

ICMR School of Public Health
ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
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India Epidemic Intelligence Service (South) Training Programme
(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. 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 academic session for the year 2019 will commence from October 2019.

3. 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 finding 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.

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

- Conducting outbreak investigations
- Analyzing surveillance data and evaluating surveillance systems
- 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

5. 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., 1st October, 2019).

(c) Essential Qualification: MBBS degree (from recognized institution) with three years of work experience in public health

(d) Affiliation to District or State IDSP Cell: The candidate should be either posted in state/district IDSP cell at the time of nomination OR Government should be willing to depute the candidate to state/district IDSP cell for the duration of training of 2 years.

6. 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.

7. 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)

8. 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

9. 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 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.

10. ASSIGNMENTS/ PLACEMENTS

Officers should be placed in the State or District IDSP unit for the entire two-year period in their respective states. 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.

11. 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. Surveillance data analysis
2. Evaluation of a surveillance system
3. Field/outbreak investigation
4. Epidemiological study
5. Scientific abstract(s)
6. Scientific presentations
7. Scientific manuscript for peer-reviewed journal

12. 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.

13. 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.

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

- a) India EIS (South) trained personnel will be able to lead the outbreak investigations, respond to health related emergencies during natural disasters and improve the surveillance system for infectious diseases. They will be involved in these activities during the training period and will continue to use their expertise after the completion of training.
- b) 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.
- c) India EIS (South) trained personnel will aid in strengthening the public health systems capacity and infrastructure of the participating State/organization.
- d) India EIS (South) Officers will continue to harness national and international expertise after training

15. NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATION

The last date for receipt of nominations at ICMR-NIE is 19th 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

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 India EIS (South)” on top of the cover.**

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