

# Roskilde University

- A brief introduction

RUC



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## Preface

### **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 public 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

# Experimental forms

**We move society forward with new and experimental forms of learning, research and development and educate competent, interdisciplinary graduates for future society**

## **Student-managed learning**

Roskilde University's pedagogical approach is based on student-driven learning. This means that the students are expected to participate actively and enthusiastically in the organization and implementation of the learning processes, in cooperation with the university's lecturers. Student-driven learning is particularly evident in the problem-oriented project work, but also in the various forms of seminars, laboratory exercises, field work etc. The courses on the various programmes are also designed to promote a high degree of student involvement and control.

## **Problem-oriented Project Learning**

Problem-oriented Project Learning (PPL) is the pedagogical model at Roskilde University. PPL is based on 7 principles, that form the common benchmarks for programmes at RUC. PPL is primarily associated with project work, but is also relevant in courses.

1. Project work
2. Problem orientation
3. Interdisciplinarity
4. Participant control
5. Exemplarity
6. Group work
7. International insight and vision

## **Interdisciplinarity as a result of a problem-centred approach**

Working with a problem-centred approach requires interdisciplinary integration because real problems do not respect subject boundaries. Working with a problem-centred approach therefore requires the courage to operate in the area between the established disciplines and it places great demands on methodological skills and reflection.





## Facts

### Students

**6700**

total number of enrolled students

**3600**

bachelor students

**3100**

master students

**1500**

international students

### Staff

**900**

total full time equivalent staff

**440**

academic staff

**370**

technical and administrative staff

**90**

PdD students

## Interaction 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.

### Examples:

#### Investigating new approaches to sustainable fish production



In a research project for their master's thesis, two RUC students have collaborated with "The National Aquarium Denmark" to produce organic turbot larvae.

Due to changes in the marine environment and anthropogenic activities a new approach is needed for a sustainable production of fish, both for human consumption and to sustain the wild fish population in the ocean.

At the aquarium, different feedings were used to optimize the growth and survival of turbot larvae, and it was examined if organic copepods could be a more efficient feed than the more traditional feed such as rotifers and artemia.

Project group: Christian Rishøj and Pernille Grønlund Vinding

Education: MSc Environmental Science [[Read about Master in Environmental Science](#)]

Company: The National Aquarium Denmark (Den Blå Planet)

#### The experience of warm-glow within organizational change



This study examines if the theory of warm-glow – originally from behavioral finance and related to green investments could be the missing link that is needed in organizational change initiatives. Through this project we have examined the experience of warm-glow from an employee perspective supporting the organizational change within social setting.

Through empirical data, we developed a version of the idea-practice translation model by Scheuer (2021) by identifying the main actants and the main challenges in the change process (of FORS A/S). The findings imply that the individual feeling of warm-glow, emerging from social interactions in an organization, can be used in a social science setting and could contribute to driving organizational change initiatives.

Project group: Elina Dichgans, Emma Louise Haack Müller, Jacob Georg Tye Mathiesen

Programme: MSc Business Administration and Leadership [[Read about Master in Business Administration and Leadership](#)]

Organisation: FORS A/S



“

*The teaching style is very critical and open-minded. The goal is to challenge each other, instead of teaching a fixed view on things. The classes are very interactive and questions are always welcome. Project work is an important cornerstone of the learning philosophy at Roskilde University and our degree has a specialized focus on hands-on experiences. For instance, we went on a study trip to Brussels and spent one day at the European Environmental Agency in Copenhagen.”*

*Stella, Germany  
International master student  
at the Department of Social Sciences and Business*



“

*Science has always fascinated me - especially physics where you can explain how objects move and water flows through mathematical formulas. I wanted to study abroad and use English on a daily basis for more than just writing papers since it is the global language of science.*

*Roskilde University's international science programmes in English are the best you can find in Denmark - that is why this place was the perfect fit for me.”*

*Maros, Slovakia  
International bachelor student  
at the Department of Science and Environment*

## A vibrant green campus

RUC is a single-campus university. Our buildings are located in green surroundings with a view of the fields, small forests and a lake. RUC's three dozen - equivalent to 50 football fields - invites students to have group meetings, go for a run or just lounge on the grass with other 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. The house is where students can be sure to meet other international students, where they can organise social events and where they can also expect to meet their house coordinator and study environment tutors. Each house has its own group study rooms, copying facilities and a kitchen. It is the students' house, to which they have access with their student card and the house structure means that they have close contact to fellow students and academics. 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 lots of opportunities to meet fellow students, as the campus offers a wide range of activities and facilities, including:

- Student House
- RUCbar & Café
- Student associations such as RUC Brewery, EDUKitchen and Queer Culture Club
- RUC Annual festival (Årsfesten)
- RUC Choir and the Board Game Club
- RUC Gym and Dance Studio
- International Community





## Part of Greater Copenhagen

RUC is 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. Regular train connections make it easy to get from the vibrant city life of Copenhagen to the dynamic study environment at RUC.

Read more about living in Denmark at [www.state-of-denmark.com](http://www.state-of-denmark.com)



# 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 of Communication and Arts is an interdisciplinary and innovative department with academic and methodological diversity. We are established on a broad expertise in the humanities and its interdisciplinary approach, and we engage in research, education and communication in the areas of communication, journalism, performance design, history, philosophy and science studies, culture and cultural encounters, literature and language.

## Department of Science and Environment

We teach and conduct research in an innovative and application-oriented manner in real-world science and the environment. We work with basic science, explaining and developing the theories on which science is based. Basic and applied research go hand in hand here, and our research generates new knowledge and useful innovation.

## Department of People and Technology

The Department of People and Technology is involved with development of sustainable solutions. We use experimental approaches and support people's active commitment. The Department is covering human, society, health and IT scientific fields as well as planning, intervention and design inclined fields.

## Department of Social Sciences and Business

Research at Department of Social Sciences and Business focuses on societal changes, business economics and the impact of such developments on different societies around the world. We aim at generating novel scientific insights into on-going societal changes, confrontations and conflicts. As our teaching is closely related to our research activities, we attach high importance to methodological skills and teaching is characterised by the multidisciplinary nature of our research.



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

*The course has a solid grounding in theoretical texts but more 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  
International master student  
at the Department of People and Technology'*

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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  
International master student  
at the Department of People and Technology*

# International collaboration

RUC is an international university and internationalisation is a driving force for quality development of learning, teaching and research. Systematic efforts to establish partnerships with other universities, businesses and organisations in Europe and beyond for the benefit of students and staff form an important part of RUC's international profile.

## Educational partnerships

RUC provides exchange opportunities for around 200 students a year, partners with universities across the globe for mutual staff and student exchange, and offers joint degree programmes in close collaboration with other higher education institutions.

### Erasmus+

The EU's Erasmus+ programme provides opportunities for millions of individuals to study, train, and gain experience abroad and RUC has a large variety of European exchange partners.

### Bilateral agreements

RUC has entered into partnership agreements on student exchange with a number of universities outside Europe, giving students the opportunity to gain global experience without having to pay tuition fees.

### Joint programmes

RUC currently participates in three joint master's programmes, including one Erasmus Mundus Joint Master and one Nordic Master:

- Erasmus Mundus Global Studies
- Nordic Urban Planning Studies
- Double degree in Business Administration and Leadership

## Networks and alliances

### Critical Edge Alliance

A global collaborative framework for universities that focus on student-centred learning, critical thinking, interdisciplinary learning, teaching and research, and social engagement. The Critical Edge Alliance (CEA) aims to continue, develop and renew these traditions through collaboration among institutions that consider themselves as alternatives to conventional higher education and that are committed to progressive and innovative forms of learning, teaching and research.

### European Reform University Alliance

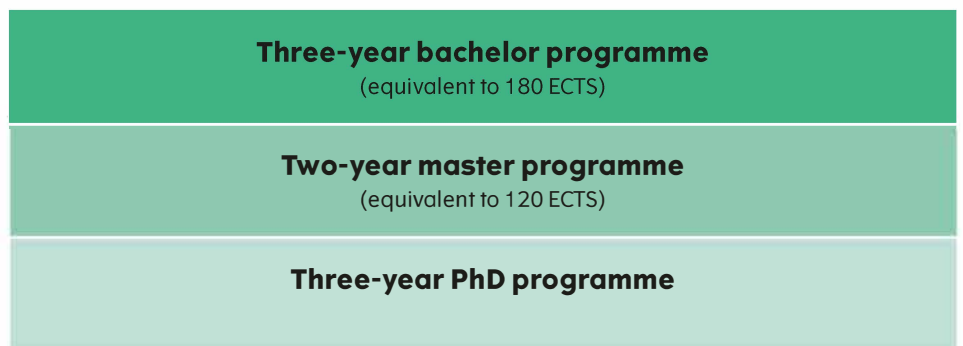
The partners in the European Reform University Alliance (ERUA) create a network based on shared goals and values, such as interdisciplinary and critical thinking in research, learning and teaching, and institutional development. The alliance helps to ensure the exchange of innovative teaching and learning methods, just as the collaboration will promote student mobility by flexible learning pathways across Europe. The alliance is supported by the European Commission.





# Education with international perspectives

The study programmes at RUC are designed according to a 3+2 structure, consisting of a three-year bachelor programme followed by a two-year master programme.



## Bachelor programmes

During the first year (60 ECTS), students get an interdisciplinary introduction to key theories and methods within the study field of the bachelor programme.

In the second and third year of studies (120 ECTS), students specialize in one or two subjects. They can choose between a number of approved subject combinations.

## Master programmes

RUC offers more than 30 interdisciplinary master's programmes with a clear academic profile that sets RUC graduates apart when they enter the employment market.

## Full degree programmes

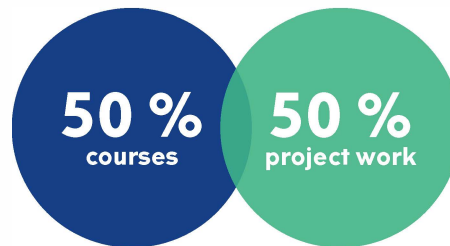
RUC offers a broad range of study programmes with several options in English.

### Bachelor study programmes in English

- Bachelor in Global Humanities
- International Bachelor in Natural Sciences
- International Bachelor in Social Sciences

## Options for exchange students

Roskilde University welcomes approx. 150 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:



The full list of courses may vary.

Please check  
[www.kursus.ruc.dk](http://www.kursus.ruc.dk)

for the relevant semester.

### Courses within the following subject areas are offered in English:

- Bioprocess Science
- Business Administration and Leadership
- Business Studies
- Chemical Biology
- Chemistry
- Communication Studies
- Computer Science
- Cultural Encounters
- Environmental Biology
- Environmental Science
- Global and Development Studies
- International Politics and Governance
- International Studies
- Mathematical Bioscience
- Mathematics
- Media and Communication
- Molecular Biology
- Nordic Urban Planning Studies
- Physics
- Physics and Scientific Modelling
- Social Entrepreneurship and Management
- Social Psychology of Everyday Life

# Contact information

Roskilde University  
Education and Students  
International Education  
Universitetsvej 1  
P.O. Box 260  
4000 Roskilde  
Denmark  
[ruc.dk](http://ruc.dk)  
Phone: +45 4674 2000  
E-mail: [ruc@ruc.dk](mailto:ruc@ruc.dk)

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## COLOPHON

**Text**  
RUC Education and Students  
International Education

**Photos**  
Colourbox  
Lisbeth Holten  
Per Lau Knudsen  
Peter Jarvad

**Layout**  
RUC Communication & Press

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