2018/2019 autumn in Lyon, France

During the semester I studied at Sciences PO Lyon University (Institut d’Études Politiques) in Lyon, France. It was a great experience, especially because all my courses were taught in French so I could improve my language skills.

The city
The city is a really nice city with two rivers flowing through it. The western side of the city is more mountainous providing a great view of the surroundings (see picture below). When the weather is warm, people sit next to the river bank to enjoy some drinks with friends and to have a chat. It is also a great program to go up the mountain with the funicular or to walk between the two rivers in the city center.

Transportation
The four metro lines facilitate the everyday life of the citizens. Monthly transportation costs around 30 EUR. Moreover, the Vélo’v service provides thousands of bikes and hundreds of bike stations around the city (see picture below). It is really worth it subscribing as a one-year membership only costs around 17 EUR. Between one of the city’s train stations (Part Dieu) there are trains going to the airport every 15 minutes. A ticket costs between 13-16 EUR and the trip takes around 30 minutes. Between Budapest and Lyon there are direct planes 3 times a week (Easyjet). From Lyon one can also go to many other cities easily with plane, bus (ex: Flixbus) or train (ex: Ouigo).

The university
The university first looked pretty old for me and reminded me rather of an old primary school or a hospital. However, when it is filled with students it really has a vibrating atmosphere and becomes a building full of different ideas, different opinion and different students. There are many student organisations that one can join. The workers in the Student Mobility Office are quite helpful, however, administration is sometimes difficult as foreign students received a list of the available courses only a few days before the beginning of the semester.

Things to do
One can find a nice opera, various museums and theaters in the city. I also attended various football and rugby matches here. It is especially good to be in the city in December when the Feast of Light takes place with 45-50 different points where with illuminated buildings and decorations. From Lyon it is highly recommended to visit the Southern coast of France (Marseille, Monaco, Nice etc.) and the Alps (Annecy in France and Geneva in Switzerland).