

Why project organisation of studies

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1. An active way of learning
2. The labour market

An active way of learning

- To read with a purpose for you own small research
- To formulate what you think is interesting
- To learn by discussion in a group
- To learn by writing
- To learn to find problems in society and social science, instead of only reproduction of disciplines view. To see how geography perspective can help.

The labour market perspective

- The academic education must teach student to learn, without being told exactly what to learn
- To learn for long life learning
- To work in groups
- To use the complexity of different group members skills
- Develop social capability in work

The education must learn students:

- To cope with a lot of information
- To organize these information in a new and relevant way for what you want to clarify
- To find information from established sources and how to do small new surveys.
- To know how to set up relevant problems for an organisation/firm in a changing world

Element in project work at RU

- Find an interesting problem by *help* from the tutors, not decided by the tutors.
- Group work – group discussion, presentation
- Written project report
- Inter-disciplinary
- *Exemplarity* of relevant academic and practical debate

A project – a project report

- The project is the full process – finding the cardinal question, the literature, interviews, statistic, working papers, debates.
- The project report is the documentation for the process. As well as an oral examination.
- Project report is from 50-200 p. with 1-6 members in a “group”.
- Project reports can be focus on theory, empirical investigation, and with qualitative or quantitative approach.

Element in project work - tutors

- The tutors role as mainly an supporter not a controller, (before the final examination)
- Help to learn how to collect and organize empirical information
- Ready ness to teach in the group on element to support the research process. Either on the subject and/or on methodology and theory.

Roskilde University. A short history -1

- Started i 1972 – 30 km from Copenhagen
- Project work from the start as a critic of traditional teaching. House units with 63 students and a room pr 7 students. 5 teachers in offices next to students room.
- Leftwing orientation – the red university
- Newspapers wrote against this new learning system- and the interest for environment problems

Roskilde University. A short history -2

- 1974-80 many public debates and demands to close the university, many demonstrations to support the university.
- 1975 a demand in the parliament to close the university was change in the last minute by one conservative MP passed the floor and voted against. An OECD survey supported RUC and the new teaching methods

Roskilde University. A short history -3

- 1988: One leading newspaper Politiken (like the Guardian) wrote : RU is the darling of the private sector – candidates are more mature and can work directly from day 1.
- 1988: student numbers 2800. 2006: 9000
- Until 2006 an elected Rector- then appointment by a new board.
- Today project work is only counting for 30 ects in average pr year. For 3 or 5 years.

Roskilde University. A short history -4

- Today project work is only counting for 30 ects in average pr year. For 3 or 5 years.
- 1973 10 student pr full time employed lecture/professor.
- 2004 26 student pr full time employed l/p.
- 2007 30 student pr full time employed l/p.
- Can reduce project work ideas , as well as a demand from lectures to teach courses closely related to research.