I’m **Lise** from INSA of Toulouse in France and I did my exchange in TTY for the whole year in my 3rd year of the engineering school.

During my 2nd year, I had to choose a place where I wanted to do my semester abroad in relation with Bioengineering. I picked Finland for three main reasons:

- The main point of my exchange was to learn English and I heard that in Finland everyone is good at it
- To try a completely different environment, colder and quieter than my home country
- To have an opportunity to visit Russia

After few months, the environment (relaxing), the university, the ambiance (full of events) and the mood of people (peaceful) convinced me to stay one more semester and accomplish the full year in TTY.

In my home school, there are two options for Bioners. For the 2nd and 3rd year students, the major is called “Chemical, Biochemical and Environmental Engineering”. Then, you specialize during the 4th in either “Process and Environment Engineering” or “**Biological Engineering**”. So, basically between YKI and Bioner. And the courses related to this are the following:

**BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING**

**Theme 1: Biotechnology**
- Cellular metabolism & regulation (I4GBBC11) | 4 ECTS
- Bioseparation, Enzymatic kinetics and Genetic Regulation (I3BEBC31) | 7 ECTS
- Microbial & Mammalian Cells Culture (I4GBBC31) | 7 ECTS
- Genetic & Enzyme Engineering: tools for synthetic biology (I4GBBM21) | 4 ECTS

**Theme 2: Microbiology & Industrial Biocatalysis**
- Microbiology & biocatalysis for industry (I5GBBC11) | 12 ECTS
- Microbiology & biocatalysis for industry: lab work (I5GBBC21) | 12 ECTS

**Theme 3: Synthetic Biology**
- Systems & Synthetic Biology for biotechnologies (I5GBBM11) | 12 ECTS
- Systems & Synthetic Biology: lab work (I5GBBM21) | 12 ECTS

By the way, the teachers are researchers or engineers themselves, so you can be sure that they know what they are teaching. Moreover, in this major, they are working in the LISBP laboratory located in
the campus. Finally, the university has a lot of materials and machines (more of less recent) that you learn how to use and interpret for the good of all!

Do not look for guilds, they do not exist! In TTY, as a student you can take courses from every year which creates a cohesion between people of the same guild. Whereas in INSA your study plan is made by the school and your basically stay with the people of your year who study the same.

Well, as a part of studying, you still must achieve a decent student life and be “cooked” in our French southern culture. And to do so, look for the clubs! [https://etud.insa-toulouse.fr/~amicale/clubs/liste]. INSA has plenty of them managed by the students which organize all the events, united and create the student culture. Let’s compare the two universities to have some point of reference.

The similarities:

1- SPORT: **L’AS (Association Sportive)** replaces Turvoke.

If you are interested in sports; Handball, soccer, Badminton, tennis, judo and much more are available! Don’t hesitate to try rugby, the most famous one in Toulouse! You just have to pay 35€ for the year and you can play as much sport as you wish.

2- EXCHANGE STUDENT: **BEE** (Bureau des Etudiants Etrangers) is your INTO.

This club will guide you all around the campus and meet other exchange students!

3- Wappu escape becomes **Ins’cape Games** during the all year!
4- TTHP is **Club ski** and **Club montagne**
5- Wappu can be assimilated to **Les 100 tours**.

Lots of activities are organized during a week end; food-trucks, base jump, concerts and other sports!

6- The events such as RekomBIONaatio where all the students studying the same field join each other are replaced by events where the five INSAs of France meet: **High Five** (sport event), **Interzik’ettes** (music event) etc...
7- L’**Amicale** is your Student Union.
8- THE TUTORS

In TUT they are responsible for the integration of dozens of fukiis from each guild. Here, we have one tutor for one freshman who present the school, the student life, facilities and integrate the student.

9- INTEGRATION WEEK

Many activities are organized to enable the freshmen to know each other during the first week of the year. In addition, we also have a week end out of the city (usually next to a lake) where the freshmen and tutors have fun all together!

The bonus:

10- Want to travel and help people? Look for **Le pôle humanitaire**.

It’s a humanitarian aid for populations in India, Senegal, Peru and Laos. As a member, you organize events and build your projects all along the year and go during summer to the place to help the people!

11- Want to help homeless people? **Les Enfoiros** is looking for you!
Your goal as a member is to organize events and actions in order to help the famous organization Les Restaurants du Coeur and homeless people. One of the biggest events is a show organized by students in March or April! (You have to go there)

12- Every Tuesday, PARTY!!

The club INSA Bar Team organizes every week party in the room and bar of the university. Cheap beers, music and enjoyment will be there! Furthermore, before each holiday (October, Christmas, February, Easter and Summer) a big party is organized to unite all students, drink, dance and relax before the break!

13- Want to play music or just enjoy it? Join MIT (Musiciens de l’INSA Toulouse) and club ZIK

These clubs are responsible for giving music classes for different instruments and level of practice or just go to concerts in the city!

14- The French food!!

Enjoy the famous Cassoulet from Toulouse, nice crepes, good wine, cheese, bread and all other amazing delicious meals that this country offers you (it’s definitely worth it!)

15- Sun of the south!

The environment is completely different than in Finland, beware! Don’t expect any snow during winter (December- February), only a fresh, dry and windy weather (0°C minimum). The sun warms the place the rest of the year, going up to over 30°C in summertime.

What do you need to go there?

- A good English is enough to follow the courses, but you should have also basics in French.
- A big stomach to enjoy all the French food.

Finally, I will simply say that doing an exchange is definitely worth it. Based on my experience, it helps me a lot being more independent, open-minded and curious. Alone, you must dare talking to people and be judgeless about their traditions. It’s important to meet the exchange student to discover new cultures, points of views and share your experiences of different countries but do not forget to be into the culture of the country. One of my best decision has been to get into BIONER guild and make Finnish friends and “get dipped” in the Tekkariculture of TUT (jaloviina, Kyykkä, floorball, saunas, Wappu...).