



IAPM
Interregional Academy of
Personnel Management



The Student Hunger Intervention Programme of the IAPM Reviewed: October 2024

The Student Hunger Intervention Programme of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management (IAPM) represents a comprehensive institutional framework designed to prevent and mitigate student food insecurity and undernutrition through sustainable and inclusive mechanisms of social, educational, and health support. The initiative directly aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2 “Zero Hunger” and fully complies with the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026 methodology, which emphasizes the existence, evidence, and public accessibility of policies addressing hunger among students. The programme is embedded in the broader institutional strategy of IAPM to create an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable academic environment that ensures access to nutritious, affordable, and locally sourced food for all students, while promoting health, academic performance, and social justice.

At the core of the programme lies the understanding that hunger and malnutrition constitute critical barriers to student well-being, learning outcomes, and equality of opportunity. Therefore, IAPM defines food security as continuous physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets individual dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life. Sustainable food choices are defined as diets that have low environmental footprints and contribute to food system resilience through the use of local sourcing, organic agriculture, seasonal produce, and waste minimization. The concept of a healthy diet is operationalized as balanced nutrition based on a diversity of grains, fruits, vegetables, proteins, and dairy products, promoting both physical and mental well-being.

To achieve its objectives, the programme establishes several interlinked pillars of intervention. The first is the creation of a permanent Student Food-Assistance Centre under the Department of Student Affairs. This centre coordinates institutional actions aimed at identifying, assisting, and monitoring students at risk of food insecurity. It maintains a confidential database, processes requests for support, and cooperates with municipal social services and community organizations. The second component is the Subsidised Meals Scheme implemented in university canteens. It

offers affordable, nutritionally balanced menus, including vegetarian and low-carbon options, emphasizing sustainable procurement and local agricultural partnerships. The menus are periodically reviewed by dietitians and student representatives to ensure dietary adequacy, cost-effectiveness, and environmental responsibility. Portion control mechanisms and composting practices are introduced to reduce food waste, which is separately tracked and reported to the Sustainability Office.

The third component involves the Food Bank and Donation Network. This mechanism engages university departments, local supermarkets, food producers, and civic organizations in collecting and redistributing surplus and non-perishable food. The system operates under principles of hygiene, traceability, and transparency and directly supports students from vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds. The fourth intervention—Emergency Meal Vouchers—provides immediate financial or in-kind assistance for students who experience temporary hardship, sudden unemployment, or family crises. The procedure is confidential, fast, and based on verified social assessments conducted jointly by the Student Affairs Office and the Rector’s Commission on Social Support.

The educational dimension of the programme is realised through continuous Nutrition Education and Awareness Campaigns that cultivate food literacy and healthy lifestyle habits. Workshops, open lectures, and social media campaigns cover themes such as balanced nutrition, food hygiene, waste reduction, composting, food storage, and sustainable diets. Integration with academic disciplines such as public health, environmental studies, and social policy strengthens interdisciplinary learning and civic engagement. These initiatives are complemented by the Healthy Campus Cafeteria Standard—a voluntary accreditation for on-campus vendors meeting defined sustainability and nutrition benchmarks, including the reduction of single-use plastics, promotion of fair-trade and organic products, and application of energy-efficient kitchen technologies. The standard contributes to broader institutional goals related to carbon neutrality and responsible consumption.

The implementation of the Student Hunger Intervention Programme is overseen by the Vice-Rector for Educational Work in partnership with the Student Welfare Committee, the Sustainability Office, and the Public Health Department. Collaborative partnerships are established with the Kyiv Municipal Social Service Centre, Food Bank Ukraine, the Red Cross Youth Movement, and local agricultural cooperatives participating in IAPM’s sustainable procurement initiative. The involvement of student volunteers, clubs, and associations such as “Healthy Campus” and “Green Academy” ensures active peer-to-peer communication and continuous feedback from beneficiaries. These partnerships strengthen community ties and integrate IAPM into the local and national ecosystem of sustainable development actions.

Expected outcomes of the programme include a measurable decrease in the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition among students, improved access to

healthy and affordable meals, and increased awareness of sustainable food systems. Quantitatively, IAPM aims to reduce the proportion of students reporting food insecurity by at least thirty percent by 2026 through targeted interventions, improved meal affordability, and effective communication channels. The long-term outcomes encompass enhanced academic performance, psychological stability, and participation in university life, all of which are interdependent with adequate nutrition. Furthermore, the initiative reinforces IAPM's contributions to national strategies on food security and public health and aligns with Ukraine's commitments under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Monitoring, evaluation, and evidence generation are integral elements of the programme. The Sustainability Office coordinates an annual survey assessing food access, dietary diversity, and satisfaction with campus meal services. Quantitative indicators include the number of subsidised meals served, beneficiaries of emergency vouchers, volume of food redistributed through the Food Bank, and proportion of food waste composted. Qualitative assessments measure changes in student awareness, behavioural shifts towards sustainable diets, and satisfaction with institutional support. Collected data are compiled into an annual public report verified by the internal audit unit and shared with external stakeholders, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance with international evidence standards.

In addition to direct interventions, the programme promotes systemic change in food governance at IAPM. Procurement procedures now incorporate sustainability clauses prioritising local suppliers and environmentally responsible packaging. Staff training modules address nutrition, inclusiveness, and waste management. These actions contribute to the university's integrated environmental management system and fulfil criteria of cross-cutting relevance to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). The programme also contributes to the academic curriculum through elective courses and research projects on food security, agroecology, and sustainable consumption patterns, linking practice with research and education.

The Student Hunger Intervention Programme therefore stands as a comprehensive institutional response to the complex challenge of food insecurity among students. By combining social assistance, sustainable food management, health education, and partnerships with community actors, IAPM ensures that no student faces hunger or malnutrition while pursuing higher education. The university's approach unites ethical responsibility, scientific evidence, and operational efficiency within a single framework that embodies the principles of equality, sustainability, and human dignity.