
On academic freedom

Roskilde University's fundamental tasks are research, education, and knowledge dissemination.

The prerequisite for carrying out these tasks is freedom of research, free, critical thinking, and the free exchange of academic opinions. Taken together, these conditions can be characterised as *academic freedom*.

Academic freedom is a fundamental value. Roskilde University's profile thus states that the university has a culture "characterised by a high degree of openness and room for many different positions. The core of RUC's culture is freedom of thought, democracy and tolerance."ⁱ

At the same time, academic freedom is based on the formal framework provided by Danish legislation as well as international, national, and local guidelines and directives.ⁱⁱ

Universities are public and politically controlled organisations, where financial instruments are particularly important instruments of governance. The funding of the universities therefore constitutes an essential framework condition for academic freedom. The university's basic grant is a critical prerequisite for free and independent research and knowledge dissemination.

However, the university has an independent responsibility for how academic freedom is managed.

The university's staff, students, and management thus have a significant responsibility to safeguard academic freedom.

The university's researchers have a duty to conduct free and independent research, translate this research into education based on independent and critical thinking, and to disseminate research and research results to peers and the public.

As public servants, all the university's employees have extensive freedom of expression. It is the university's position that researchers' freedom of expression should have the broadest possible scope in relation to research dissemination, provided that the research complies with the basic principles of research integrity and academic quality assurance.

As part of their education, students are expected to acquire the values that characterise the university through independent work with academic methods and problems, participation in academic debates and work with academic dissemination. Students contribute actively to evaluating and thus developing the quality and relevance of the education programmes.

The right to express oneself and to present criticism applies to everyone at the university. At the same time, one must of course be prepared for the fact that controversial ideas and views can be put forward and discussed, just as one's own statements may be subjected to academic criticism.

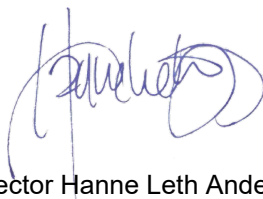
Freedom and mutual respect must go hand in hand, so that students and staff treat each other with respect and equality across differences such as gender, ethnicity, sexual, or political orientation.

The university management must safeguard freedom of research and free and open discussion in the research environments, in teaching (together with the study boards), and in the university's collegial forums.

The management must also ensure the right of researchers to freely disseminate research results to peers and the public.

Finally, the management must actively engage in the promotion of the university's fundamental values, both in public debate and in the dialogue with the political level.

Adopted by the Academic Council of Roskilde University
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ⁱ "Profile", Roskilde University, <https://ruc.dk/en/strategy-profile-and-values>

ⁱⁱ Freedom of expression, freedom of research and academic freedom are described and guaranteed in several places: The Constitutional Act of Denmark, the University Act, The Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, Universities Denmark's and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science's Principles and recommendations for research-based collaboration and consultancy, Universities Denmark's Principles of good research communication, Bylaws for Roskilde University, Roskilde University's strategy, and Roskilde University's rules on good scientific practice.
