



WITS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

The Wits School of Public Health offers a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Epidemiology in four fields of study namely: Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Population-based Field Epidemiology, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Research Data Management. The degree focuses on the principles and practice of epidemiology, biostatistics and data management. Epidemiology provides the tools with which to learn about the aetiology and risks of diseases, the opportunities for prevention, the cost and effectiveness of various diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, and the health status of populations. Epidemiology is thus, fundamental to clinical and community medicine as well as public health.

Our teaching programmes are internationally recognised and receive excellent student reviews. They reflect the School's values of social justice, equity and human rights, and responsiveness to the needs of people in South Africa, Africa and beyond. Our graduates are competent in the design and conduct of clinical and population-based epidemiological studies; statistical data analysis; management of large and longitudinal data sets; and effective communication and dissemination of research findings. Our graduates pursue careers in biomedical research, public health, community medicine, academia, government, research organisations, international agencies and non-governmental organisations among others.

Course Structure

The MSc in Epidemiology is offered as a full-time degree over 18 months or as a part-time degree over three years and consists of course work and a research project. The course content in the four fields of study is as follows:

Epidemiology and Biostatistics	Population-based Field Epidemiology	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	Research Data Management
Research ethics and research protocol development			
Core modules in epidemiology; biostatistics; demography			Basic epidemiology and biostatistics
• Selective modules in public health; chronic disease, infectious disease and clinical	• Data management; research leadership; applied field	• Infectious disease epidemiology; modelling of infectious	• Core modules in event history analysis; data management systems; data processing,

epidemiology; clinical trials •Research project	epidemiology •Research project is conducted during a five-month field placement in an INDEPTH-affiliated Health and Demographic Surveillance Site	diseases •Selective modules in clinical trials and in the various data management modules •Research project	distribution and archiving; programming; principles and operations of relational databases •6 months field placement for research project in reputable research institutions, including INDEPTH Network Sites
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Who qualifies for the MSc Epidemiology?

The degree is open to candidates from a range of disciplines including clinical and other health fields (such as microbiology, nutrition, dentistry, etc); statistics; veterinary science and demography. The degree should also appeal to students who want to become more involved in research in the health fields. Applicants must have an MBBCh, MBBS or the equivalent of an honours degree in a health related or quantitative field of study. Relevant work experience will be an advantage.

Applications must include:

- Wits University postgraduate application form. The electronic form is available at: <https://www.wits.ac.za/applications/portal/index>
- Written motivation by the applicant detailing the reasons for applying for the course and how the programme fits into their overall career goals
- Comprehensive curriculum vitae including a description of relevant research and work experience
- Two confidential referee reports
- Certified copies of prior qualification(s)
- Certified copies of transcript(s) of qualification(s)
- Foreign qualifications evaluation (from SAQA) for non-South African applicants
- Certificates of computer courses, English competency and other relevant training

Closing date for applications: 31 July of the year prior to that for which admission is sought.

Financial Support

The School has funding from the Atlantic Philanthropist for tuition for two South African Citizens (up till 2016) enrolled in full time study.

The Population-based Field Epidemiology and the Research Data Management fields of study have funding and field support from the INDEPTH Network. This funding support is for applicants from the INDEPTH Network Sites only.

Information about financial aid is available from the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office.

Tel: +27 11 717 1075/2

E-mail: info.finaid@wits.ac.za

University Accommodation

Applications for accommodation in a Wits residence must reach the Office of Residence Life by 30 September each year.

Tel: +27 11 717 9172/3/4, **Fax:** +27 11 339 8213

E-mail: accommodation@residence.wits.ac.za

International Students

Students from outside South Africa are a vital part of this University. Specific procedures apply to international applicants. For the international students' handbook and other pertinent information, please visit: www.wits.ac.za/internationalstudents

Tel: +27 11 717 1054, **Fax:** +27 11 717 1059

E-mail: studysa.international@wits.ac.za

Contacts:

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or

The Postgraduate Office

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or visit:

http://www.wits.ac.za/academic/health/publichealth/postgraduateprogrammes/10568/msc_epidemiology_programmes.html