

Universitetspladsen

**RUglobal** 

Information and debate from Roskilde University

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**Come attend kick-off  
event at GREEN RU!**



- ▶ Foundation Course welcomes new exchange students
- ▶ Language and interculturality

# Come attend kick-off event at GREEN RU!



Get the green party moving together with the Friday Bar, Treefight for Sunlight and The Green Lives when GREEN RU goes live on 4 March



By: *Camilla Buchardt, the Information Office*

Cycle a smoothie, receive plants in return for a printer, get ecstatic from green music and enjoy a free environmentally friendly beer.

These are only some of the suggestions contained in the new initiative, GREEN RU, that launches a big spring party and live concert in the canteen on Friday 4 March.

## About GREEN RU

GREEN RU is a new collaboration entered into with the Danish University and Property Agency aiming to make RU more environmentally friendly and to ensure that projects and activities at RU contribute to developing a green campus. This applies to property-related projects both with respect to new developments, conversions, renovations and operation and user behaviour.

### The objectives of GREEN RU

- *Ressource consumption:* A 20% reduction of electricity, water and heat consumption measured from 2006 to 2015
- *Visibility:* Making initiatives and results visible both internally at RU and externally
- *Behaviour:* A user conscious behaviour in relation to consumption of resources

The preliminary objective of the project is to reduce RU's electricity, water and heat consumption by 20% from 2006 to 2015; a very ambitious objective, admits University Director Peter Lauritzen. Therefore, it requires that staff as well as students make an extra effort.

"I do, however, believe there are still many who forget to turn off the light or who not always remember to turn off the computer before they leave for home at the end of the day's work," says Peter Lauritzen.

A number of so-called ambassadors will be in charge of the project. The job of this group of ambassadors will be to ensure that the project is both based on users' wishes and on communication and implementation of GREEN RU'S initiatives.

"It is important that there are people out there in the departments who discuss this and who raise awareness about it," says Peter Lauritzen.

### Environmentally friendly beer and sunshine pop music

For the purpose of attracting attention to GREEN RU, a big party will be held in RU's

student canteen on Friday, 4 March, where among others University Director Peter Lauritzen, Rector Ib Poulsen, Ecology Promoter Jytte Abildstrøm and (if everything goes to plan) Minister for Climate and Energy Lykke Friis, will address the audience. In addition, the evening offers performances by Danish bands Green Live and Treefight for Sunlight, whose single "Facing the Sunlight" has enjoyed strong rotation on radio programme P3. It will also be possible to cycle a smoothie, to exchange your old printer for a plant and much else.

The reception in building 04 provides free tickets based on the "first come first serve" principle.

If you want to sign up as a green ambassador or have queries for GREEN RU, please contact HR Consultant Jacob Lyngbye, using [lyngbye@ruc.dk](mailto:lyngbye@ruc.dk) or phone no.: 4674-2730

### Status on GREEN RU

So far, the following initiatives have been launched to reduce the electricity consumption:

- Frequency converters mounted on air conditioning systems
- Movement sensors installed in fume cupboard(s)
- Old fluorescent tubes replaced by new energy friendly tubes and coils
- Service time of exterior lighting reduced
- PIR movement sensors installed in all copying rooms
- PIR installed in plenum
- PIR/LED installed in all renovated lavatories
- Ongoing replacement of non-energy-saving bulbs by energy-saving bulbs
- Bulbs in lifts replaced by LEDs and energy-saving bulbs
- Refrigerant system for cool counter in the canteen taken out of service and replaced by five compressor-driven refrigerators

# Editor's Desk

Dear reader

We have quite an interesting issue this time around. With some fresh off the plane, RU's newly arrived exchange students were thrust into RU life immediately by way of the Foundation Course.



The two week Foundation Course experience culminated with a presentation of our new students' first RU project, which you can read all about here.

Have you ever worried about the language barriers when coming to a new country? You're not alone. So has Professor Karen Risager. Read how transnational research group seeks to solve these issues.

Speaking of research, in this edition we're also addressing the master's thesis – the final university assignment for most before the “real world” of employment arrives. The master's thesis is intended to provide the students with a specialized area of expertise.

Yet, it turns out a staggering 85% of all RU graduates end up with jobs outside their area of specialization. Find out what your master's thesis can do for you inside.

And now the finances. Usually there is little talk around campus about money. That should come as no surprise, seeing as RU for years has suffered from gross mismanagement of money...

But in just three short years, RU has turned a 22.6 million kr. deficit into monster equity of 54.5 million. Still, significant challenges lie ahead. Peak inside to see which and how the University Director plans to address them.

Also, we encourage everyone to check out our “Green RU” event! Everyone's welcome and ticket's are free. Tickets are available at the reception of building 04.

That's all for now. Enjoy!

Philip Michael Shange

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## Publishing information

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### Editorial staff:

Hanne Preisler (Responsible)  
Anne Frida Christiansen (Editor)  
Camilla Buchardt (Editor)  
Jakob Bang Schmidt (Editor)  
Philip Michael Shange (Editor)  
Tyson Lyall (Editor)

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Notifications: rucnyt-meddelelser@ruc.dk

**Opening hours:** RUCnyt/RUGlobal does not have any regular office hours. To get in contact with the editorial staff please e-mail us or contact the information office, which is located in building 04.1.

**Articles:** need to be handed in by e-mail. Please enclose suggestions for illustrations. Discs and other material are normally not returned. The editorial staff is allowed to shorten articles and to reject articles which are not of common interest. Articles of more than 8000 characters (about 2 pages) can normally not be expected to be published un-shortened. There is no minimum length for an article to be published. Anonymous articles are not accepted.

### Upcoming deadlines:

Nr.	Articles	Notices	Publication date
10	24/2	1/3	14/3
11	17/3	22/3	4/4

- at 12 noon on the assigned date



# Peter Lauritzen prepares for financial storms

Led by University Director Peter Lauritzen, RU has turned a financial loss into a profit in just a few years, but the storm is barely over before a new one awaits. The government's economic recovery package is lurking in the horizon, threatening to cause job losses in the coming years

By: Tyson Lyall, *RUglobal*

"Not much indicates that we will avoid a head count reduction." That is the clear message from RU's University Director Peter Lauritzen when assessing the university's financial outlook for the next four years. After a number of years with downturn finances, RU has finally received a fresh financial impetus. In just three years, RU has succeeded in turning equity from a negative DKK 22.6 million to a positive DKK 54.5 million. However, despite having turned the financial situation around, new severe challenges soon awaits.

## The economic recovery package is lurking

The coming years' financial challenges are largely the result of the economic recovery package which was adopted by the government in 2010. The government's extensive initiatives mean, among other things, that the universities altogether have to cut administration costs by DKK 125 million in 2012, and DKK 250 million in 2013. The package is therefore causing major challenges for RU, much to Peter Lauritzen's disappointment.

"I had been looking so much forward to enjoying the fact that we now have a sound financial situation and therefore could prepare some interesting strategies going forward. That way, I feel very disappointed," he adds.

At the same time he stresses that had RU not implemented its own recovery plan over recent years, the university had already now, as Peter Lauritzen puts it, been "in the midst of the hurricane". Despite a sound financial situation, the university hardly succeeds in steering free

of the knock-on effects of the government's economic recovery package.

"It looks relatively dramatic now when looking several years ahead. The financial situations of RU and other universities generally appear sound in 2011, but from looking at the national budget, it is evident that in 2012, 2013 and 2014 things begin to turn serious", he says and expresses the future financial forecast in words:

"The picture I usually draw of the situation is that in 2011 we will be in calm financial waters, in 2012 we will be facing a storm and when we get to 2013, a hurricane awaits".

## Avoiding redundancies is hard

According to RU's own budget forecast, future prospects look gloomy; already in 2013 RU expects to report an operating loss of DKK 35 million. The figures appear from a multi-year budget plan that the university has only just begun working on. In that plan, RU operates with four-year plans instead of the previous one-year plans. According to Peter Lauritzen, the figures in the budget seem so critical that management already at this stage needs to start designing future solutions.

"We simply need to launch some initiatives. One solution is to seek to find more income which could be done by admitting more students to the university, a task which is not completely unproblematic, or it could be done through external fund injections. In this context, funds and councils for independent research constitute major cash resources. It is an interesting, but also a major challenge for RU," he says and at the same time points to a different and probably less popular solution:

"The other solution is to look at the expense items and consider what the devil can be done to run the university at a lower cost. It is obvious that at a university, payroll costs constitute one of the major items. There are limits to how much we can cut RU's house rent and other operating expenses. If we are to stay within our budgets, and no more funds will be coming in, we will have to look into the level of staffing," he adds.

On the basis of the current budget forecast, we expect to be short of funds for 46 staff members in 2014. According to the plan, we still have to produce the same number of students.

## Calm financial waters in 2011

Before taking a serious look at the threatening financial storms, Peter Lauritzen also finds reason to enjoy the "fair winds" having blown in RU's direction over recent years. Even though he greatly appreciates the positive results, he refuses to take the credit for the financial progress.

"I am very pleased, but the positive results are not my doing. They are the doing of the university staff; I am proud of the results, however, because I have contributed to emphasising the importance of putting the objectives for an improved financial state on the agenda. Especially the departments, offices and sections have taken financial responsibility. I am very grateful for that, and I know it is something that will be noticed by the other universities and in the Ministry," he says.

Despite the gloomy future prospects, students and staff members at RU will be able to feel the effects of the current profit, Peter Lauritzen believes.

“We will for example get the opportunity to create a better teaching environment. It is part of our strategic objective, but previously we just didn’t have the money. A sound financial situation would hopefully constitute the basis of better teaching, better research and a better education environment and have an effect going forward. I am quite sure that already this year, the effect will be noticeable,” he says and stresses that, among other things, there will be more teaching resources for the individual courses in the coming year.

#### **Improved teaching environment**

One of the tangible consequences of the improved financial situation is that in the budget for the coming year, the university has set aside DKK 3 million for improving the teaching environment at the university. It has yet to be decided precisely what the funds should be spent on, but according to Peter Lauritzen, the decision is not management’s alone.

“We would very much like to enter into a dialogue with the students and the departments about that. We have naturally considered renovating some of the classrooms, since there are many places where the physical facilities are simply not good enough,” he says.

He indicates that getting new tables and chairs will not necessarily be on the agenda because management has also done some thinking about how to spend the money.

“What we have discussed at the rectorship is that it is a bit of a shame if people believe that a good teaching environment is only about paint, tables and chairs. To create an attractive teaching environment, there could in fact be other elements that may be even more important, such as electronic blackboards or other IT solutions. If only focusing on paint and furniture, we would put our money into a nearly bottom-less pit”, he says and at the same time explains why management has chosen to set additional funds aside for that area.

“We have several times been criticised for our teaching environment being too poor. One of the problems we have been facing due to recent years’ tight financial situation might also have been a result of the fact that the other operational units have been under pressure. To avoid having to reduce our headcount, we have probably cut other operating costs even more,” he says.

At the same time he unveils that there are current plans to build a new basic house in

connection with the extension of one of the university laboratories, also starting this year.

#### **Gloomy, but unresolved**

No-one is yet to know how hard the government’s economic recovery package will hit RU and what the consequences will be. Peter Lauritzen believes that due to the university administration cutbacks resulting from the economic recovery package alone, RU will have to cut costs by about DKK 5-6 million in 2012 and about twice that amount in 2013. Under these circumstances it is hard to avoid cutting payroll costs, but despite the gloomy prospects, there is nevertheless space for the sun to send a few sunrays through the thick clouds.

“The good news is that unlike many of the other universities we have not yet announced redundancies because currently our financial situation is sound. We are not in a panic, and my sincere hope is that we can avoid redundancies, but I do worry whether we will be successful,” concludes Peter Lauritzen.

UNiverse

# Pilot project caps off Foundation Course

The Foundation Course was capped off with students presenting their very first RU-project

**By: Philip Michael Shange, RUGlobal**

RU’s new exchange students have already completed their first project. The highly popular two-week Foundation Course culminated with group presentations of pilot projects.

The very first project presentation was an investigation of “the most favorite Danish beer among international students from the Foundation course at RUC spring semester 2011.”

“It went pretty well,” Robin Kamenicek said. “In terms of our group and the beer drinking manners among international students, I think we had success.”

#### **A complete project**

The project included everything one would expect from a real RU-project – research question, delimitations, methodology and collection of data.

“I think the Foundation Course students liked that we included data,” said Robin Kamenicek of the project that also included a conclusion of their findings.

#### **Students prefer Carlsberg**

According to the project, the group concluded that Foundation Course participants prefer:

*Continues*

## UNiverse

Continued

“The beers from the Carlsberg brewery” and “Taste to price!” Also, the study found that “almost 15% of the students don’t drink beer.”

Much like the national diversity of this semester’s exchange students, the pilot group was an assembly of cultures. The group consisted of a German, Greek, Finn and a Czech.

“We were the first who presented, so nobody knew what these kinds of presentations might look like, but they liked it, I think.”



Diversity management - A Greek, German, Czech and Finn working on their very first RU-project. “I think we had success,” Robin Kamenicek said.

## UNiverse

# Attention all international students!!!

By: The International Office

Did you know that some places in Roskilde offer a discount to students at RU?

We bet this information would come in handy for you. We all know that it can be quite a struggle when you are studying and don’t have a whole lot of money to get by with. That is why this information may be of importance to you.

Below is a short list stating the places where you can obtain a discount. Remember to bring your student card as you will be asked to show this!

### **Book store:**

Flensborg Bog & Idé  
Stændertorvet 4  
4000 Roskilde  
46 35 00 08  
www.bog-ide.dk  
Offers a 10 % discount on study-related books



### **Hairdressers:**

Frisør Garbo  
Hersegade 7B  
4000 Roskilde  
46 37 17 18  
Offers a 10 % discount.



House of Sense  
Bredgade 13  
4000 Roskilde  
46 32 32 14  
Offers a 15 % discount on hair cuts, massage, facial treatments, manicure, pedicure, make up, various products etc.

### **Fitness:**

Fitness World  
Algade 49, 3. sal.  
4000 Roskilde  
70 26 26 87  
www.fitnessworld.dk

Offers a monthly membership of 175 DKK for students, the normal price is 229 DKK per month so the discount is 24 %. For that price you can go to the fitness centre as often as you like.

Fitness dk  
Ro’s Torv 46  
Københavnsvej 29  
4000 Roskilde  
46 35 60 93  
www.fitnessdk.dk

Offers a monthly membership of 289 DKK for students and persons under the age of 26, the normal price is 369 DKK per month so the discount is 22 %. For that price you can go to the fitness centre as often as you like.



# Foundation Course welcomes new exchange students

With some arriving straight from the airport, RU kicked off its popular two week Foundation Course

**By: Philip Michael Shange, RUGlobal**

Arriving at the Foundation Course, one thing in particular stood – many nationalities and an enormous pile of luggage.

While some students had been in town since for a few days, others had just arrived in Denmark when RU and Language and Intercultural Communication Services (LICS) welcomed the new RU students with the two-week Foundation Course.

As a special treat, the students were treated to their first Danish breakfast – rundstykker, of course.

After a brief welcome speech by Associate Professor Susanne Hvidtfeldt, Head of International Office Mette Reebirk addressed the expectations of the new exchange students.

#### “Ask questions!”

“When you ask questions here, it is not seen as a weakness,” Reebirk said of the study form at RU.

“Here you will be judged on your ability to ask questions. How come? Why is it? That is what we expect from you.”

Naturally, adjusting to a new study culture will be a challenge for all students, Reebirk said. Student nationalities at the Foundation Course encompass several continents, countries and

cultures. Among the few mentioned were Australia, Canada, China and France.

She said complications can arise when cultures meet.

“We look for what we’re used to. When we don’t see what we’re used to, we find it weird. But every time you get the feeling of ‘UGH! This is weird,’ that is actually when you reflect and learn.”

#### A challenge

However the challenge may be harder for some students than others.

“Students from China, you have a certain challenge because asking questions in China is not really the way it’s done,” said Reebirk, who along with rector Ib Poulsen, has been instrumental in RU’s collaboration with China.

“You come up with answers – good answers – but not too many questions. So I want you [the Chinese students] to come by my office every Monday and tell me how many times you have raised your hands. If you do that, I will give you a gift.”

Much to Reebirk’s surprise, one Chinese student displayed instant querying ability.

“And what time shall we pick the gift up?” Bruce Shihan Kang promptly asked, drawing laughter from the room.

Bruce Shihan Kang begins the master’s program in Economics and Business Administration at RU. Since coming to RU, Kang, 27, has been very pleased with the Foundation Course.

“It was creative in an innovative way,” he said. “Everyone was so nice and so warm towards the newcomers. I really liked it.”



*Some students arrived at the RU Foundation Course directly from the airport.*



# Language and interculturality

Professor Karen Risager is conducting research in language, culture and transnational processes – subjects sometimes offering methodical challenges. This summer, she will be in charge of an international PhD seminar at RU



Karen Risager.

By: Jakob Bang Schmidt, RUGlobal

At the Department of Culture and Identity (CUID), language constitutes a central theme in much research, but may also pose methodical challenges. Professor at the Department of Culture and Identity, Karen Risager, is conducting a major research project that, among other things, looks into immigrants' reports on the training sessions they go through when coming to Denmark. The project has, however, posed some methodical challenges in respect of language usage. "When interviewing newly arrived immigrants, Danish is not feasible as interview language. For that reason we have to operate in the languages that are the interviewees' mother tongues.

Karen Risager and the other researchers on the project have therefore teamed up with a number of research assistants mastering the languages that are needed. The research assistants conduct the interviews which are subsequently translated into Danish. In addition to Karen Risager, the research team consists of researchers from the Danish School of Education (DPU) and University of Southern Denmark (SDU) plus Associate Professor Michael Svendsen Pedersen and Assistant Professor Louise Tranekjær from RU.

## Multilingual researchers

Karen Risager's research project is based on the transnational life experiences that the immigrants are bringing with them to Denmark. When working with several languages and transnational processes, it is, according to

### The summer school

The summer school "Identity and Interculturality: Research Methods" runs from 4 to 8 July. The deadline is 28 February for interested PhD students. The summer school forms part of a major international research network, Cultnet.

Karen Risager, absolutely necessary that you set up multilingual research teams to make the interviews more differentiated. At the same time and to the extent possible, the research assistants attached to the project should be immigrants themselves, stresses Karen Risager. "From the interviews, it is evident that speaking to a fellow-countryman or just someone speaking your own mother tongue is important."

It is also important that the interviewers are highly educated academics who are capable of exploring a subject in depth during an interview. According to Karen Risager, it has been a challenge finding researchers in the field speaking the languages required. In some cases, it has therefore been necessary to use interpreters, for example related to the social

segment. However, to a higher degree these interpreters are trained in participating in more fact-oriented interviews. "Preferably, the interviewer should seek to have as thorough a conversation with the interviewee as possible, and that requires speaking the same language at mother tongue-level", she says and continues, "We would also like to have interviewers that share some of the life experiences of the immigrants they interviewed."

### Tax system and paint pots

On the project, Karen Risager and her colleagues explore, among other things, what the immigrants wished to know about Denmark and how this knowledge is processed during the interview. Even though the project is yet to be completed, it is a foregone conclusion that the immigrants not only representing different countries, but also representing different life experiences, have many different knowledge requirements and very different ways of expressing them. Some are looking for low-practical knowledge such as how to explain to the bicycle repairer that he should mend a puncture. Others would like to gain a better insight into the Danish tax system. "One interviewee had never faced having to paint her own flat because in her home country, they use professional painters to do that. She would like to learn to read what is written on the labels of the paint pots," says Karen Risager.



## Language, identity and emotions

This summer, RU and the Department of Culture and Identity will host an international, interdisciplinary PhD summer school. "Identity and Interculturality: Research Methods" is the name of it, and a number of high-profiled researchers have been invited to RU to attend. Among the invitees is Claire Kramersch from Berkeley. During recent years, she has conducted research in the learning and usage of language. She highlights, among other things, that language not only is a useful communication tool, but also something that has an impact on people's emotions because specific identities and emotions can be related to specific languages that we have learned how to speak. These could be personal problems having occurred during processes of acquiring a new language. It could also be external

pressures during the learning process of a specific language that develops specific self-perceptions. Karen Risager stresses that Claire Kramersch's research is of particular interest in a Danish context where speaking Danish is an absolute necessity to be able to cope in society. "To some, the Danish language could be coupled with difficulties and absent life potential, despair and hatred." According to Karen Risager, a specific sense of identity could therefore be related to the Danish language. The summer school will not only focus on language challenges in transnational identity research, but also on other central themes, and it will target all academic expertise dealing in transnational research.

"The summer school is the result of the environment at Cultural Encounters that

specifically deals with collective identities, social structures in society, viewed from a transnational as well as a global perspective, including how different groups communicate about culture, ethnicity, race and gender."

The summer school also enables participants to discuss their projects. In this context, Karen Risager will also present elements of her own research project.

## Conditions for use of the mailing lists

The mailing lists must be used with consideration. It is not allowed to use the lists for private, political or commercial purposes, see :

[www.ruc.dk/en/maillinglitrules](http://www.ruc.dk/en/maillinglitrules)

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Roskilde University website. It includes the university logo, the text 'RU Roskilde University', and a search bar with options for 'For students', 'For employees', and 'Find Person'. There are also links for 'A A A', 'Print', and 'RUC A-Z'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'Frontpage > About the University > Organisation > Administration > Campus-it > Guides > Use of the mailing lists'. Below this is the title 'Conditions for use of the mailing lists' and a paragraph explaining that mailing lists are established for communication and that specific conditions apply. A list of five bullet points follows, detailing rules for use, such as not using lists for private or commercial purposes and ensuring relevance of information.

På dansk

RU  
Roskilde University

For students  
For employees  
Find Person

A A A Print RUC A-Z

Search

Frontpage > About the University > Organisation > Administration > Campus-it > Guides > Use of the mailing lists

## Conditions for use of the mailing lists

The mail lists have been established to ensure that the various organisational units, institutes, research groups and groups of students can communicate in an easy way. In addition to the general rules for the use of the IT-systems at RU, the following conditions also apply to the use of mailing lists:

- > The mailing lists should be used with care. They should not be used for private or commercial purposes. For advertisements of a private nature, the mailing list [markedsplads@ruc.dk](mailto:markedsplads@ruc.dk) should be used.
- > A mail sent to a list should contain 'relevant information' for those who receive it. It is a good rule of thumb always to consider the relevance of the mail before pressing Send. If in doubt, contact [helpdesk@ruc.dk](mailto:helpdesk@ruc.dk).
- > If you need to send a message to a huge amount of people, you should use the weekly newsletter, see [here](#).
- > Some lists are closed, i.e. you can't subscribe to them unless you contact the list administrator. You can subscribe to open lists using the [Subscribe/unsubscribe page](#).
- > The Helpdesk Office reserves the right, in the event that the regulations are not complied with, to terminate the spammer's access to the Mailing lists system.

Tips and tricks from Campus-it