

## **COVID-19: SKEMA mobilises its stakeholders to distribute 300 social grants to its students**

**Paris, 29 April, 2020: The lockdown imposed due to COVID-19 de facto affects the student community. To help young people and their families affected by the containment measures to cope with this unprecedented situation, SKEMA Business School has mobilised all its stakeholders to gather aid. The objective: allocate 300 "COVID-19" social grants to its students as part of a dedicated SKEMA United solidarity fund.**

SKEMA has a dedicated emergency fund to help its students facing temporary difficulties; however, to cope with the new situation caused by COVID-19, the school has decided to go further. Following the first SKEMA United campaign aimed at raising funds via a community sporting challenge in 2019, SKEMA has decided to mobilise all its stakeholders again via a new aid campaign dedicated to its students.

### **300 SKEMA United social grants fund**

Due to the lockdown, some students temporarily lost their internship allowances or their work-study contracts; some parents, themselves affected the layoff measures linked to COVID-19, can no longer support the daily expenses of their children.

To assist them, SKEMA's Alumni and Sponsorship Department has mobilised the school's stakeholders, which includes 2,500 partner companies, 45,000 alumni, students, as well as the service providers and employees of the school, to gather an emergency fund that will be used to help students in tough situations. Students are invited to submit their assistance request from now on until December 20, 2020. "SKEMA United" grants of €1,000 to €3,000 will be distributed from a total amount of €250,000.

### **Case-by-case decisions**

For the allocation of SKEMA social scholarships, each situation will be examined on a case-by-case basis: breach of internship agreement or work contract for work-study students and apprentices, difficulties in meeting basic needs (payment of rent, food and health costs...), transport costs linked to flights back from abroad or difficulties encountered by the training funders themselves, etc.

In addition to this, SKEMA remains more vigilant than ever in identifying potential complex psychological issues its students might face. In this context, the SKEMA Student Office (referent department for all students) has set up a strong support system in collaboration with all the internal and external structures of the school.

Alice Guilhon, dean of SKEMA explains: "Through the SKEMA United initiative, SKEMA asserts its societal commitment and its mission towards its students during a period where solidarity is the only way to overcome difficulties."

"The entire SKEMA community is aware of the challenges surrounding education and intends to mobilise an unprecedented effort to counter the adverse economic consequences that confinement has had on its students," adds Madeleine Martins, SKEMA alumni and fundraising director.

### **Blockdown and pedagogical continuity**

After the temporary closure of its Suzhou (China) campus in mid-January, SKEMA had set up a distance learning system to ensure the educational continuity of its 550 students at this campus. But with the announcement of the closure of higher education schools in France, then successively in the USA, Brazil and South Africa, where the school has established its campuses, SKEMA rapidly switched to a "100% remote teaching mode" for nearly 70 different programmes, some of which comprise multiple groups. SKEMA currently delivers an average of 250 different courses each day. By the end of the semester in late April, more than 6,000 sessions will have been delivered to nearly 7,000 students.

### **About SKEMA Business School:**

With 8,500 students of 120 nationalities and 45,000 graduates in 145 countries, SKEMA Business School is a global school which, through its research, its 50 teaching programs, its international multi-site structure trains and educates the talents that it needs. 21st century businesses. The school is now present on 7 sites: 3 campuses in France (Lille, Sophia-Antipolis, Paris), 1 in China (Suzhou), 1 in the United States (Raleigh), 1 in Brazil (Belo Horizonte) and 1 in South Africa (Cape Town - Stellenbosch). In September 2019, the school announced the establishment in Montreal of SKEMA GLOBAL LAB in Augmented Intelligence, its augmented intelligence research laboratory and its new R&D center: SKEMA Quantum Studio.

SKEMA is multi-accredited - EQUIS, AACSB and EFMD Accredited EMBA. Its programs are recognized in France (Visa, Master Degree, RNCP, CGE label), as well as in the USA (licensing), Brazil (certificação) and China.

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