

Press alert
July 2020

Created to respond to the urgent needs of students at its schools, IMT's Covid-19 Solidarity Fund, which became operational on 30 March, has distributed over €87,000 in aid so far.

Institut Mines-Télécom acted quickly to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Its Board of Directors voted unanimously to create a Covid-19 Solidarity Fund, ten days after the start of the lockdown. The purpose of this emergency fund is to help students facing social and financial difficulties. The first round of aid was made available in record time, just two weeks after the start of the lockdown!

The priority of this emergency fund is to finance food aid and rent payment. It also helps cover additional costs related to repatriation, in particular for international students, and of purchasing computer equipment to take online courses or examinations in proper conditions. It may also cover healthcare costs.

Solidarity Fund in figures

In thirteen weeks, 113 students have received aid, with an average allocation of €756 and a maximum set at €2,500. In all, over €87,000 has been distributed.

The vast majority of individuals who have received aid are students in the final year of the engineering or Master's program.

The review of the applications has shown that most of the applicants had run out of savings because they had lost their student jobs and/or incurred housing costs for an internship that was interrupted due to the lockdown.

In addition to this financial support, the faculty and staff of IMT have mobilized to support students facing hardship and when necessary, direct them to specific internal contact persons or local organizations (ex: *Resto du Cœur* food bank).

To process the applications more quickly and efficiently, applications from students from all IMT schools are centralized by a single social assistant, who ensures that they fulfill the eligibility criteria (food aid, rent, repatriation) before presenting them to an IMT committee that meets twice a week. Each case is studied in relation to the impact of the health crisis on the student's personal financial situation. So far, 27% of those who have received aid have been scholarship students.

This initiative was created through the institution's own resources as well as through individual donations to Fondation Mines-Télécom. The Fund will be open until 31 August 2020.

About IMT www.imt.fr

Institut Mines-Télécom is a French public higher education institution under the aegis of the Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Digital Sector. It includes 8 engineering schools, 2 subsidiary schools and a network of strategic affiliated partners. Its activities in the fields of engineering and digital technology contribute to training engineers and managers, developing research partnerships, promoting innovation and supporting economic development. Always attentive to the economic world, IMT combines strong academic and scientific legitimacy, close corporate relations and strategic positioning in the key transformations of the 21st century: digital technology, industry, energy and ecology, and education. IMT is a founding member of the Alliance for the Industry of the Future and co-founder of the Franco-German Academy for the Industry of the Future with Technische Universität München (TUM). It is recognized by 2 Carnot Institute certifications for the quality of its partner-based research. Each year, IMT trains over 1,200 students, concludes nearly 70 million research contracts, and hosts some 100 start-ups in its incubators.

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