

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

No.NIE/SPH/06/IEIS/IB/2018/

Date: September 10, 2017

**India Epidemic Intelligence Service (South) Training Programme
(A Government of India Initiative)**

Information Brochure - 2018

01. INTRODUCTION TO ICMR-NIE

ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Chennai, is one of the premier institutes of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). 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.

02. INDIA EIS (SOUTH)

The India Epidemic Intelligence Service Programme (EIS), a Government of India initiative, is modeled on the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). India EIS Programme is a joint venture between India and USA, is aimed at preparing public health professionals in India for leadership positions at district, State and national levels. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, International Health Division, Government of India, vide OM No.GHSA/WFD/1/2016-GHSA Project Cell/IH dated 26 December 2016 has decided to create the South hub of India EIS at ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology in collaboration with CDC. The South hub covers Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry and the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

The academic session for the year 2018 will commence on 1st January 2018.

03. EIS MODEL

The Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was founded in 1951 to provide epidemiologic services and to develop a cadre of experienced epidemiologists for that country. This two-year programme for public health professionals focuses on hands-on training in epidemiologic service to investigate outbreaks; design, conduct, and analyze epidemiological studies; analyze surveillance data and evaluate the systems; communicate their findings in various forums and engage in other activities that prepare them for careers as practicing field epidemiologists. Many EIS Officers have become leaders at

CDC (including the previous CDC Director), WHO, Schools of public health, and other agencies and institutions.

04. OBJECTIVES OF INDIA EIS (SOUTH)

- Create highly competent field epidemiologists within the public health sector to meet national need for public health leaders
- Strengthen the public health system through rapid outbreak response throughout the country
- Facilitate a more integrated approach to public health practice through integration of field and laboratory components

During the two years, officers conduct the following activities and become proficient at

- Conducting outbreak investigations
- Analyzing surveillance data and evaluating surveillance systems
- Conducting planned epidemiologic studies
- Writing scientific reports for peer reviewed journals and public health bulletins
- Preparing and delivering oral and poster presentations at national and international meetings

05. 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 45 years on the date of commencement of the academic session (i.e., 1st January 2018).
- (c) **Essential Qualification:** MBBS degree (from recognized institution) with three years work experience in public health

06. 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 called for interview. 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

07. ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMME

The salient feature of the training programme is its approach of ‘learning by providing epidemiologic services’. The India EIS (South) 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 EIS 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 15 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 4 weeks. The Officers will be in their parent department except during the contact sessions.

08. ASSIGNMENTS/ PLACEMENTS

Officers will be placed in their original place of posting with linkage to the State IDSP unit for the entire two-year period. The India EIS (South) 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.

09. CORE ACTIVITIES OF LEARNING (CALs)

The CALs are activities that provide opportunities for India EIS (South) 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 India EIS (South) Training Programme.

1. Evaluation of a surveillance system
2. Field/outbreak investigation
3. Epidemiological analysis with protocol
4. Oral scientific presentation — long (weekly seminar)
5. Oral scientific presentation — brief (national conference)
6. Scientific manuscript for peer-reviewed journal
7. Scientific abstract(s)

10. 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.

11. CHARGES

- a) There is no course fee for the candidates sponsored by the State/Central Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies.
- b) India EIS (South) 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) India EIS (South) 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 India EIS (South) Officers during the entire two-year period will be reimbursed.

12. 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)

13. BENEFIT OF NOMINATING AN EMPLOYEE FOR THE INDIA EIS (SOUTH) TRAINING PROGRAMME

- a) India EIS (South) trained personnel will be highly skilled practicing epidemiologists who will be equipped to address challenges of priority issues of emerging and reemerging diseases in each State.
- b) India EIS (South) trained personnel will aid in strengthening the public health systems capacity and infrastructure of the participating State/organization.
- c) The Programme will increase visibility of the sponsoring organization at national and international levels as a potential placement for India EIS (South) Officers.
- d) India EIS (South) Officers will continue to harness national and international expertise after training

14. APPLICATION

The prescribed application form can be downloaded from the Institute's Website: www.nie.gov.in

The prescribed application form given in the website or its photocopy alone should be used. Application in any other form will not be considered.

The last date for receipt of completed application at ICMR-NIE is 6th October 2017.

Candidates should submit an advance copy of the application in the prescribed form with necessary enclosures by Registered/Speed Post, to reach ICMR-NIE, directly. The application through proper channel should contain either NOC or a certificate mentioning that the employee will be permitted to do the programme with salary, if selected.

Duly filled in prescribed Application Form with necessary enclosures should be sent to the following address, **superscribing “Application for India EIS (South)” on top of the cover.**

India EIS (South) Program Co-ordinator
ICMR School of Public Health
ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology
Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Ayapakkam
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 077

Email: nieicmr@gmail.com

Phone: 044-26136417 / 26136420

Website: www.nie.gov.in

Fax: 044-26136426