

**ICMR School of Public Health**  
**ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY**  
**Second Main Road, TNHB, Ayapakkam, Chennai 600 077**

**Fellowship - Field Epidemiology Training Programme - Non Communicable Diseases**  
**(A Government of India Initiative)**

**Information Brochure - 2019**

**1. INTRODUCTION TO ICMR-NIE**

ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Chennai, is one of the premier institutes of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Department of Health Research, Government of India. The institute's vision is to be a catalyst for a vibrant national health system through responsive research, education and training in epidemiology and public health. In addition to various research activities, ICMR School of Public Health at ICMR-NIE also offers 2-year Master's level public health training affiliated to Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, since 2001 and M.Sc. (Bio-statistics) affiliated to Periyar University, Tamil Nadu, since 2016.

**2. FELLOWSHIP - FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMME - NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

ICMR-NIE has initiated a new training program namely **Fellowship - Field Epidemiology Training Programme - Non Communicable Diseases**. This program is modeled on the India Epidemic Intelligence Service Programme (EIS), a Government of India initiative, in collaboration with US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program is supported and funded by CDC-India and CDC-Atlanta.

**The academic session for the year 2019 will commence from October 2019**

**3. OBJECTIVES OF NCD EPIDEMIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

- Create highly competent NCD field epidemiologists within the public health sector to meet needs of NCD programs
- Strengthen the public health system through NCD field investigations and epidemiological studies throughout the country

During the course, officers will conduct the following activities and become proficient at

- Conducting surveillance data analysis of NCD intervention programs
- Conducting field or outbreak investigation
- Evaluating programs related to NCD
- Conducting planned epidemiologic studies
- Writing scientific abstracts and reports for peer reviewed journals and public health bulletins
- Preparing and delivering oral and poster presentations at national and international conferences

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- (a) Service:** Regular employees of Central/State Health Service or equivalent (autonomous bodies or undertakings) permitted by their employer for the programme.
- (b) Age:** Not exceeding 50 years on the commencement of the academic session (i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019).
- (c) Essential Qualification:** MBBS degree (from recognized institution) with three years of work experience in public health
- (d) Affiliation to NCD Cell at District or State level:** The candidate should be either posted in state/district NCD cell at the time of nomination OR Government should be willing to depute the candidate to state/district NCD cell for the duration of training of 2 years.

#### **5. DURATION**

It is part time program with minimum duration of two years. If candidates are unable to complete all the Core Activity of Learning (CALs), the maximum duration will be three years.

#### **6. CERTIFICATION**

A certificate of completion, jointly signed by ICMR-NIE, India; and CDC, USA, will be awarded to the Officer at the end of two years if he/she has successfully completed all the Core Activity of Learning (CALs)

#### **7. SELECTION PROCESS**

Through preliminary screening, candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria will be shortlisted by a Screening Committee. The Screening Committee will consider the candidate's application, transcripts and other documents submitted with the application. The candidates recommended by

the Screening Committee will be interviewed. The candidates will be examined and selected by the Selection Committee. Desirable qualities include:

- Commitment to a career in public health in India
- Ability to work independently and responsive to supervision
- Problem solving aptitude; computer skills and scientific writing ability

## **8. ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMME**

The salient feature of the training programme is its approach of learning by providing epidemiologic services. The training Programme provides both service and training, but the training is primarily on the job rather than in the classroom. The main focus of the training is to develop skills in applied epidemiologic services under a mentor in the field assignment. Periodic short classroom courses are provided to prepare officers for their field duties. Regularly scheduled seminars provide opportunities for additional instruction, practice presentations, and team building.

The programme duration of two years will comprise of 14 weeks of contact sessions in staggered phases at ICMR-NIE or other institutions. The duration of each contact session would be for a maximum duration of two weeks except for the first contact session which may be for a maximum period of 3 weeks. The Officers will be in their parent department except during the contact sessions.

## **9. ASSIGNMENTS/ PLACEMENTS**

Officers should be placed in the State or District NCD cell for the entire two-year period in their respective states. The NCD epidemiology fellowship officer will work closely with his/her mentor and other supervisors, as assigned, to complete the Core Activity of Learning (CALs) while also contributing to the objectives of the placement sites.

## **10. CORE ACTIVITIES OF LEARNING (CALs)**

The CALs are activities that provide opportunities for NCD epidemiology fellowship officers to develop proficiency in important epidemiologic competencies. They are based on the skills of following competencies needed to do the job of a practicing field epidemiologist once the officer completes the NCD epidemiology fellowship Training Programme.

1. Surveillance data analysis
2. Field/outbreak investigation
3. Program evaluation or surveillance system evaluation

4. Epidemiological study
5. Scientific abstract(s)
6. Scientific presentations
7. Scientific manuscript for peer-reviewed journal

## **11. MENTORSHIP/ SUPERVISION**

Mentorship will be provided by a subject matter mentor in collaboration with the placement site supervisor. The mentors will first participate in a mentor training workshop to provide the expected skills and knowledge about the programme. Back-up supervision and technical support will be provided by ICMR-NIE through identified co-mentors.

## **12. CHARGES**

- a) There is no course fee for the candidates sponsored by the State/Central Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies.
- b) The NCD epidemiology fellowship officers will be provided free accommodation during their visit to ICMR-NIE for the contact session in the NIE hostel. They will be governed by the Terms and Conditions of the ICMR-NIE Hostel.
- c) The NCD epidemiology fellowship officers will be provided free food in the ICMR-NIE Canteen during the contact sessions as per the Terms and Conditions of the Canteen.
- d) Travel expenditure, related to the training activities, incurred by the NCD epidemiology fellowship officers during the entire two-year period will be reimbursed.

## **13. BENEFIT OF NOMINATING AN EMPLOYEE FOR FELLOWSHIP - FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMME - NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

- a) The NCD epidemiology fellowship officers will be able to lead the NCD program, design monitoring systems, analyze and interpret the program data to improve the implementation. They will be involved in these activities during the training period and will continue to use their expertise after the completion of training.

- b) The NCD epidemiology fellowship officers will be highly skilled practicing epidemiologists who will be equipped to use implementation research methods to evaluate the program and design epidemiological investigations.
- c) The NCD epidemiology fellowship officers will aid in strengthening the public health systems capacity and infrastructure of the participating State/organization.
- d) The NCD epidemiology fellowship officers will continue to harness national and international expertise after training

#### **14. NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATION**

**The last date for receipt of nominations at ICMR-NIE is 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.** The nomination letter should indicate the willingness of the state to permit the employee for enrolling in the 2 years part time program, if selected. The candidates will continue to do their duties in the parent department with full salary during the training period.

The nominated candidates may send their applications in the prescribed application form which can be downloaded from the Institute's Website: [www.nie.gov.in](http://www.nie.gov.in)

The soft scanned copy of the application with enclosures should be sent to the following emails: ***nie.eis.ncd@gmail.com, nietraining@nieicmr.org.in***

In addition, hard copy of the application in the prescribed form with necessary enclosures should be sent by Registered/Speed Post to the following address, **super scribing "Application for Fellowship FETP - NCD" on top of the cover.**

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