

## Social Interaction Policy for bachelor intro period at Roskilde University

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### Purpose

The Social Interaction Policy aims to ensure a good introduction process for all involved, where both new students and volunteers strive to create an inclusive introduction process.

The Social Interaction Policy contributes to the university's work in preventing and dealing with offensive behaviour and harassment.

The Social Interaction Policy describes the framework, expectations and tools that must support the individual in participating in the intro period and in working with values for the intro period.

### Values

The university wants an inclusive and diverse intro period, where everyone experiences being treated with respect, dignity and recognition, and where everyone takes responsibility for the community.

The introductory course must contribute to the university being an attractive place of study with room for engagement and good prerequisites for an inclusive study and learning environment without barriers in terms of gender, ethnicity, social background, sexual orientation or physical and mental disability<sup>1</sup>.

### Where and to whom the Social Interaction Policy applies

The Social Interaction Policy applies to all volunteers and new students and to all activities in connection with the intro period, including training and planning activities for volunteers and the intro period itself, including the study trip off campus.

### Activity compass

In the planning and implementation of activities, emphasis is placed on including everyone, and it must be strived for that activities can accommodate everyone. In this connection, a so-called activity compass has been drawn up to create a basis for an inclusive environment<sup>2</sup>.

In general, it is important to consider how to communicate, which activities are chosen and how they are organised. Consider what norms, values, understandings, assumptions and positions are brought into play and what environment these create – who is included, who is potentially not included?

The compass consists of a list of questions and must be used by the volunteers in their organisation of the program for the intro period and in planning and facilitating activities. New students can also use the compass as a basis for reflecting on their participation in the intro period.

Guidelines regarding alcohol in the intro period and related activities are specified in the Alcohol Policy for intro period<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#) and [Strategi for studiemiljø på Roskilde Universitet \(in Danish\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> The activity compass has been developed in collaboration with Awake Consulting in 2022.

<sup>3</sup> [Alcohol Policy](#)

- What is the purpose of the activity – and does the purpose match the means/form?
- Can everyone join? Who potentially cannot?
- Does the activity support the community?
- Does the activity make it safe to be a new student?
- Is the programme balanced – with breaks, presentation length, waiting time...?
- Are there elements of ridicule or stereotyping?
- Is there a risk of humiliation, boundary crossing, threats to physical/psychological well-being?
- Is the programme communicated in a way that includes everyone? Are there preconditions that not everyone can relate to?
- Who is this fun for? And is there anyone that this potentially isn't fun for?

## How to act if you experience offensive or boundary-crossing behavior

The university wants to support a bullying-free and conflict-handling culture and a study environment where students and staff act with respect for everyone involved if someone has experienced something offensive. This also applies to the intro period and all related activities.

The university wants an environment where students react concretely, constructively and with respect for everyone involved when someone has experienced something offensive. As humans, we have different limits as to what we experience as offensive. And offensive behaviors range widely across different situations – from ill-considered comments to gross violations, where sanctions may be involved. A distinction can be made between single and repeated incidents.

It is not possible to provide precise guidance on how experiences of offensive or boundary-crossing behavior can or should be handled. But we encourage you to always react if you experience, see or hear something that you perceive as offensive - even when it is not a serious offense. What is best to do in a particular situation depends on what has happened and how the people involved feel.

On RUC's intranet, you can read more about RUC's policy on this subject. In the guidance for the prevention and dealing with offensive behavior there is good advice on how to act, regardless of whether you or someone else experiences or witnesses something that is found to be offensive<sup>4</sup>.

### Who can be contacted?

If you, as a new student or volunteer, have heard, seen or experienced something that you need to talk to someone about, you can always contact the Chairpersons of Tutoring or the Chairpersons of the Student Council. Your inquiry is confidential, and your information will not be passed on without your consent.

You can also contact the Study and Career Guidance via [takecare@ruc.dk](mailto:takecare@ruc.dk). Here you can get confidential guidance, support and sparring from employees at the university who know how to handle experiences with offensive and boundary-crossing behavior. If there is a need to investigate the possibility of sanctions, the Study and Career Guidance office can also help you with this.

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<sup>4</sup> [Policy on Offensive behavior](#) and [Preventing and dealing with offensive behavior – Guidance for staff and students at Roskilde University](#)