

Universitetspladsen

RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

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► Welcoming the new students to RUC

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Written by: Phoebe Demetry, International Social Science at RUC

AIESEC is the world's largest student driven organization with more than 60,000 members worldwide. It is an organization that provides students from all over the world with the opportunity to develop themselves as leaders and go on internships anywhere in the world. Many people with an AIESEC experience, may it be as an intern, a member or a leader of a team, have referred to their time in AIESEC as a life changing experience, as it helps to open doors for any of its participants. According to Kofi Annan, who once had his own AIESEC experience "AIESEC is serving as an agent of positive change through education and cultural exchange."

Living diversity, acting sustainable and enjoying participation are only a few integral values of AIESEC. These values, along with others, make AIESEC a structured, yet fun, organisation to work in. Personally, I have had a multicultural upbringing, and culture has always been something I have appreciated. Learning and understanding different cultures has been a great interest of mine. This makes my time in AIESEC all the more enjoyable, as there are a number of individuals from many different backgrounds working there.

Furthermore, as a business student, AIESEC allows me to utilise what I study in a practical manner as a member of the organisation. It helps develop

Publishing information

RUCnyt/RUGlobal is Roskilde University's official magazine for information and debate about the organization of the university. RUGlobal is open to all employees and students at Roskilde University to debate the educational and research organizations at the university, including questioning of common interest for research and education.

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2	10/9	18/9	1/10
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- at 12 noon on the assigned date

EC, connecting cultures

skills such as, leadership, ethics and accountability, and because of the structure of the organisation, students will receive a high level of service. What AIESEC does is to focus on talent exchange, meaning that AIESEC helps students find internships abroad, both professional and cultural based internships. As a social science student, there are numerous cultural programmes aboard which intrigue and motivate me to partake in one of them, which I plan on doing in the near future. AIESEC is also an amazing opportunity to expand your network, within Denmark and the 110 other countries where AIESEC is active. Every single week a conference is being held somewhere in the world, and as a member, you get to go to these conferences, to develop yourself and to network. Right now AIESEC UNIC is recruiting new members and the only criteria for membership in AIESEC are open mindedness and the willingness to learn, so if you are interested in learning more about AIESEC and the possibilities for membership, then go to Facebook and like our page "AIESEC UNIC Recruitment" on www.facebook.dk/unicrecruitment.



Group picture of some of the members of AIESEC UNIC taken at one of our national conferences

UNiverse

Welcoming the new students to RUC



By: **Ib Poulsen, Rector**

I would like to warmly welcome you, the new, international students, to RUC. We have been looking forward to welcoming you and to seeing a lot of new faces and experiencing renewed activity in the hallways, the canteen, at lectures and in the seminar rooms.

From a historical perspective, this year many students have chosen to apply for admission to a programme at RUC, and we are very pleased about that. As a university, we will endeavour to live up to your expectations of what a modern university should offer its students.

One of RUC's characteristics is its interdisciplinarity, which you will soon become acquainted

and confident with. Today's society calls for problem solvers holding many different disciplinary and personal qualifications and experiences. At RUC, we work on an interdisciplinary and problem-oriented basis, and we believe that problems are seldom solved applying only one discipline; more disciplines are required. We take pride in our approach to education and research, which means acting swiftly, having the courage to apply experimentation and innovative thinking, and regularly making adjustments to reflect developments in society. So when claiming that our motto is: "In stillness death, in movement life", we are not joking.

Over the next semester, or maybe year, you are given the opportunity to acquire a vast amount of new knowledge at a university always in motion. You get a unique chance

to discover new interests, meet skilled committed lecturers and make new friendships, and we hope that this will help lay the foundation of an education, which you will benefit from during your studies and in your future lives.

We expect you to do your best as students, and if you believe that we could do certain things better, please let us know. A university without inquisitive, critical and demanding students is no university – it is a drowsy school; this not only applies to the actual study work, but also to the student social activities. I hope that you will help set the agenda at RUC. The university is yours – so use it, help develop it and nurture it. Welcome!

The naked truth

What a wonderful world. Birds are singing, the sun is shining every week and the tree of life grows all the spiritual fruits you can wish for, if only you give it all a chance. Possibilities are endless, and if you are nosing about at RU – trailing through the entire area – you will find little elements, all part of the great mosaic.

But isn't it so that RUC also deserves to come under intense scrutiny? Don't you

think that all the many little things going on at RUC should be looked at twice before being closely assessed? Well, indeed they should.

In another article in RUGlobal, this writer therefore speaks his mind and reviews everything on campus with a cheerful whistle and a twinkle in the eye. Everything deserves mentioning, which means that I will be blunt and to the point.



The bridge....

Ah..., what a lovely scent of late summer. The time of the year where the old university heart receives its well deserved dose of fresh blood nonchalantly pumped into the veins. Entire hordes of young new students make their way to campus, enlightened and excited in their search for education and wisdom (and the prospect of a small students' grant and lukewarm beer from Royal). Like travelling gnus, they nervously board the trains to take them from the capital city to the cradle of free thinking based at Trekroner. Over time, this is a place they will come to love to hate – and hate to love. Cheerful tutors are waiting at the station, ready to help their uncertain disciples onto the right path, and skilfully guided by home-made banners and other examples of less skilfully made woodwork, the crowds eventually meet with their like-minded souls. A delightful chaos for the watching eye. When the first student has dared jump, others follow with confidence. The feeling of suspense, the boastful songs and obscure colours to help convert chaos into order fill the air with feverish excitement. When eventually everyone is gathered, the tutor captain walks towards RUC with a train of new students following him. A walk full of excitement and expectations; impressions that will last until the first encounter with the dubious metal construction suspended over the road from the Trekroner Station towards the university. Review of a bridge? Naturally. The naked truth...



Over where the road makes a turn, there lies a bridge supported by graffiti.

Text and photo: Mikkel Wendelboe, RUGlobal

The construction is deathly pale, the graffiti is extensive and the steel girders resemble a piece of scenery for a bad horror film. Built to be torn down again. For a fraction of a moment, I imagine Godzilla smashing the planks below me into toothpicks, and immediately, a smile breaks out across the writer's face. Cars are passing rhythmically underneath the bridge, while a wide range of people are crossing it. Talking, laughing, crying, they are stumbling towards their own destinations, determined to meet their targets. A student, a lecturer, a librarian and also a summer gril-

Assessment:

Strategic location:	5 dark leaf icons
Suitability as a B-film scenery:	5 dark leaf icons
Importance to the RUC infrastructure:	5 dark leaf icons
Importance to the local authority planning:	5 light leaf icons
Estetic beauty:	3 dark leaf icons, 2 light leaf icons
Slip-resistant surface:	3 dark leaf icons, 2 light leaf icons

Clarion call!:

Anything you would like RUGlobal's straight-to-the-point reviewer to scrutinize for you? If so, just send an e-mail to miwe@ruc.dk, and we may take a look at the subject, be it new, old or something completely different.

led column writer watching the bridge with a trained eye, pen in hand and the ink bottle buried deep in his pockets. It doesn't seem as if anyone has taken the time to properly look at the structure for a long, long time, and God knows that this is really needed. Most of all, it looks like a dead body that somebody has tried to bring back to life with a bit of make-up – all in vain. A strongly eroded frame with sea water in the lower hold. A crock.

Watching the sloping beams above my head, weakened from supporting the bridge, I am absolutely certain that the idea behind it ages ago was probably a fine one. Underneath the soles of my feet, nubbly metal sheets have been bolted into place to prevent passers-by from slipping in slippery conditions; they too deserve a careful touch of my fingertips. The first review of the year is also the first to be written at the request of RUGlobal's readers, and therefore I try to take everything in, leaving no stone unturned. Being a permanent element among RUC's residents coming by car, I have not often walked across the bridge, and even though I pass underneath it every day, I suddenly realise that I had absolutely no idea what it actually looked like before I was standing on it.

“The invisible eyesore”. A potential title for my horror film? I think, while considering what are actually desirable features of a bridge. “Safety” is the first word cropping up in my mind, and the only actual memory of the bridge is immediately brought to life. The memory of public sector workers dressed all



A necessity for pedestrians, but well eroded at the edge for the standers.

in orange workwear helplessly closing off one lane under the bridge some time ago and at the same time trying to support it, using oversized water pipes, makes me wonder. Safe? My logical mind decides otherwise. “A bridge should also be neat”, I think to myself. “And if not impressive, at least neat”. I look around. Not a pretty sight. Not that I would ask the Storstrøm Bridge for a dance, but at least it is neat in itself. This one is just “Oh, well-those-stupid hippies-also-need-to-get-to-their-institution”-like. I turn up my nose.

Generally, the bridge looks tired, and in my best amateur judgement, it needs a bit of gentle looking after – by a builder, to be precise. It serves its purpose, but generally appears to be close to collapsing any minute with its white rails, nubbly “chickenpox” and all the poor souls that happen to be on it. Doing up the bridge could be a way of saying

“Welcome to RUC and Trekroner. We would so much want you to stay on a bit longer.” At least that is a step in the right direction. RUC needs its visitors and the Municipality of Roskilde needs a university that looks inviting to people. Every little helps.