



MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY

JOIN THE DISEASE DETECTIVES

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

The MAE Program is Australia's national Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), joining a global community of 22,000 graduates from over 90 programs.

The National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) at The Australian National University (ANU) has run the MAE since 1991, successfully producing graduates who have made significant contributions to

public health, communicable disease control and health leadership both in Australia and overseas.

NCEPH runs the MAE program in partnership field placement organisations including the Department of Health and Aged Care, State and Territory health department, public health units and research institutions.

Common areas of work during the program include vaccine preventable diseases, food-and waterborne diseases, sexually transmissible infections, non-communicable diseases, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and global health.

The MAE Program is committed to promoting an inclusive and respectful learning experience. We encourage and welcome applications from people of all identities, cultures and lived experiences.

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

Contact

W: [MAE program webpage](#)

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MAE scholars

To date, 320 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, veterinary medicine and ecology, as well as from employment in public health agencies and research institutions to work in field placements across Australia.

Program structure

The MAE is a 22-month research degree that emphasises work-integrated learning - learning at work, from work, and for work. For the duration of the program, MAE scholars undertake a field placement such as in a health department, public health unit, research institute, reference laboratory, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, or other suitable organisation.

The curriculum consists of five coursework subjects delivered as 2 two- week intensives, followed by 2 one-week intensives of on-campus teaching throughout the 22-month program, along with self-directed learning and applied field projects. To demonstrate understanding and application of teaching, field projects are completed. These projects are developed in consultation with field supervisors to meet learning competencies based on 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 34 years, MAE scholars have investigated, responded to, and reported on over 300 outbreaks. During 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, SARS, Diphtheria, Hendra, and COVID-19.

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 who are medical doctors have had their time in the MAE program accredited by the Australian Faculty of Public Health Medicine.

Support for MAE scholars

Scholars are supported by field and academic supervisors for the entirety of the program. MAE scholars may receive a tax-free scholarship of \$66,908 per annum in 2026 (pro rata) + 3.2% increase in 2027, which is provided by the field placement and administered by the ANU. The MAE program is 22 months.

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. In this situation, the field placement provides all financial support including attendance at course blocks.

The field placement

MAE field placements: participate in the process of recruiting and selecting scholars; provide financial support in the form of a scholarship to scholars; work with academic supervisors to 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.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander MAE scholars

The MAE program has a commitment to contributing to the improvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars have completed the program. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

The application process

Admission to the MAE program is competitive. The MAE program accepts a limited number of scholars each year, dependant on the number of field placements available. There is a single intake of MAE scholars each year, which commences in February. NCEPH usually calls for applications for the MAE program from June. All applicants must fill in an online application for the Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology program at ANU and submitted via the ANU admissions portal. Applicants are asked to answer supplementary questions on their motivation to undertake the MAE and whether they would be willing to move interstate for a field placement.

Selecting MAE scholars

The MAE program shortlists applicants for interviews based on demonstrated prior study relevant work experience and response to the supplementary questions. Interviews of shortlisted applicants are held in September and October each year. The placement organisations participate in the selection of scholars in teleconference interviews. This ensures the best match between the scholar and the field placement.

Please see the website for information: [Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology \(MAE\) | ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health](#)

