

The INSA charter

The INSA Charter states precisely what the INSA (National Institutes of Applied Sciences) are and what they wish to become. In this manner the INSA establishments assert their collective identity, their orientations and present their medium and long run objectives. The Charter is intended for all INSA partners, in France in Europe and abroad, with an objective of communication and transparency. It also concerns the whole INSA community – students, personnel and engineers – in order to contribute in the development of a common INSA culture.

INSA Engineers

INSA engineers combine advanced knowledge and competences in one or several fields of engineering with a well balanced general knowledge with respect to sciences, technology, management and human aspects. They are experts in their fields of specialisation and are well equipped to evolve in their careers and to take advantage of the flow of information they will continuously receive during their life time.

Fully aware of their human and social responsibilities, INSA engineers are apt at grasping modern society's stakes and issues and at making decisions accordingly. Their competences permit them to adapt to many situations, evolve in complex or uncertain contexts, understand other people, manage projects and motivate teams of collaborators.

These engineers are a driving force for their companies in which they are capable of defending their point of view and of introducing qualitative leaps. INSA engineers are well prepared to work in European and international contexts as they have been trained in multilingual communication skills and are familiar with work in different cultures.

INSA engineering students

Recruitment

The recruitment of engineering students is common to all INSA establishments and is made at the level of the Baccalauréat (Secondary School/High School graduation) for approximately 70% of students. Various possibilities for recruitment at INSA are offered to students from other French and foreign higher education establishments.

Largely open to the world the INSA have for objective to recruit 20% of foreign students.

Reveal and develop talents and personalities, encourage social awareness and openness.

During their entire engineering training course at INSA, students receive support for defining and developing their professional and personal projects. Associative activities, campus life and participation in the democratic bodies present at INSA also contribute greatly in this respect.

Students are actors of their own academic curriculum: INSA endeavours to satisfy their wishes and to offer personalised training wherever possible.

Recruitment procedures include criteria that are not only academic in nature: experience in sports, arts, culture are also taken into consideration, as well as associative and humanitarian activities, personality, motivation, personnel project, aptitude for the engineering profession ... They are organised so as to facilitate admission of students from all social backgrounds to the INSA Engineering Universities.

INSA establishments

Training, pedagogy and social awareness

Training is organised over a period of 5 years with a progressive specialisation that respects, as far as possible, students' wishes with regards their specialisation. In addition to the scientific and technological disciplines, human, social and management sciences are an integral part of the curriculum.

The establishment endeavours to implement an active and motivating pedagogical approach: learning through projects, personal achievements, teamwork, and use of IT, in particular as applied to learning.

A majority of students benefit from on-campus accommodation in order to encourage social interaction and the development of a common INSA culture. Engineering students' associative and extracurricular activities are considered to play an important role in the overall training and are encouraged in various fields: sports, culture, techniques, arts and humanitarian...

All INSA establishments encourage their students to undertake an academic and/or industrial placement period of at least three months in a foreign country during the course of their studies. They entertain active relations with top level higher education establishments abroad. The intensity and variety of these relations are sufficient to satisfy all mobility requests. The INSA establishments strive to satisfy engineers' and executives' training needs continuously during their entire career.

Pluridisciplinary

Each INSA establishment is both polytechnic and pluridisciplinary. Their vocation is to cover a large spectrum of Engineering Sciences and offer specialisations in various engineering fields. Five specialisation fields and approximately 1 000 engineering students on-campus represent a minimum requirement in order to ensure:

- a truly pluridisciplinary offer,
- a critical size in order to justify international standing,
- the pooling of resources,
- a credible partnership with the industrial sector and foreign establishments.

Research and partnership

The INSAs are committed to high level scientific and technological research in order to serve social and economic development simultaneously to the training of engineers. The research themes pursued at INSA offer a high potential in terms of application and aim at providing solutions to our society's social and economic challenges and issues, while at the same time maintaining a unique scientific aspect.

To this effect, the permanent educational staff is composed for the most part of personnel who are both researchers and lecturers.

The INSAs actively contribute to the technological, economic and cultural development of the regions in which they are implanted. In this respect, they are driven by a motivation to offer their scientific and technological competences to their environment in a spirit of openness, dialogue and partnership with the actors of local economic development. The INSAs are equipped with appropriate interfacing facilities (transfer, valorisation) and largely encourage the creation of enterprises.

Cultural events and students associations play a central role in the life of all INSA establishments, complementary to that of the local councils.

The INSA network

Network of establishments

As of December 2003 the INSA network comprises five establishments located in Lyon, Rennes, Rouen, Strasbourg and Toulouse. They federate closely, thus combining the flexibility and reactivity of medium sized establishments with the outlook of the largest engineering training network in France.

In addition to a common recruitment procedure, the INSAs also coordinate their operations in several areas and encourage exchanges of both students and educational staff.

Together they build for example:

- common communication tools: Internet portals and websites, documents, events,
- consultations pertaining to strategic objectives and coordination of pedagogical evolutions,
- a digital campus intended both for initial training and continuous training, as well as a common pool of scientific and pedagogical documents,
- combined actions towards various partners.

The "Partner Establishments" programme permits the INSAs to integrate new establishments and partners in their network through a formalised process. The INSAs therefore actively participate in the modelling of the landscape of French engineering training programmes.

INSA engineering students' network

The students of the different INSAs organise cultural and sports events in common.

They maintain regular relations between the students' offices and between their different associations.

INSA engineers' network

The federation of INSA Engineers is organised as a group of associations connected to the establishments, also as regional groups. It entertains close relations with the INSAs in the following fields:

- contribution to the think tank concerning required evolutions, in particular pertaining to the training of INSA engineers: continuing education, validation of acquired experience (VAE),...
- mobilisation of INSA engineers for projects concerning the development of the INSA establishments.

INSA engineers partake in the life of their respective establishments as members on different committees and as members of the recruitment Juries. They also intervene on educational aspects, in particular in the supervision of students' projects.