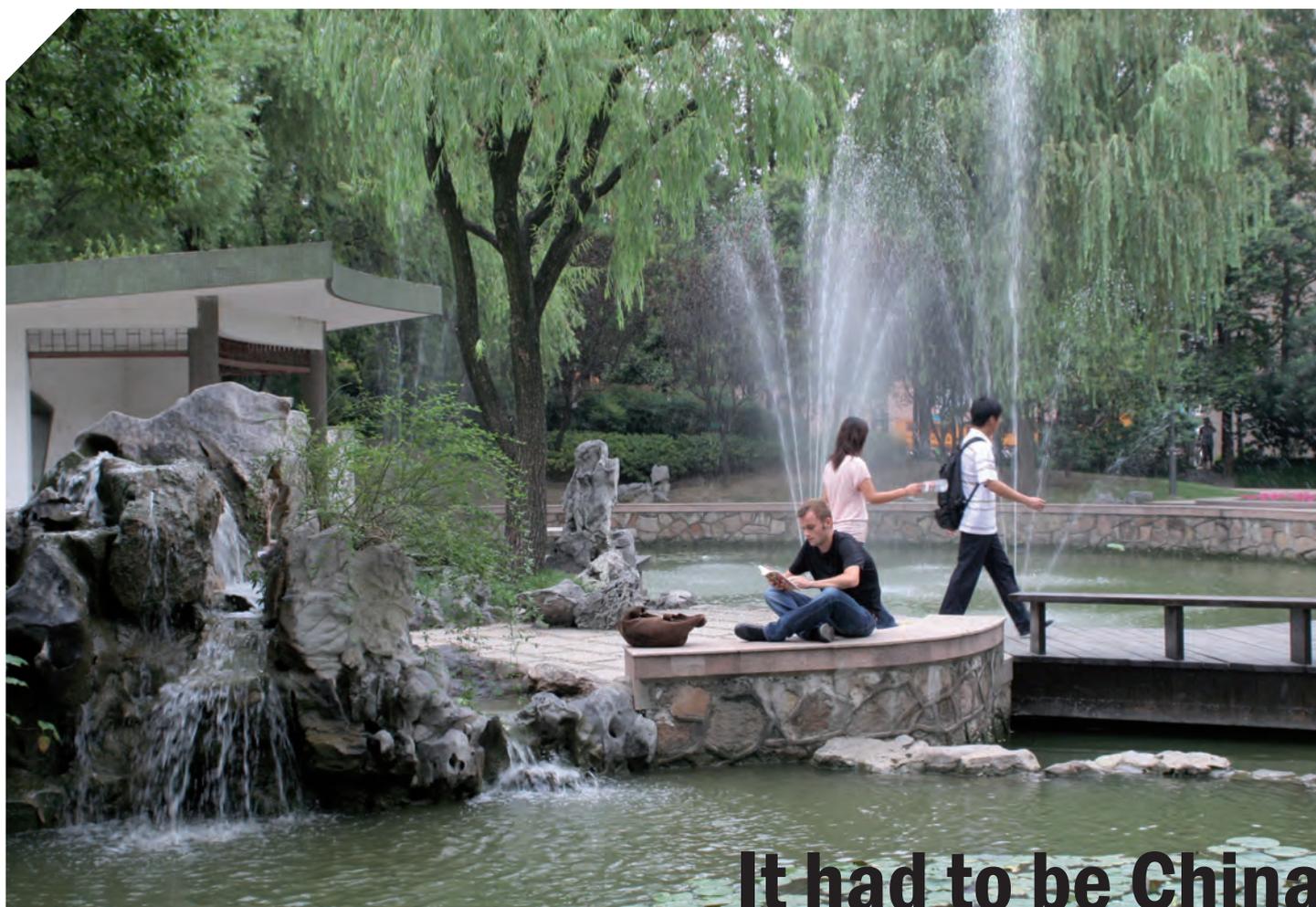


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RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

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It had to be China

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Publishing information

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Avoid the Trap

Unfortunately it happens that every semester some students attempt to improve their essays and project reports through plagiarism. But this is a practice which can result in the expulsion of the students in question.

Dear student,

At Roskilde University we have many honest, bright and hard working students, and hopefully you are one of them.

Studying at RU implies writing a number of essays and project reports etc. As you probably know by now in academic texts it is vital to include references to other academic works within the field and sometimes even quotations. That also applies if you use your own earlier written works. I assume that you also know that a reference or a quotation must be clearly marked – and how to do it. If not, you are always welcome to contact one of your teachers.

However, sometimes it happens that one of our students – or even a group of students – get tempted to try to “improve” an essay, a project report or other written work by adding smaller or larger pieces of text that they did not write themselves without proper quotation. Just to make it look smarter, or because they ran short of time, and the “help” was so easily found on the web, or maybe due to some other reasons.

But the reason doesn't really matter - quotations without quotation marks – and other improper techniques are violations of good academic practice, and since it is vital for a university to ensure the confidence of the society in its exams, the university regards any such malpractice with great severity.

Unfortunately a number of students ignore this every semester - maybe without considering how easy it is for the internal or external examiners to discover the malpractice no matter whether they use web based electronically tools (as many do) or other means.

The sanctions vary depending on the case – but the most common sanctions used are that the exam is annulled and at the same time the student is expelled for 1 – 1½ year. These sanctions of course may have

negative side effects such as loss of personal honour, loss of right to rent a student flat, and for some students that their residence permit may be withdrawn.

Although the university strives to handle these cases in a fair and correct manner, there are no doubts that such a case is quite burdensome for the student.

I hope that this little note will help these – after all few – of your fellow students who might be tempted to avoid plagiarism and the like. And I just thought you should know how much we care that the society can trust the value of your exams and the grade you are working for.

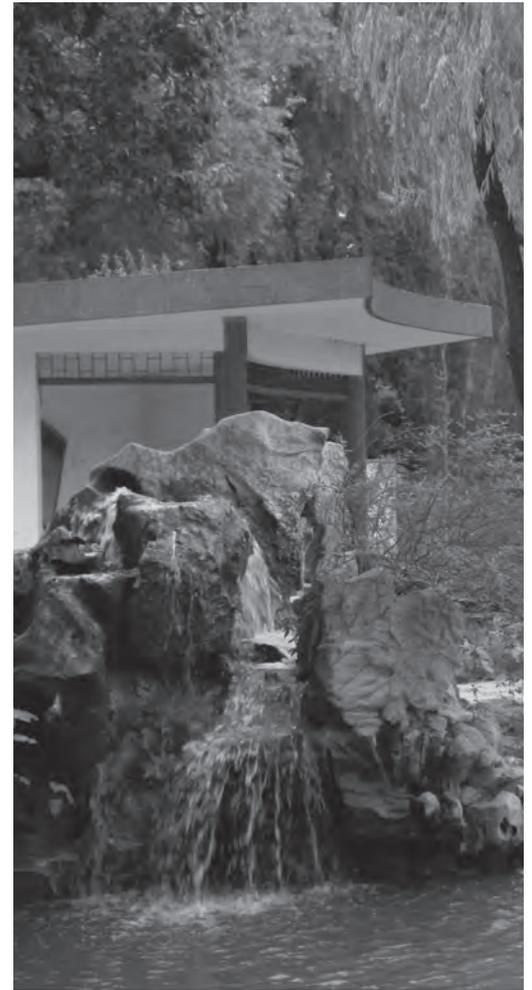
If you want to read a little more, you can find some examples of misconduct at: http://www.ruc.dk/ruc_en/studying/regulations/examination_fraud/

You can find a link to the rules used in these cases at: http://www.ruc.dk/ruc_en/studying/regulations/ Just look for “Regulations on disciplinary measures against students at Roskilde University”.

Best wishes,

Niels Teglbjærg
Department of Education and Research

You can find more information about the handling of cases concerning plagiarism on the homepage. A link can be found under the headline: “Disciplinary measures against students” at this page http://www.ruc.dk/ruc_en/studying/regulations/ There you will also find a link to the rules in english.



It had to be China

In January Rasmus Duong-Grunnet packed his bags in Denmark to finish his education in Shanghai. He has just begun the second semester of his master studies in Chinese Politics and Diplomacy at Fudan University. One day he will return home, he says, but he has no idea when that day is.

By Toke Christensen, Shanghai

The curtains are drawn, leaving little daylight into the classroom. The big air-conditioner in the corner blows cold air out in the small room, making it several degrees colder than 28 degrees outside. The students are packed together in rather cramped conditions, finding a seat where possible. One of these students is Rasmus Duong-Grunnet from Denmark. Since January he has been studying the master program in Chinese Politics and Diplomacy at Fudan University. And he is exited about it so far.

"It is so cool. To actually be in China, while you study Chinese – I think it is hard to beat that."

Partly Chinese

Though Rasmus is only 26 years of age, China has been an important part of his life for the past ten years. In 1999, when Rasmus was 16,

he decided that something had to happen. So he moved to Shanghai and attended a language school to learn Chinese. He learned the language, and he did not want to go back to Denmark when he was later offered a job in a software company. So what should have been one year in China ended up as five. During his first stay Rasmus also met the girl who is now his wife. A German girl with Chinese background - last name Duong - which explains Rasmus Duong-Grunnet's not very Danish sounding last name. So in many ways Rasmus is partly Chinese.

"I do not know where my interest in China comes from. It has just always been there, and it has stuck", Rasmus says.

His obsession with software programming, however did not stick. After some years in China he developed an interest in political affairs, and suddenly he felt the urge to get as far away from the software world as possible. So he went back to Denmark and

studied International Humanistic Studies at Roskilde University. But in his mind, he did not leave China.

"I knew that I wanted to get back to China, and I deliberately chose my bachelor courses in Denmark from a desire to come back and study in China."

Back again

So now Rasmus is back in his second home country. He is enrolled at Fudan's School of International Studies and Public Administration with students coming from all over the world.

In the classroom this Monday afternoon there are students from USA, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Columbia, Mexico, Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Iceland and Denmark. The international aspect at Fudan University is appealing to Rasmus.

"In Denmark you can say a lot of things, and you know that people will agree with you, because you more or less know what they think. Here there is always someone who does not agree with you and sees things differently. That is challenging, and you learn to think before you open your mouth."

Fudan University is one of the biggest universities in China with more than 40,000 students and almost 3,000 foreign students.



The university symbolises China's fast-growing economy and increasing influence in world society. The educational level at Fudan University is high, and universities in other countries could benefit from that, says Martin Bech, programme manager at Nordic Centre, Fudan University.

"In some areas Fudan University has more advanced research than Denmark and the Nordic countries. In that perspective it would be very rewarding for Nordic universities to cooperate with Fudan", says Martin Bech.

He underlines that one of the main tasks for Nordic Centre is to point out to Nordic universities that their students have the opportunity to study in China.

"Many students do not know that it is possible to study in China or what the educational level is like. We can help answering a lot of these questions".

Different cultures

Back in the classroom a discussion is heating up. The topic for the day is "China's National Security Interests", and the Chinese professor begins talking about the China/Tibet issue seen from a Chinese point of view. An Italian student disagrees with the professor, and the two start a longer discussion across the class-

room. In seconds the atmosphere in the room changes from relaxed to tense. The teacher and the student obviously disagree, and they never seem to agree during the discussion. This is one of the reasons why Rasmus Duong-Grunnet likes studying in China.

"The teachers say WE instead of THEY. And that is what the study is all about: we have to understand how the Chinese leaders relate to international questions. I know what the Europeans think about China, so I want to know what the Chinese think about China. In that way we can communicate and cooperate most successfully", Rasmus says.

Rasmus still has three semesters to learn how Chinese leaders think. After his studies he would like to work in politics and diplomacy between China and the Western world.

Someday he and his wife will return to Europe, but at least not for the next couple of years. There is still too much going on here to go home.

"The city represents a good mix between China and the Western world, and if you want to be in a place in China where things happen, I think Shanghai is the ultimate place to be."

mellem Kina og Vesten, og hvis du vil være et sted i Kina, hvor der sker noget, så tror jeg, at Shanghai er det ultimative sted at være."





RU at the Natural Science Village in Copenhagen

In week 39, the Danish Natural Science Promotion once again hosted the nationwide Natural Science Festival. RU was part of the Natural Science Village at the main square outside Copenhagen City Hall.

By Anne Frida Christiansen, RUCnyt

The Danish Natural Science Festival The 8th annual Danish Natural Science Festival took place in week 39, and thousands of children, youngsters and other inquisitive minds participated. The festival is organised by the Danish National Science Promotion and the objective is to further the interest in natural science among the general public. Johan Olsen, one of the participating RU students, puts it this way: "Events like this will hopefully help spread the word that there's much more to natural science than difficult mental arithmetic and memorising formulas. Rather, it's about your unbending curiosity in studying a subject and the questions which arise along the way."

A number of events took place across the country during the week. The square by Copenhagen City Hall was home to the Natural Science Village from 23 to 25 September. School classes could sign up for the time slots between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and the attendance

was most excellent. And afterwards, until 6 p.m., the fair was open to the general public. Random shoppers passing by could pop in and get a glimpse of some of the interesting phenomena offered by the world of natural science.

Hands-on promotion

Natural science is promoted from 24 booths in the square by the city hall displaying a world of inventions. The central element in the different booths is hands-on promotion. "The more people can touch, see, feel and smell, the better. The concept is to give the visitors a fun experience," says RU's Connie Særkjær, co-organisator of the event and employed in the Information Office. RU students manned three of the booths at the city hall square. It is a conscious strategy of RU's to man the booths with students. "It's a good idea in relation to the school children visiting during the day that they meet young faces. They may be wearing white coats, but their physical appearance is very important in order to catch the attention of the school children and make them listen," Connie Særkjær says empha-

sising the students' qualities: enthusiasm, communication skills and their ability to make information relevant to school children and other passers-by.

At one of RU's three booths, visitors were given an insight into "the chemistry of magic". Johan Olsen was one of the students in charge of this booth, where visitors were given the opportunity to explore the chemistry behind colour changes and smoke for example. Meanwhile, the two students manning the booth demonstrated and explained how it is possible to conjure up something resembling magic using chemistry, much to the excitement of the school children. One of the most frequently asked questions to Johan and his fellow students was "where did you learn to do that?" "It's a fantastic project, and I'm excited to be able to fly the flag for my university and my field of studies. It's a good opportunity for children and young people to hopefully steer clear of the fear of natural science which is, in fact, prevalent in many parts of our society," Johan Olsen says about the Natural Science Village.