

An overview of IUTs

Presentation by Roland Pelurson (ADIUT) in Colmar on 3rd December

IUTs, which are all individually attached to a university, are spread all over the territory making up a network of 115 institutes, receiving 143,000 students. To join an IUT, students go through a selection process.

After joining the IUT, they prepare a 2-year degree called DUTs (Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie) in 663 departments organized around one speciality.

The IUTs have also an offer of 800 Professional Bachelors (3-year degree) a bachelor created in 1999.

They also home 160 laboratories.

Their mission is to train future middle managers in the industrial and service sectors. The curriculum is centered on professional life but academic and fundamental knowledge is also largely taken in account: it enables students to adapt to new situations in a more and more complex environment.

The objective is to develop knowledge and acquire skills which are defined jointly with the corporate world.

Original teaching practices mix lectures (20%), seminars (40%), field work (40%) for a total of 1800 hours in the industrial DUTs and 1620 hours for the service DUTs over the 2 years and a training session of 10 weeks.

For the PB it is a total of 450 teaching hours and a 14 week placement.

The teaching staff includes university teachers and corporate experts.

National governing bodies maintain the system consistent, such as the Organisation of IUT directors (ADIUT), the Organisation of IUT presidents (UNPIUT) or the Organisation of heads of department (Assemblée des chefs de department).

A “Commission Consultative Nationale” is consulted on the relevance and evolution of all DUTs, whereas another commission has the same function for a specific DUT. This enables to have a national degree with the same curriculum all over the country.

Since they were created in 1966, the IUTs have developed partnerships with many countries in the domains of pedagogical engineering (Morocco, Tunisia, Mexico, Brazil...), student mobility (China, Vietnam, Mexico, Thailand, Gabon,...) and staff mobility.

The close-knit network of the IUTs present in all areas and its cooperation with companies explain why it has been a major actor for the economic growth of territories and a crucial actor of social promotion: it has enabled many lower class students to access university. The opportunity of short studies or long studies is something which appeals to these students.

The high teaching standards of the IUTs is acknowledged both by the students and the corporate world. A large number of our students continue successfully their studies at Bachelor or Master levels, but 90% of those who want to apply for a job find one within 6 months.