

My ISAT experience

The “Institut Supérieur de l'Automobile et des Transports” is an engineering school specialised in automotive engineering and transportations. The courses offered range from aerodynamics over thermal exchangers to vehicle dynamics and are usually taught in lectures that are accompanied by guided exercises and often practical work. All courses are taught in French, so it's definitely recommended to already have a certain proficiency in French before the semester starts. The classes are pretty small so it's easy to find friends and get help from the teacher and other students alike.

The school is equipped with several computer rooms, a dedicated canteen, an experimental hall where a lot of the practical work is done and a library where you can, for example, meet with the other students to work on the group projects.

The school also offers a variety of sports activities like badminton, volleyball, mountain bike tours and many more. In addition to that, there is a weight room that is available to all students for free. For me it was a great way to meet new people through sports especially students from different years and promotions.

The city itself isn't very large so everything is accessible by foot or bike. Every Thursday there is a student night in one of the bars in the city centre, although oftentimes there are courses the following morning. Still, it's a good way to meet up with your friends and talk a little over a beer.

During the summer semester there were two vacation periods that can be used to catch up with the courses, but also to visit some of the great cities that France has to offer. I managed to visit Dijon, Paris and Lyon and was able to experience some of the history and beautiful scenery. The students in Nevers come from all over France and it was great to have friends showing me their hometowns, that made it that much more special.

In general, I'm very happy that I chose to come to ISAT, and I had a great time in France. My French improved a lot over the course of the semester since I was surrounded by French all the time. I met a lot of nice people and I was really impressed by the general openness and friendliness of the French. It was a lot of work during the semester to keep up with all the courses, but I also learned a lot of new things and the courses were interesting. I would say that, in general, the grades are probably a little lower than where I'm from so it's more difficult to get good grades, but it is certainly possible to pass all the courses with decent results.

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