

As part of the INSA Group, France's leading provider of single-tier graduate engineering education comprising 6 HEIs, the mission of INSA-Rouen is to train students to become skilled professionals ready to make a positive contribution to society, by providing them with excellent scientific knowledge, technical skills, experience of industry, and an ability to communicate effectively with people from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

This implies that international experience, whether abroad or at INSA-Rouen, is a key element in our strategy, as shown by :

- high percentage (currently 23%) of incoming international students on campus
- 100% outgoing mobility policy (minimum 3 months duration) adopted and implemented as of 2012

Profiles of incoming and outgoing students at INSA Rouen:

-Exchange students, (years 3, 4 and 5), for study only, or for study followed by an industry placement

-Double/joint degree students, (years 3, 4 and 5)

-Doctoral students

(n.b. Additional non-Erasmus incoming-only profiles:

Degree students recruited at post-secondary level; Recent graduates from partner HEIs in developing countries, enrolling at Master's level.

Additional outgoing-only profile :

Students doing work placements/internships abroad , years 1, 3, 4 and 5)

Choice of partners and target areas:

Both exchange and double/joint degree mobilities are based on partnerships between HEIs and INSA-Rouen, or with the INSA Group; the latter being developed extensively in recent years as part of the policy to develop a strong, well-recognised group identity.

Our target countries for Erasmus mobilities in the coming period are :

1/ EU countries, with the setting-up of INSA-Group partnerships in particular

2/ neighbouring countries (Maghreb, especially Morocco)

3/ emerging economies (Latin America & the Caribbean, China)

-Our partner HEIs all provide quality engineering education to the same level as the INSA "Diplôme d'Ingénieur" (Master's degree), even when the mobilities take place at B.Sc. level.

-The study programmes offered must be compatible with the requirements of the CTI, French body in charge of the accreditation of engineering degree programmes.

-To ensure quality of programmes and mutual recognition of studies, our partnerships are mostly set up within the framework of a multilateral programme (Erasmus;Brafitec, Arfitec with Latin American countries; CREPUQ with Quebec...) or bilateral agreements supported by the French government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or Ministry of Higher Education, with Morocco; Dominican Republic; Franco/Chinese Doctoral School...).

-We choose partner HEIs where the language of instruction is a language taught at INSA (English, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Italian) whatever the language of the country.

-We seek to maintain a sufficiently large number of partnerships to avoid 'mass mobilities' towards a single destination. When many places are offered they are always in a wide variety of disciplines.

-We seek to identify HEIs with similar or complementary programmes to ours, ideally presenting potential for synergies and reciprocity in terms of numbers.

Double/joint degrees

We establish privileged relations with a limited number of partners with a view to designing and implementing double/joint degree programmes (masters). Our goal is to set up a double or joint degree programme in each of the 7 fields of engineering education at INSA.

Double degree programmes are preferred to joint degrees, as they are more flexible and easier to implement, each participant being required to comply with the demands of the two programmes.

Joint degrees are recognised as being more beneficial in the sense that fully integrated joint curricula allow students to gain a deeper understanding of the partner country's culture, but at INSA their number is necessarily limited due to material and logistical constraints. We thus have just one long-standing partner HEI with whom we have two bilateral joint degree programmes currently running, and a third awaiting accreditation from the CTI and the Franco/German University.

Industry placement mobilities

-Most of our partner HEIs have, like us, industry placements as an integral part of the curricula, allowing students from each institution to study for one or two semesters and then benefit from the extensive network of industrial partners to gain experience of the workplace.

-Each departments has a data-base of European and international companies which have hosted INSA students in the past for one of the 3 mandatory placements in the curriculum, but also French companies. We are thus able to assist partner HEIs in finding companies willing to host their students.

Staff mobilities

Teaching staff are actively involved in mobility actions, both study and work placements. We intend in the future to promote teaching mobility exchanges more strongly, and to foster greater participation of administrative staff in staff training weeks.

In addition to mobility actions, and building on its experience in past Tempus programmes, INSA Rouen intends to apply to take part in cooperation projects implemented under the programme involving EU partners and non-EU countries, particularly within two of its fields of expertise, which are (in order of priority) :

-curriculum development, incorporating two elements: the involvement of industrial partners and teacher training, for and with EU partners and engineering HEIs in neighbouring countries and third countries

-quality management in higher education for greater employability of graduates

Participation in such actions is expected to bring real benefits to all partners involved by enabling the wide sharing of good practices, and encouraging innovation. We expect Erasmus+ 2014 - 2020 to enable our institution to reach more effectively its objectives concerning internationalisation as stated at the start of this declaration.

New practices in teaching gleaned from best practices of partners and enhanced mobility possibilities should increase attractiveness of our programmes and institution in general. For example, increasing the number of courses offered in English - a request often made by prospective partners- will impact the perception local and international students have of our institution, confirming its 'international' character.

The adoption of new practices, and deeper collaborations in teaching and in research training, will also ensure that graduates receive a quality, all-round education, in which they acquire high-level scientific knowledge, technical skills and transferable interpersonal skills which will prepare them effectively for employment and for adapting to change as they move through their careers.

Increased study and placement opportunities abroad means INSA students will all be able to spend a significant period abroad, acquiring essential skills for their future careers whatever the area of engineering. These include autonomy, cultural awareness, adaptability and interpersonal communication skills. Course leaders at INSA will be led to cooperate more extensively with EU and non-EU partners on curriculum development, particularly -but not exclusively- within the framework of double degrees.

The programme will provide greater opportunities for students to benefit from a well-structured experience in industry as an integral recognised part of their engineering education, figuring in the Degree Supplement issued with their Diplôme d'Ingénieur" degree.

It will also incite INSA-Rouen academic programme developers, and applied researchers at our R&D centres who are already closely involved in INSA teaching, to involve increasingly industry partners (ranging from start-ups to multinationals), thus strengthening the "knowledge triangle".

To implement the strategies planned in the framework of the new Erasmus Charter new measures will be implemented to streamline procedures, in collaboration with the INSA Quality Assurance team. Online solutions (application forms, data gathering, statistical tools...) will be adopted to simplify and speed up the organization of mobility (incoming and outgoing).

Regarding funding, efforts will be made

-to seek complementary sources at the local, national and international levels,

-to pool resources and cost-effectiveness by, for example, co-organizing activities with local HEIs, (e.g.'Staff Training Weeks' with the CESAR, Rouen HEI network comprising 11 members), and with our INSA Group partners.