



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
**Institute of Tropical & Infectious**  
**Diseases (UNITID)**

**Master of Science Course in**  
**Tropical & Infectious Diseases**  
**(MSc. TID)**

**Introduction**

Infectious pathogens which include bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi are the most frequent and life threatening agents of diseases in the tropics. Of these, the HIV, malaria and tuberculosis cause the highest morbidity and mortality. Many other diseases have emerged, some of which cause epidemics complicating further the situation in resource-limited countries. Bacterial and viral meningitis, yellow fever, rift valley fever and other viral haemorrhagic infections (Ebola and Marburg), and more recently in Kenya the swamp fever (leptospirosis) are among such diseases increasingly becoming common causes of epidemics in Africa south of the Sahara.

Lack of adequate personnel well equipped with innovative approaches in dealing with major communicable and emerging disease problems together with inadequate supply of the relevant infrastructure to fight epidemics further complicates the situation.

The Masters course in Tropical and Infectious Diseases is designed to build core Infectious Disease Control teams consisting of physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, epidemiologists and biologists; capable of predicting disease outbreak, carrying out disease surveillance and controlling disease epidemics. The established core teams will be expected to work closely with the relevant ministries to combat and control diseases. They will also be expected to work with non-

governmental and international organizations to achieve the same goals.

**Objectives**

1. To build capacity for the management and control of outbreaks in infectious diseases.
2. To provide health personnel with in-depth knowledge of infectious agents.
3. To equip trainees with specialized skills in the diagnosis, prevention, control and management of infectious diseases.
4. To equip the trainees with necessary skills to conduct research in infectious diseases.
5. To assist the various government and non-governmental health structures in establishing systems capable of predicting disease outbreaks, surveillance, management and control.

**Who is eligible?**

Candidates eligible for admission into the MSc. TID must have any of the following minimum qualifications from the University of Nairobi or any other universities recognized by the senate of the University of Nairobi:

1. Holders of Bachelors degree in Medicine & Surgery, Dental Surgery, Pharmacy, Nursing Sciences and Veterinary Medicine;
2. Holders of upper second class honours degree in biomedical sciences with at least three years working experience in medical research or in disease control programmes.
3. Holders of lower second class honours degree in biomedical sciences with at least five years working experience in medical research or in disease control programmes.
4. Any other equivalent qualifications to the above from institutions recognized by the Senate.

## Course contents

The MSc. Course in TID consists of fifteen (15) units of sixty (60) hours each, a practicum of 240 hours and project of 320 hours.

The first year of study is by course work, continuous assessment and Part I examinations. A candidate shall only proceed to the second year of study after successful completion of Part I examinations. The following 10 Units are offered during the 1<sup>st</sup> year: Medical Parasitology, Molecular Biology, Medical Entomology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics, Medical Microbiology, Clinical Microbiology, Virology & Prion Infections, Non-Infectious Tropical Conditions, Tropical & Travel Medicine and Immunology.

In the second year of study, the following 5 Units are offered: Tropical Paediatrics & Maternal Health, Social Science & Health, Epidemiology & Statistics, Health Systems Management and Research Methodology. In addition, candidates take up an attachment /practicum in a discipline of their interest. They also develop a research proposal, conduct research, write a dissertation and sit for Part II examinations.

## Mode of delivery

Through lectures, tutorials, seminars/journal clubs, practicals and a research project

## Course Duration

The MSc. TID course covers a minimum of four (4) semesters and a maximum of twelve (12) semesters of fifteen (15) weeks each.

A candidate is required to take minimum of three (3) course units and a maximum of five (5) course units in a semester.

## Fee Structure

1<sup>st</sup> year:

Kenyans (inclusive of tuition, all other university expenses) Ksh. 372,500  
Non Kenyans US\$ 5,962

2<sup>nd</sup> year

Kenyans

Ksh. 494,500

Non Kenyans

US\$ 7,567

## Additional Information

- Allow an additional Ksh. 200,000 (US\$ 2,740) for project expenses.
- Accommodation and living expenses, at least Ksh. 30,000 (US\$ 420) per month.
- Book allowance Ksh. 70,000 (US\$ 960).

## Enquiries

For more information concerning fee details and other issues, please contact:

The Course Coordinator (MSc. TID)  
c/o Institute of Tropical and Infectious Disease (UNITID) at the address below.

## How to apply

Application forms are available at the following addresses:

Director,  
University of Nairobi  
Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (UNITID)  
College of Health Sciences  
P.O. Box 19676 – 00202  
Nairobi.  
Tel + 254 20 2726765  
Fax + 254 20 2726626  
Website: [www.uonbi.ac.ke/UNITID](http://www.uonbi.ac.ke/UNITID)  
Email: [unitid@mail.uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:unitid@mail.uonbi.ac.ke)