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Roskilde University

- a brief introduction



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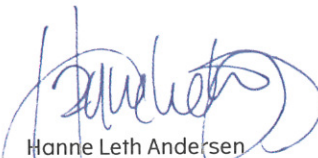
The educational principles of RUC are interdisciplinarity, problem-based approaches and group work



Roskilde University, abbreviated to RUC according to its original name, Roskilde University Centre, is a state university founded in 1972 with the objective of setting new standards in educational principles, by breaking with traditional university practices and embracing student involvement.

Even today, the characteristic educational principles of RUC are interdisciplinarity, problem-based approaches and group work; it is known for its unique approach to education and research, and for educating graduates who are in demand by employers for their strong, interdisciplinary competences and their teamwork skills.

The university is research-driven and proud to provide a strong link between research and teaching, contributing to experimental, innovative forms of learning and knowledge creation.



Hanne Leth Andersen
Rector



We move society forward with new and experimental forms of learning, research and development

A distinguishing feature of the research conducted at RUC is the classic, in-depth study method, combined with a problem-oriented, interdisciplinary approach.

Since the establishment of the university, new interdisciplinary research fields have been developed in connection with programmes such as Cultural Encounters, International Development Studies, Performance Design and Journalism.

Research at RUC is problem-oriented and interdisciplinary. RUC has a long-standing engagement in public governance research, service innovation research and materials research, and has also invested in new and promising fields of research such as Global Dynamics, Environmental Risk, Designing Human Technologies, and Power, Media & Communication.

We educate competent, interdisciplinary graduates for future society

Through its very existence, RUC has in many ways represented a challenge to the traditional mindsets and practices in university education in Denmark. Education at RUC is based on the following core principles:

Interdisciplinarity and problem-orientation: The traditional academic division into disciplines has been replaced by an interdisciplinary focus on problems to be analysed and solved. Just as in the university's research, students are encouraged to demonstrate how different theoretical approaches may contribute to the understanding of a specific problem.

Project work: Students are trained to organize problem-oriented projects and to prepare written project reports, setting out the results they have achieved through their surveys and analyses.
Group work: Group work is the basic study method throughout the study programme, whereby students learn the importance of cooperation and responsibility.

Close interrelation between research and education: At RUC, researchers are attached to the individual project groups as supervisors. The supervisor actively cooperates with the group in his/her role as a consultant and knowledgeable discussion participant.

Facts

Students

7,650

Total number of enrolled students

4,600

Bachelor students

3,050

Master students

825

International students

Staff

1,025

Total full time equivalent staff

650

Academic staff

400

Technical and administrative staff

290

PhD students and postdocs



We interact with society



Interaction with society is crucial, both for our research environment and in order to create jobs for alumni. Strong relations with enterprises offer students the opportunity to work with projects about real life problems. The enterprises receive a valuable critical evaluation of their problems and the students are provided with an opportunity to apply theoretical ideas to real-life challenges.

RUC is in contact with more than 100 enterprises each year and facilitates different types of collaborations between students and researchers and the outside world, varying from workshops and commissioned research to business clusters and strategic partnerships.

Our international students are often interested in international work. RUC's office for External Relations facilitates collaborations between students and companies.

Clean drinking water for the people of the Niger Delta

EL-MAJID YUSUF from Nigeria wrote a so-called experimental master thesis (1 year) on pollution of groundwater and on relevant methods for water purification.

In collaboration with Shell Nigeria, he has worked in the field in the Niger Delta on contaminants in drinking water in the areas

where Shell is extracting oil and in the laboratory for water and soil samples. Now he is back in Denmark where, in collaboration with the company Pure H2O, he will be working with methods of water purification in order to optimize their adaptation to local environmental conditions and improve their efficiency.

Education: Geography and Environmental Biology
Company: Pure H2O and Shell Nigeria

Industrial worker conditions in modern work-life

The tendency to delegate more responsibility to employees and create autonomous teams is prevalent in many private companies. Professional qualifications remain a priority, but they are supplemented by requirements for flexibility, self-management and robustness to adapt to working tasks.

This places greater demands on the individual employee, where some see it as liberating and developing, while others regard it as hampering their work and their productivity. This issue is the focal point for cooperation between thesis student **KAROLINE DAHN** and the company Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Education: Working Life Studies and Psychology
Company: Thermo Fisher Scientific

A vibrant green campus

RUC is a one-campus university. Our 40 buildings are located in green surroundings with a view of the fields and small forests. RUC's 35 hectares - equivalent to 50 soccer fields - invites students to have group meetings, go for a run or just lounge on the grass with fellow students.

RUC has a study environment where the focus is not only on academic studies, but also on the social environment. Bachelor students are affiliated with so-called "houses", which is a distinguishing feature of life at RUC.

When students begin their studies at RUC, they are assigned to a house together with about 120 other students. This is where they attend courses and it is the workplace for 4-6 teachers. Each house has its own group study rooms, computers, copying facilities and a kitchen. It is the students' house, to which they have their own key, and the house structure means that they have close contact to fellow students and teachers. The house helps students to establish a social network quickly and it provides a venue where they can feel at home.

During their studies at RUC, students have numerous opportunities to meet fellow students, as the campus offers a wide range of activities and facilities, including:

- Student House
- Thursday Café, Friday Bar, and cafés at your study programme
- Associations for Green RUC, comics, philosophy and many others
- Annual festival
- RUC choir and society for Theatre, Music and Dance
- Exercise Centre with e.g. ball games, strength training and Capoeira
- Soccer tournament and boat race
- RUC Song Contest with competing bands from RUC
- International Club



Part of Greater Copenhagen



RUC is a one-campus university, located in beautiful green surroundings between the capital, Copenhagen, and the historic city of Roskilde, which is known for its UNESCO world heritage listed cathedral, the Viking Ship Museum and the largest music festival in Northern Europe – The Roskilde Festival.

In Roskilde, students can explore the beautiful natural surroundings, the majestic fjord and the world-renowned tourist attractions in the city centre. Located close to the City of Copenhagen, and with excellent infrastructure, Roskilde is an attractive place to live, work and study.

Being part of the Greater Copenhagen area, RUC has its own train station, and Copenhagen Central Station is only 20 minutes away by train. Four trains per hour make it easy to get from the vibrant city life of Copenhagen to the dynamic study environment at RUC. In fact, 80% of the students at RUC choose to live in Copenhagen and commute to RUC every day.

Read more about living in Denmark at www.expatindenmark.com



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Choosing to study at Roskilde University was one of the best choices I could have made when looking at my masters options.

The course is both interesting and inventive and I enjoy a close relationship with my lecturers and fellow students. The self-led study orientation means that I have been able to follow the projects and areas that I am especially interested in.

On top of this, the possibility of doing an internship in exchange for credits means that I can get in-house experience within the field and still be supported by my university and peers. This is an opportunity that I think is rare to find elsewhere, and if you are self-led and passionate about your interests, then this course lets you follow those.”

Phoebe, United Kingdom

Departments

RUC was established in 1972 with the object of conducting research and providing top-level education. Currently, these activities have been organized in four multi-disciplinary departments:

Department of Communication and Arts

The department is an interdisciplinary and innovative department that is characterized by academic and methodological diversity within and across its disciplines. The department engages in research, education and communication in the areas of Communication, Journalism and Performance Design, History, Philosophy and Science Studies, Culture, Literature, Media and the native and foreign language subjects Danish and English, as well as in the interdisciplinary subject, Cultural Encounters.

Department of Science and Environment

The department offers bachelor and master degrees in English in the subjects Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Molecular Biology, Environmental Biology, Environmental Risk and Bachelor Studies in Natural Sciences. The department conducts both basic and applied research and all the education programmes offered are science-based. It is important to us that the scientific disciplines are integrated and complement each other. As an example, you can study biology and mathematics and integrate both subjects through problem-oriented student projects. From day one, the students interact with internationally recognized researchers, providing the students with deep theoretical and practical science skills that can lead to excellent research, innovation and new business potentials.

Department of People and Technology

The department is involved with the development of interdisciplinary, innovative and sustainable solutions in close collaboration with public, private and civic organizations. We employ a wide range of experimental approaches to support the active commitment of people and partners. The department covers human, social, health and IT scientific fields as well as planning, intervention and design-focused fields. The department offers bachelor and master degrees in Computer Science, Informatics, Technological and Socio-Economic Planning, Geography, Plan, Town and Process, Spatial Designs and Society, Health Promotion and Health Strategies, Working Life Studies, Psychology, Educational Studies, Social Entrepreneurship and Management and Social Intervention Studies.

Department of Social Sciences and Business

The research of the department focuses on societal changes, business economics and the impact of such developments and changes on the modes of function of different societies around the world. Our research is based on solid empirical knowledge in combination with the relevant social science theories aimed at generating novel scientific insights into on-going societal changes, confrontations and conflicts. The department offers a number of teaching programmes, including a bachelor programme in Social Sciences, and master programmes in Business Studies, Economics and Business Administration, Global Studies, International Development Studies, International Public Administration and Politics, Public Administration, and Social Studies.



Education with international perspectives

International collaboration

RUC takes part in a wide range of international collaborations, enabling teacher and student exchanges, research networks and joint degree-programme partnerships. Within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, RUC is involved in approximately 280 exchange agreements. In addition, RUC has a number of exchange agreements within Nordic programmes, Nordplus and Nordlys, as well as several bilateral exchange agreements in North and South America, Australia and Asia.



Degree structure

The study programmes provided at RUC are designed according to a 3+2 structure, consisting of a three-year bachelor programme followed by a two-year master programme. RUC's bachelor and master programmes comprise two parallel subjects chosen by the student.

Three-year bachelor programme equivalent to 180 ECTS

Two-year master programme equivalent to 120 ECTS

Three-year PhD programme

Bachelor programmes

During the first 1½ years (3 semesters), the student gets an interdisciplinary introduction to key theories and methods within the study field of the bachelor programme.

During the last 1½ years (3 semesters), the student specializes in one or two bachelor subjects, depending on what they choose to specialize in.

Master programmes

The student can either choose a combination master programme consisting of two master subjects, or a single-subject master programme.



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We get a lot of personal attention and qualitative feedback from our professors.

The studies have helped me to improve my writing skills, and the possibility to integrate maps, photographs and films into our essays encouraged a comprehensive creativity.”

Mantautas, Estonia

Full degree programmes

RUC offers a broad range of study programmes with several options in English.

Bachelor study programmes in English

International Bachelor Study Programme in Humanities / Global Humanities

International Bachelor Study Programme in Natural Sciences

International Bachelor Study Programme in Social Sciences

RUC offers both single-subject and two-subject master programmes.

Single-subject master programmes in English

Economics and Business Administration

Environmental Risk

Global Studies

International Public Administration and Politics

Social Entrepreneurship and Management

Spatial Designs and Society

A full list of the possible combinations of these subjects and descriptions of their content can be found online.

Two-subject master programmes *)

Business Studies

Chemistry

Communication Studies

Computer Science

Cultural Encounters

English

Environmental Biology

Global Studies

International Development Studies

Mathematics

Molecular Biology

Physics

*) The Master subjects are currently offered in English and can be combined in two-subject Master programmes

For more information, go to www.ruc.dk/graduate

Options for exchange students

Roskilde University welcomes approx. 200 exchange students every year through exchange agreements with partners all over the world. An exchange programme at RUC typically reflects the specific learning principles of RUC, namely that every semester consists of

50%
project work
and
50%
courses

Courses within the following subject areas are offered in English

- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Communication Studies
- Computer Science
- Cultural Encounters
- Economics and Business Administration
- English
- Environmental Biology
- Environmental Risk
- Global Studies
- International Development Studies
- International Public Administration and Politics
- International Studies
- Mathematics
- Molecular Biology
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Social Entrepreneurship and Management

The full list of courses may vary. Please check www.kursus.ruc.dk for the relevant semester.

Roskilde University Library





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I feel that the standard of the contact hours, allied with the unique 'RUC' atmosphere, makes Roskilde the highest standard of learning I have experienced.

The course has a solid grounding in theoretical texts but importantly, we then go on to apply these to 'real life', practical projects that ensure that academia is not confined to any towers, ivory or otherwise.”

Darcy, United Kingdom

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