to define a specific issue of public health importance and then conducts and interprets an epidemiological study to address the research question. As a result of the analysis, appropriate public health recommendations should be made.



In addition to satisfying the competencies listed above, course requirements include completion and documentation of the following tasks related to the Fellow's work.:

- **Prepare an orientation report**

The purpose of this report is for Fellows to document their work environment and show how their MAE placement will fit within and add to the workplace. The report includes the organisational structure of the workplace, its vision and mission statements, key activities, and responsibilities.

- **Prepare a scientific manuscript**

A peer-reviewed publication or an advanced draft manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, must be included in your thesis. This activity ensures that the Fellow's work has passed the scrutiny of other epidemiologists.

- **Deliver a conference presentation**

The Fellow is required to deliver an oral presentation at a national or international scientific conference. This is a learning experience to master effective oral communication of scientific data.

- **Respond to Public Enquiries**

Fellows should be able to respond appropriately to enquiries from the public, the media, and politicians, according to local authorisations. As part of the MAE Program, Fellows complete and include a summary piece (relating to at one of their projects) directed at a lay audience in their thesis.

- **Prepare a short report for a non-scientific audience (lay summary)**

Fellows must write a short report (1 to 2 pages) about one of their projects aimed at a non-scientific audience (such as the general public or other stakeholder) using lay language and not technical terms. This could be a media release, ministerial brief, fact sheet, letter, or health promotional material.

- **Teaching component**

Develop and provide training in the field of applied epidemiology to your peers.

Further detail around competencies will be provided during course blocks.

To be awarded the MPhil degree, Fellows document their projects and other requirements into a detailed thesis comprising original written work, normally of up to 60,000 words, that is independently assessed by no fewer than two external examiners of international standing (and includes an oral viva).

Under University policy, the thesis will be an open-source document available on the ANU's website once the final version has been approved by the examinations office.



## Section 3. Supervision (workplace and academic)

The Fellow is supported by a work place (or Field) Supervisor and an Academic (ANU) Supervisor (referred to as the Fellows' Supervisory Panel, or panel) for the duration of their Fellowship. The overall educational model for supervision of the MAE Fellow is a three-way partnership between the Fellow, the Field Supervisor, and the Academic Supervisor. The Fellow is responsible for the management of their panel, including ensuring regular meetings are held updates are provided, and program milestones are met.

### Field supervisor

When applying for the Fellowship, applicants must already have the support of their potential Field Supervisor who is, or will be, working in the area the Fellow is placed. The Field Supervisor acts as an advocate and mentor to provide theoretical expertise, practical guidance, and opportunities for the Fellow to learn by doing.

The Field Supervisor will be responsible for:

- general oversight and wellbeing of the Fellow
- providing technical support for each project undertaken by the Fellow
- attending meetings organised by the Fellow on a weekly basis (initially) to oversee progress and identify issues as they arise
- attending regular meetings with the Fellow and the Academic Supervisor
- ensuring that the Fellow's office and administrative requirements are met

Fellows may have other supervisors when working on specific projects. However, the Field Supervisor must agree to such an arrangement and oversee the progress of the project. Field supervisors are invited to attend (online) an induction workshop prior to first course block, where they can meet the ANU MAE team and clarify specifics of the MAE program requirements.

### Academic supervisor

Successful applicants are assigned an Academic Supervisor from NCEPH who is responsible for:

- oversight of academic progress that includes meeting academic milestones
- signing off on ANU milestones as they are completed
- providing input on technical design and conduct of field studies
- providing guidance on the structure and content of the final thesis

It is the responsibility of the Fellow to keep their Academic Supervisor up to date on their progress in the workplace. During course blocks, Fellows should meet face to face with their Academic Supervisor to review progress, discuss any issues arising, and plan next steps.



## Section 4. Overview of the application process

Applications for the MAE program will open on 3 June 2025. When applications open, a package detailing all requirements, including proformas for references, will be available from the MAE website along with a link to apply online. Before you apply for the MAE program you **must** have the support of your MOH Supervisor. **Applications that do not have this support will not be considered.**

Your MAE application automatically links to the Pac-EVIPP+ Fellowship.

Annex 1 provides details on how to access and complete your online application. However, before you start this online application process, please think about and prepare (as much as possible) the following essential requirements.

- **Referees**

You must include names and email contacts for three referees in your application. Please see Annex 1 for more information about your referee reports. Your application will not be considered without your referee reports.

- **Supervisor support**

You must include a letter of support from your proposed MOH Field Supervisor.

- **Qualifications and work history**

You must include clear copies of your academic qualifications (transcripts and awards)

You must include a copy of your current resume/curriculum vitae.

- **Consider and prepare your answers to the following supplementary questions**

Why do you want study at ANU?

Why would you like to study the selected discipline/s and program/s?

How will your selected program/s help you meet your career aspirations?

What does receiving this Fellowship mean to you?

- **English proficiency requirements**

You must meet the English language proficiency requirements for admission to a higher degree at ANU (see [ANU's website](#) for more information on this requirement). The Pac-EVIPP+ Coordinator can also answer any queries you may have on this topic.



## Section 5. The selection process

After applications close, the following process begins.

### 1. **Application review**

The Pac-EVIPP+ and MAE teams will review your online application. Shortlisting for interviews is based on your demonstrated work experience and previous studies. If you meet all the requirements, you will be invited to an interview.

### 2. **Interview**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in an online interview with Pac-EVIPP+ and MAE team members. These interviews usually take place in August each year.

### 3. **Reference checks**

The Pac-EVIPP+ team lead will contact your referees, including your nominated field supervisor, for feedback.

### 4. **Outcome notification**

You will be informed of the result of your application in November.

## Section 6. What to expect if your application is successful

In November, successful applicants will receive further information and guidance so they can begin the MAE program. The program officially commences on 9 February 2026.

Processes to support the administration of the Fellowship will also begin at this time.

The Pac-EVIPP+ Program Administrator will be in touch with you to complete administrative requirements, including arranging travel and accommodation for course block 1 and details for your Fellowship payment.

The MAE Program Administrator will be in touch with you regarding MAE requirements.

You will attend course block one at ANU Canberra from x to y. During this time, any further paperwork/administrative requirements will be explained and finalised. You will also have meetings with your Academic Supervisor during this time to discuss your field projects.

You will receive the MAE Scholar Guide. This guide provides more detail around the program, its competencies, milestones, assessment methods, and associated administration processes. The guide will help you understand and meet the milestones to complete the program. Please note that this guide is primarily aimed at domestic students— please talk to any member of the Pac-EVIPP+ team or the MAE team if you have any concerns or questions.



## Section 7. More information

You can contact the Pac-EVIPP+ Coordinator via email, Dr Rosalina Sa'aga-Banuve ([Rosalina.Saaga-Banuve@anu.edu.au](mailto:Rosalina.Saaga-Banuve@anu.edu.au)) or MAE administration staff ([mae.nceph@anu.edu.au](mailto:mae.nceph@anu.edu.au)) to answer any questions or address any queries you may have concerning the application process.

For questions related to the application process, please email the MAE program [mae.nceph@anu.edu.au](mailto:mae.nceph@anu.edu.au).

### Websites

For more information, the MAE Program's dedicated website will give you an overview of the projects that previous students have undertaken and where you can read about some of the achievements of the program and experiences of previous students:

[Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology \(MAE\) | ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health](#)

ANU's Programs and Courses page gives an overview of MPhil in Applied Epidemiology: [Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology - ANU](#)

Both ANU websites have a link for online applications.

To find out more about the Pac-EVIPP+ program go to:

[Pacific Evidence for Informed Policies and Programs+ \(Pac-EVIPP+\) | ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health](#)

### ANU Policies

Fellows are covered by several ANU-wide policies relating to higher-degree research students. Policies that apply to Fellows may include Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, Examinations, Graduate Research Rules, Fieldwork health and safety, Immunisation, Insurance, Intellectual property, Occupational Health and Safety, and Privacy. These policies can be accessed through the [ANU Policy Library - Home](#) page.



# Annex 1. Applying online

Please read these instructions carefully before starting your application process.

You must apply online to undertake the Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology program on the ANU website: [Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology - ANU](#)

Before you can proceed, you will be asked to create an account so you can use “ANU Application Manager” to manage your application process.

Please note that the closing date provided for general research scholarship applications **does not** apply to MAE applications. The closing date for MAE applications is **22 July 2025**.

## Section 1

Use the information below to complete Section 1.

1. Program name: Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology
2. Program code: 8721XMPHIL
3. Research discipline field: Select “Applied Epidemiology”
4. Expected commencement year and session: Click “Select intake” and choose “**Summer 2026**”
5. Research discipline: Click “Select Field” choose “Medical and Health Services” and from the secondary list choose “Public Health and Health Services”
6. Briefly describe the area of research you wish to pursue: Enter “Applied Epidemiology” in the free text field.
7. **Do not** upload a research proposal or any other additional information.
8. Provide details of ANU staff consulted: If you have spoken with Dr Rosalina Sa’aga-Banuve, or any other ANU team member, please enter their name here, otherwise leave this field blank.
9. Details of your proposed supervisor: Enter “NA” in this field.
10. Add all relevant details on academic prizes, personal details and citizenship.



## Section 2

Use the information below to complete Section 2.

1. Enter details about your English Language Proficiency using the ANU's "[English language admission requirements for post-admission support](#)" policy as a guide. For this purpose, the MAE program is classified as a Regular Award Program for Graduate Applicants.
2. Enter your academic qualifications (including any current study you are undertaking) and upload coloured copies of transcripts and completion certificates. Please note that colour scanned copies or photographs of originals are sufficient and that Secondary school transcripts are not required.  
If you are undertaking any study at the time of this application, please enter "NO" in the "Completed?" field and provide the date you expect to complete this academic qualification. Please note that you must not undertake, or continue to undertake, any other forms of study whilst enrolled in the MAE Program.
3. Employment details: Select "YES" for employment history relevant to this application" and upload a copy of your resume/CV into the associated drag and drop box.
4. Referees: Provide details (including email addresses) for **three referees**.

Your referees should be emailed a "Referee report form" when you submit your application. However, to ensure your application is complete by submission date, you should email this form (which is part of your application pack) directly to your referees. If you don't have a copy of this form, email the MAE Program [mae.nceph@anu.edu.au](mailto:mae.nceph@anu.edu.au) who will provide you with one.

Once completed your referees must email this form to the MAE Program by **28 July 2025** ([mae.nceph@anu.edu.au](mailto:mae.nceph@anu.edu.au)). The University will not accept referee reports submitted by applicants.

Your application will not be considered without your referee reports.

5. Finance and scholarships: Select "Self-funded"  
"Are you applying under a partnership or articulation" Select "NO"  
Note that every application for this program is automatically considered for a scholarship.

## Section 3

Complete your application by reading the declaration and, if you agree, ticking each box and entering the date when prompted.

When saving your application as a PDF document please don't secure/protect the file.



## Checklist

Please ensure that you have completed each section of the application using the information provided above.

Check you have uploaded the following documents as part of your application:

- ☐ Letter of support from your MOH supervisor.
- ☐ Evidence of your English language proficiency
- ☐ Your current resume/curriculum vitae
- ☐ Clear, coloured copies of all your academic transcripts and completion certificates
- ☐ Details of three referees (names and contact details) on your application.
- ☐ Your responses to the three supplementary questions
  1. Why do you want to study at the ANU?
  2. Why do you want to undertake the MAE program?
  3. How would MAE program contribute to your career aspirations?
  4. What would receiving this fellowship mean to you?
- ☐ Provided the “Referee report form” to each of your three referees with clear instructions for them to email the completed report to the MAE Program [mae.nceph@anu.edu.au](mailto:mae.nceph@anu.edu.au).
- ☐ Ensure your referees have emailed the MAE Program their completed referee report.

