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RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

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▶ Making it easier for international staff and PhD students to be part of life at RU

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Making it easier for international staff and PhD students to be part of life at RU

Roskilde University wishes to build on its status as an internationally recognised university. For this purpose, the university has set up International Faculty Services. The purpose of this service function is to make it easier for international staff and PhD students to join and be part of life at RU

By *Eva Lykke Jørgensen, RUGlobal*

On 31 January 2012, an opening reception was held to celebrate the opening of International Faculty Services, the buffet featuring international foods and adorned with flags from different countries. Spirits were high, toasts were made and Pro-rector Hanne Leth Andersen and

students and ensure the sharing of knowledge about relevant rules and arrange for social and practical support for international staff and PhD students.

“For example, we can help them sort out their banking and tax arrangements when they

arrive in Denmark. We can answer questions such as: When will I receive my pay slip?, or how do I get a national health insurance card?” explains Project Manager for IFS, Sofie

continues

“Many of the international staff feel lonely in Denmark, but one of our tasks at IFS is to arrange events where they have the opportunity to meet their Danish colleagues in the university environment. We will also introduce them to the social and professional networks found in and around Roskilde”

Professor Ian Manners gave speeches to mark the opening of Roskilde University’s new service function, International Faculty Services. The new service function is to support internationalisation among researchers and PhD



The buffet with lots of international specialties contributed to making the opening of the service function a festive day.

International Faculty Services is staffed by:

Head of the unit: Head of Human Resources and Communication, Christian Nielsen
 Project Manager: Sofie Larsen - HR Consultant
 Project Assistant: Michael Bech – Information Officer
 The reference group providing advice to IFS consists of:
 Head of Human Resources and Communication, Hans Christian Nielsen
 Head of Secretariat, Anya Strøm, CUID
 Professor Ian Manners, ISG
 Teaching Associate Professor, Susanne Hvidtfeldt, PAES
 Teaching Associate Professor, Therese Hauge, LICS
 Associate Professor, Anne Fabricius, CUID, CALPIU
 Human Resources and Communication (secretariat) Sofie Larsen



Professor Ian Manners was one of the speakers on the opening day.

mic and practical knowledge. The reference group is to work as a sounding board for the IFS staff.

“The reference group held its first start-up meeting in January 2012 and there was great enthusiasm among the members of the reference group.” At the meeting, a project plan was presented, containing targets and milestones for the work of IFS. The targets were met with qualified and academic input from the members of the reference group,” says Sofie Larsen.

The service function, International Faculty Services, is located in building 04.2. No opening hours. Drop by, or send an e-mail to ifs-ru@ruc.dk.

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Larsen, pointing out that IFS is a way for international staff to build a social life in Denmark. “Many of the international staff feel lonely in Denmark, but one of our functions at IFS is to arrange events where they have the opportunity to meet their Danish colleagues in the university environment. We will also introduce them to the social and professional

networks found in and around Roskilde”, adds Sofie Larsen.

Excellent collaboration

Setting up the service function has been done in collaboration between the offices of: Human Resources and Communication, Education and Internationalisation and the departments at RU. At the same time, a reference group has been set up whose purpose is to support the service function by bringing into play acade-



Speeches and presentations on the opening day

Where there's a will, there's a way



Mikkel Wendelboe

Our long awaited spring is approaching; its gurgling streams, twittering birds moving softly about in the tree tops and the wind softly kissing our winter-weary lips. The sun is now insistingly peeping out from behind the clouds, snowdrops are happily pushing their heads through the dense forest floor and the active university dragoon is already flat on his stomach on the worn wooden floor manically searching for his sports equipment hidden away underneath the worn-out wooden bed. Eagerness makes the veins pump hard and beyond control, eyes are shining with a glow that had otherwise been put out by the merciless iron grip of King Winter and the tip of the tongue in the corner of his mouth quickly reveals a want for something. However, a want that quickly vanishes and dissolves into nothing. Because for many months, sports has been shelved, but now there is hope again. Or is there? The intentions are there, but what about the venue? As we boldly concluded in the most recent article (which I assume you read, you slacker?), RU is in need of a sporting venue. But alas – fear not. Because as a minor service the writer has this time been out hunting for other places on campus that could well be used for sporting activities.

Text and photo: Mikkel Wendelboe, RUGlobal

Who has not walked past the auditorium, conference room or laboratory thinking “what an excellent venue for a game of rounders” without the slightest thought of the risk involved in running the gauntlet between slide projectors, flasks of liquid nitrogen and lectures on theory of science?

Depending on the eyes of the beholder, Roskilde University could suddenly become the land of opportunities where sports arenas, playing fields and alterna-

tive venues that could help bring out the sweat on your upper lip are doing a Cha Cha Cha right in front of your eyes. And to such an extent that the sports enthusiast nearly slaps his winter-pale thighs in tune with the music. Information, progress and new horizons – subjects often preached about by science, so why not just take the matter in your own hand? Why not let go of the old dusty mooring lines and seek new horizons where the ball has not yet left its mark, where the only one sweating is a nervous student doing an exam and where architects never ever envisioned using the venue for sports?

Truly a noble idea in fact, and with this in mind, the writer walks about on campus, nose in the air.

The sun is shining, birds are twittering – spring is approaching. I can feel it in my fingertips, and optimistically I have left behind my scarf, hat and long underwear. An act which, however, quickly makes my nose run since the temperature evidently has not been hit by spring fever and therefore gives me a sense of being somewhere well north of the Arctic

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Circle. "Never mind", I think to myself with sunny optimism, but nevertheless I decide to seek warmth and happiness indoors just as I see ENSPAC's building 02 out of the left corner of my eye. Just what I was hoping for, and despite the heavy concrete burden from the birth of RU enticing me, I am already walking through the door; teeth clattering, pen in hand and with undefeatable (bordering on psychotic) optimism.

Inside it is silent as the grave. I therefore take a minute to look around in a world where urban planning, hydrology and other things suitable for explaining the contents of a map is the order of the day. The door to my right immediately attracts my attention. With eagerness, I excitedly grasp the door handle while looking at a sign telling me what to expect on the other side. "Geosubject hall". Not a very sexy name, but as already said – it all depends on the eyes of the beholder,

and therefore I am also full of joy when a moment later I gaze across all the geology samples carefully indexed in the belly of the room. "This is my first arena!" is echoing in my brain, and enthusiastically I immediately agree with it. The room is big and stuffed with tables and chairs, but in my mind I simply make it all disappear at the blink of an eye. "This is an excellent place to play a game of badminton", I mumble tentatively to myself while slowly walking about in the room, or maybe some "jai alai"? A sound, however, reaches my ears, and as a horde of students come pouring into the room to study sediments from the Permian, Triassic and Cretaceous Periods, I slip out the door excited to see where my next sports venue might be.

I continue my search, but not for long before the goddess of fortune sends a puff of wind in my direction, like a sporty kiss on the cheek. Well, this has been obvious

Behind every door is a game of Mikado or a dance on chairs. Well, at least if you believe it enough.



RU is everything and RU is nothing. The entire university could be your sports ground, all you have to do is stretch your imagination a little....

all along. The big auditorium. Building 00; a high-ceilinged room with lots of opportunities, space for your arms and maybe even a proper game of dodgeball. Or a game of laser tag. Yes, even tuna throwing could be practised under this arched cathedral of science, and with a sigh I let myself sink into one of these awful folding chairs, whose only purpose in life is to chop into bits the vertebra, thigh bones and hip sockets of the poor students, one after one.

I could easily continue my search and discover a thousand places like this, but I don't need to. Because I believe the point I'd like to make to be hammered home, and while I silently laugh to myself, I throw a ball in the air with a nonchalant gesture. "I wonder whether there is a place at RU that would be suitable for motocross", I think for a moment – but I quickly drop the idea. Campus needs to be fed with sporting activities little after little so as not to be suffocated in the

process. "But perhaps one day", I nod with a cunning smile on my lips, "perhaps one day..."

RU is what you make it, and the whole world is your sports venue, if only you know where to look. So take a good look, and remember to bring your drink bottle, knee support and a very good excuse. Exercise begin!

UNiverse

What did you think of the RU Career Fair 2012?

RUGlobal visited the RU Career Fair on 23 February 2012 and asked five students what they thought of this year's career fair. The five students were generally very enthusiastic about the event, but some of them suggested changes.



Stina Knudsen, Social Sciences and Psychology

What did you think of the RU Career Fair 2012?

I think it's a really good initiative. I have been here a couple of times before, and I think it's great that different businesses and associations are here to tell us about who they are and what they actually do. I'm sure many students are wondering what staff at SKAT or Google are working with. So I think it's really good.

Have you learned anything from visiting the fair today?

Yes, I generally think that you learn a lot from visiting these events. You get answers. Also about some of the jobs that you would not normally see yourself in. It may become clearer to you if you want to work in the public or private sector, and what it means to work for a municipality, for example.

continued



**Ena Wulff Andersen,
Informatics and
Performance Design**

What did you think of the RU Career Fair 2012?

I think it's a really cool initiative, and it's great that we have it. But I also think it's quite "messy": It's difficult to know who to talk to and why the different businesses want to meet us. Their posters do not tell us anything about what they can offer, or what they expect from us. Perhaps, they could become better at communicating what they hope to achieve from being here. Of course, we know that they are here for a purpose; otherwise, they wouldn't be here. But we can't really see what their purpose is.

Have you learned anything from visiting the fair today?

I learned that you can apply for internships at Google, which could be really interesting, and which I will take a closer look at.



**Ane Carlsen, Communication
Studies and Cultural
Encounters**

What did you think of the RU Career Fair 2012?

I just arrived, but my first impression is that it's a very interesting event. I have 2½ years left of my studies, but I still think it's extremely interesting to feel the pulse of the job market and get a glimpse of the business community. It's nice to get an idea of what is waiting on the other side. I have talked to Bysted and to an unemployment insurance fund. During my talk with the unemployment insurance fund, I was encouraged to apply for a student job with them, so I have already gained a lot from being here. That is pretty fantastic, I think.

I think it's really nice to see real life being brought into the university in this way. I often think that you can get completely engulfed in all your projects and theories which seem out of touch with the real business life. It's nice to get an overview of the various options available. I will be back next year, and I think that the closer I get to graduation, the more relevant the career fair will be to me.



**Jakob Kirkegaard, Public
Administration**

What did you think of the RU Career Fair 2012?

I think there are not enough businesses you can meet. Too many of the businesses are looking for candidates in a too narrow context. As a student of social sciences, for example, there are perhaps only two or three businesses of interest. The businesses at the fair do not offer enough specific information, which means that you end up making small talk. I think the idea of having a career fair is really, really good, but unfortunately the specific format of the fair is not that good. The businesses should have provided more specific information. A few of them, though, have said: "Visit this website, or participate in this". However, I think the problem is that there are not enough jobs and that there is no need for labour, so you can't really say that it's anyone's fault or that it's a bad event. It's just a shame that conditions are like this right now.



**Sandra Narud, student
of Psychology and
Communication Studies**

What did you think of the RU Career Fair 2012?

I thought it was really good. I got some good impressions and spoke to some interesting businesses. This is my first time at the RU Career Fair, so I didn't know what to expect. I spoke to the Municipality of Roskilde, HR at the Municipality of Næstved, Danske Bank and a business called Job Vision.

Did your visit to the fair today result in any contacts or opportunities?

Yes, I think so. I found inspiration and received information about what goes on in the labour market within the field I would like a career. For example, I am currently looking for a work placement, and my visit to the fair today enabled me to explore the opportunities in that specific field. It was interesting to talk to people who are working in HR and learn more about their tasks etc. There are definitely some websites that I want to check out and some applications I want to send. I actually feel I now have something to move on from. So I was very impressed with the career fair. I didn't think I would get that much specific information out of it.