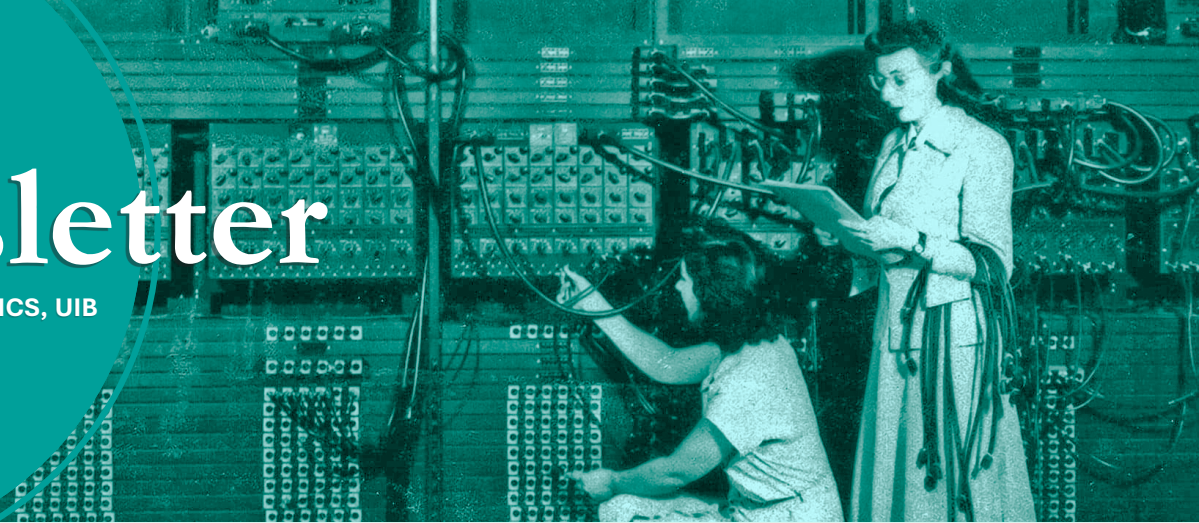


# Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.04/2023, 24.02.2023



Editor-in-chief: Inge Jonassen. Editor: Randi Heggernes Eilertsen.  
Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.  
Old newsletters can be found [here](#).

## Dear Colleagues,

These last couple of weeks, Khrono has written about the [lack of ICT competence](#) and in general [more candidates with PhDs, master and bachelor degrees](#). The messages are coming from studies performed by Norwegian industry associations including NHO and Abelia.

Our University, and in particular our department and that of information and media science, is working hard to improve the situation when it comes to increasing ICT competence in the region and the country. We need to convey to the young potential students that an education in informatics can open for careers in many different sectors. ICT competence is needed not only in software and IT companies. It is central in many sectors including banking, insurance, media, trading, but also towards the health sector, renewable energy, government and so on. Informatics is crucial for meeting the grand challenges linked with climate, health, and energy.

And informatics is needed as components in other study programs. For example, the medical faculty sees data science as important for their students and has approached us to collaborate towards extending our new siv-ing study in data science with a specialization towards medicine. We already contribute to interdisciplinary study programs linked with for example economy and biology. It is important that we contribute to these interdisciplinary study programs, but it is even more important that we strengthen our own study offerings within central area of informatics. And that it is all based on a solid fundament of high-quality research in the field of informatics itself.

Being one of the most international departments at the UiB, we are also recruiting numerous highly qualified people from abroad into PhD, post-doc, faculty, and technical positions. Many of them want to stay in Norway. This way, we are also contributing to fill the need for highly qualified professionals in the Norwegian society.

With the current geopolitical situation, with war in Europe going on now for one year, there are unfortunately new obstacles for international recruitment and collaboration. We have to respect the government's efforts to ensure the security of our nation and our allies, even when this means that we need to apply for so-called export license to recruit staff, or host visitors originating, from certain countries (notably Russia, China, Iran). The [regulations around export licenses](#) regulate export of military and dual-use technology and competence to countries we do not have a security collaboration with.

I hope the rules and their implementation over time can be adjusted to make it easier to work with researchers in all countries. But in the current situation, it may be a good idea to focus on collaborations with partners in countries not associated with these limitations.

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

Inge



## The Dean's Blog - Gunn Mangerud



The Dean's blog aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

Her latest posts:

- [Et godt resultat for 2022 må inspirere til fortsatt godt arbeid, ikke bli en hvilepute.](#)
- [#RealfagUiB](#)



### Reading hall: Beta launch

On Wednesday, the students had a name reveal party for their secondary reading hall, which after a student vote is now officially called "Beta"!

## Welcome, new colleagues!



### Kristian Teofilovic

Kristian is the newest member of our study section. He did his master's in Administration and Organizational Science here at UiB, but is originally from Kristiansand. He has previous experience working for Nav. Before that, he had a position where he did quality assurance at an ice cream factory. It's hard to say why anyone would want to give up that job, but luckily for us, he did.

Welcome, Kristian!



# Current Issues



## Teacher's retreat - Deadline today!

For the second time, the Faculty and the Pedagogical Academy welcome you to the teacher's retreat. The seminar will be held on **28 March at 12.30 - 17.00 and 29 March at 9.00-12.00**. It will take place on campus at Ulrikke Pihls-hus and will therefore not include an overnight stay.

The theme is **Student active learning forms**, and the program will include plenary as well as parallel sessions.

Tentative program:

### March 28

12-12.30: Coffee/tea

12:30 – 17:00 Plenary and group discussions

17:30 Dinner

### March 29

09-12.00 Plenary and workshops

We will return with the more detailed program. The [deadline for registration is 24 February in this form](#). Due to the limited number of places, registration is binding.



## Rent a cabin!

UiB owns four cabins that can be rented by employees. However, due to high demand, only a lucky few are selected in a raffle a few times per year.

If you want to rent a cabin this spring, apply [here](#) before the 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

You can read more about the UiB cabins [here](#).

(The website unfortunately only has information in Norwegian because they assume only Norwegians enjoy spending a weekend getting lost in the mountains and losing a toe to frostbite. This is your chance to prove them wrong.)

## Annual Conference 2023

Registration is now open for the NORA Annual Conference 2023. The conference will take place in Tromsø, 5-6th of June.

[Read more and sign up.](#)

## Reminder: Guest routine

Inviting and hosting guest researchers is a natural and welcomed part of our academic work. It is still crucial to act according to our routines and procedures when planning to invite a guest.

If you are inviting a guest researcher to our department, you must now follow the new guest routine found [here](#).

## Summer School 2023 participation survey

**CEDAS**, the Center for Data Science at UiB, and **NORBIS**, the national research school in bioinformatics, biostatistics and systems biology, are preparing a joint summer school for both starting and experienced data scientists.

To create a great and relevant programme for the participants, they have created a survey where you can let them know what kind of activities and topics you are interested in, what dates you would like the event to be held, and much more. The survey can be done anonymously, or you can leave your information and get updates regarding the summer school.

The survey can be found [here](#), and is open until the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.



## Kakeklubben is back!

**Wednesdays 12:00 in Kremle**

Kakeklubben (the cake club) is a casual meetup where you can practice your Norwegian, meet people from across the department, and eat cake!  
No signup, the cake is provided and you can bring your lunch along.



## Yoga is back!

**Wednesdays 14:30-15:30 in  
Blåbær**

Our instructor has returned; yoga is back! You can bring your own mat or borrow one.

No signup required.

## Women in AI 2023

**Mar. 8, 2023, 2:00 PM–5:00 PM**

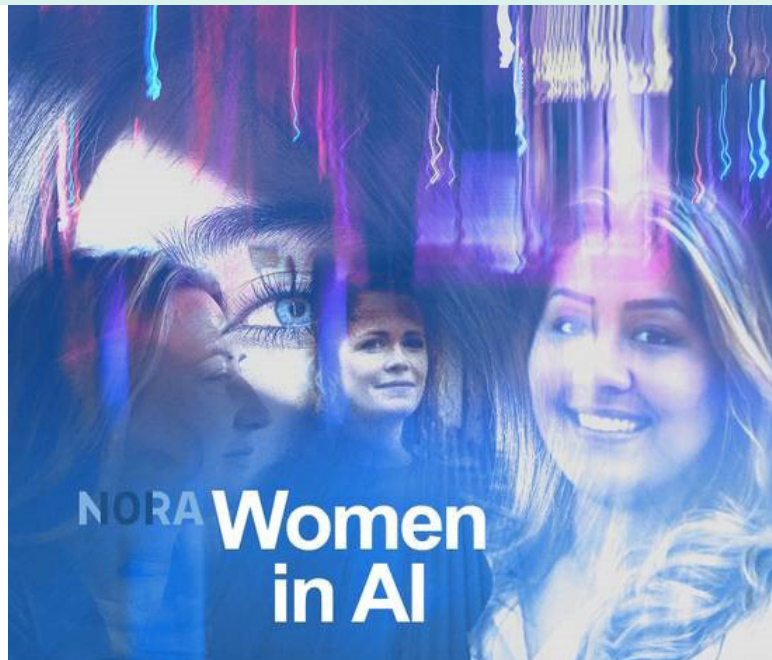
Location: Domus Bibliotheca,  
Karl Johans gt. 47, Oslo  
(digital attendance possible)

On the 8th of March, we invite you to join us for an afternoon event where we will discuss the situation of gender and diversity in AI today and measures needed in effort to tackle inequality and mitigate bias in the field of artificial intelligence.

Invited keynotes:

- Ishita Barua, Lead in AI in Healthcare, Deloitte
- Siren Tønnesen, Head of AI & Analytics, Itera
- Claire Blackett, Senior Research Scientist, Institute for Energy Technology
- Helga M. Brøgger, Principal Researcher, MD, DNV Group Research and Development, Healthcare Programme (Moderator)

To read more about the event and to access the program, click [here](#).



## The National Security Authority is hiring PhD candidates within disruptive crypto technology

The National Security Authority (NSM) is hiring new PhD candidates, at least one of which will be associated with our department.

This position is an opportunity to be a student at our department, while being employed by the National Security Authority.

[Read more here.](#)

For security clearance reasons, these positions require Norwegian citizenship.



## Nasjonal sikkerhetsmyndighet (NSM) inviterer til Sikkerhetskonferansen 2023

**Onsdag 22. og torsdag 23.mars.**

*Studenter med gyldig student-bevis betaler halv pris av deltakeravgiften.*

Sikkerhetskonferansen er landets viktigste arrangement innenfor forebyggende sikkerhet. Vi gleder oss veldig til å fylle Oslo kongressenter med den første fysiske konferansen på tre år. Omkring halvparten av plassene er allerede solgt, og vi har tidligere år endt opp med lange ventelister.

Krig, klimaendringer og krisestemning var stikkord som preget 2022. Den sikkerhetspolitiske situasjonen vi står i, danner bakteppe for konferansen også i år. Samarbeid på tvers av samfunnet står sentralt. På Sikkerhetskonferansen 2023 kombinerer vi det aktuelle sikkerhetspolitiske bildet med andre relevante temaer som definerer sikkerhetstilstanden i årene fremover.

Programmet er under ferdigstilling og blir publisert og løpende oppdatert på nettsidene. [Les mer og meld deg på her.](#)





## UiB Ferd

“UiB Ferd supports early stage researchers in their career development”

UiB Ferd Career Centre supports doctoral candidates, postdoctoral fellows, researchers and associate professors. We offer a range of services designed to help you develop your career within or beyond the university.

[You can sign up for the UiB Ferd newsletter here.](#)

## International Newsletter

UiB has a newsletter made especially for internationals, where you can find useful tips and news about upcoming events.

If you have moved to Bergen from a different country, we highly recommend subscribing to the newsletter [here](#).

You can also follow the International Centre calendar to find events that are of particular interest to international staff and students.



## Open Science Seminars Spring 2023

The UiB University Library continues its popular Open Science seminar series in spring 2023 with a number of webinars on Research Data Management and Scholarly Communication:

Make your research visible using researcher profiles [March 17<sup>th</sup>](#)

How to make your data open & FAIR [March 31<sup>st</sup>](#) and [May 26<sup>th</sup> \(in Norwegian\)](#)

Open Access publishing step-by-step [April 14<sup>th</sup>](#)

Finding & reusing research data [April 28<sup>th</sup>](#)

Data Management Planning WORKSHOP [May 12<sup>th</sup>](#)

Introduction to Data Management Plans [May 12<sup>th</sup>](#)

## Vacant positions

[PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – Cryptology \(up to 2 positions\)](#)

[PhD Research Fellow in Informatics: Visual Data Scienceto Master Complex Simulation Ensembles](#)

[See all open positions at UiB](#)

# Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Please contact research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) if you plan to apply. All applications need to be approved by the department leadership. An overview over our [research support services](#) is also available online.



## Forskningrådet

**Green platform:** Projects should, among others, have a goal to solve specific challenges and issues that will accelerate the green transition of Norwegian business and industry towards 2030 and 2050. Projects are to be carried out by a consortium comprising a minimum of three partners, of which at least two are companies.

[Mandatory outline](#) to be submitted by 8 March 2023 (1.00 pm Norwegian time).



## Forskningrådet

### Researcher Project for Young Talents

**(FRIPRO):** The Research Council of Norway has opened a call for funding to give [talented young researchers](#) the opportunity to pursue their ideas and lead a research project. This call is targeting researchers in the early stages of their careers, 2–7 years after their PhD defence, and under the age of 40.

Application deadline: 15 March 2023



**New HFSP Research Grants:** Norway is a member of the "Human Frontier Science Program Organization" (HFSP). "[Research Grants](#)" are awarded for three years, to international (preferably intercontinental) teams of 2 – 4 members who have not collaborated before. Participation of researchers from disciplines outside the traditional life sciences, such as biophysics, chemistry, computational biology, computer science, engineering, mathematics, nanoscience or physics, is recommended."

Deadline for sending the letter of intent: 21 March 2023



### New HFSP Postdoctoral Fellowships:

Norway is a member of the "Human Frontier Science Program Organization" (HFSP). "The [postdoctoral scholarship](#) is for three years and is awarded to talented postdoctoral fellows with ground-breaking research projects in the life sciences. [...] the program also encourages postdoctoral fellows with a background in fields other than biology to apply for projects to solve fundamental problems in the life sciences." Please note that there are strict mobility rules and special requirements regarding the supervisor.

Deadline for sending the letter of intent: 11 May 2023





**New MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships:** “The goal of [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD and who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility.” This scheme follows strict mobility rules. Applicants should have a PhD degree at the time of the deadline for applications, and must have no more than eight years experience in research.

Application deadline (tentative): 13 September 2023



**COST:** “[COST](#) funds interdisciplinary research networks called COST Actions. These Actions bring together researchers, innovators and other professionals including industry specialists, who are based in Europe and beyond, to collaborate on research topics for a period of 4 years. The funding a COST Action receives covers the expenses of networking activities rather than research and as such is used to organise and fund events, Short-term Scientific Missions, Training Schools, communication activities, and virtual networking tools.”

Application deadline: 25 October 2023



**CAS project:** The Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) invites researchers to pursue excellent, fundamental, curiosity-driven research in Oslo for one academic year. Assemble your international dream team of prominent researchers and apply for [a research stay at CAS](#).

Faculty members who hold permanent, full-time, tenured academic positions at CAS' partner institutions in Norway are eligible to apply. The applicants will function as project leader and will assemble and lead their research group at CAS.

Application deadline: October 2023

## Event News

### **New Cutting Edge AI**

NORA will democratize AI by providing an accessible platform for people to gain knowledge, exchange ideas, and collaborate on projects related to AI. NORA has therefore recently launched its quarterly "CuttingEdgeAI" event series. Stay tuned for further meetings!



### *Open Research*

From 2023, **open research will be incorporated into the assessment criteria** for Researcher Projects and Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects on open science practice. [On this website](#), the RCN explains how you can best respond to these assessment criteria when applying for funding.

### *New Waiting period and quarantine for FRIPRO*

RCN is introducing a one-year **waiting period**. Starting with the FRIPRO announcements published this autumn, one will be able to submit an application at any time. Once the application has been submitted, project managers will have a 12-month waiting period until they can submit their next application.

RCN is introducing a **submission restriction period (quarantine)** for applications that receive marks below given limits, so that these must wait another year or two before they can apply again. The submission restriction period comes in addition to the waiting period and applies from the date the waiting period expires.

More information here: [Changes in RCN application processing](#) & [Young Research Talent \(FRIPRO\) call](#)

### *New Other*

In addition to the ongoing application processing and submission restriction period, we are introducing four other measures to reduce the number of applications and increase the acceptance rate.

- One **cannot be the project manager for more than one FRIPRO project at a time**, but one can apply for a new project well in advance of the completion of a current project.
- There will be a requirement of **six years' experience after a doctorate** or equivalent **for the Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal**, so that this call will be reserved for experienced researchers. Researchers early in their career may apply for a Researcher Project for Young Talents or a Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility.
- If it is appropriate for a project one is planning, one may apply for a project with a **longer duration** than one has been able to until now.
- The Research Council will establish permanent expert pools in order to more quickly and efficiently assemble suitable expertise for assessing the applications that come in.

The European Commission has released the **new work programs for Pillar II (Global Challenges) for the years 2023-2024**. We have sent an email to all group contacts for further information about the research support services at the department for Pillar II proposals, as well as a list over potentially interesting topics (see also below). We encourage everyone/all our groups to look carefully at the work programs and identify relevant topics. For questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stefanie Meyer.

**29.03.2023**

[Efficient trustworthy AI - making the best of data \(AI, Data and Robotics Partnership\)](#)

**13.04.2023**

[Integrated, multi-scale computational models of patient patho-physiology \('virtual twins'\) for personalised disease management](#)

**13.04.2023**

[Better integration and use of health-related real-world and research data, including genomics, for improved clinical outcomes](#)

**20.04.2023**

[Computational models for the development of safe and sustainable by design chemicals and materials](#)

**05.09.2023**

[Digital twin for forecasting of power production to wind energy demand](#)

**23.11.2023**

[Security of robust AI systems](#)

**19.03.2024**

[Fundamentals of Software Engineering](#)

**19.03.2024**

[Explainable and Robust AI \(AI Data and Robotics Partnership\)](#)

**05.09.2024**

[Critical technologies for the future ocean energy farms](#)

**20.11.2024**

[Post-quantum cryptography transition](#)

You can find all work programs here: [Horizon Europe Reference Documents](#)

# NORBIS activities

## Collaborative courses open for registration:

### Workshop for aspiring supervisors.

This course aims to prepare young researchers to be supervisors either at an early supervisor stage or before entering the role and is tailored for young researchers in biotechnology. This three-day intensive course aims to prepare young researchers to be supervisors either at an early supervisor stage or before entering the role. It is tailored for young researchers in biotechnology and will consist of lectures, group work, and discussions. The course is organized by the Digital Life Norway Research School.

**Time and place:** Apr. 12, 2023–Apr. 14, 2023, [Valberg Slektsgård](#) outside of Trondheim.

Maximum 20 participants.

Registration is directly through DLN research school web page. [Click here for more information and registration.](#)

NORBIS will fund our members to participate and it is first come, first serve. For this course, both PhD students and posdocs are eligible to receive travel funding. To obtain the funding, both PhD students and postdocs have to send a verification of attendance and travel budget including tickets to [contact-norbis@uib.no](mailto:contact-norbis@uib.no). NORBIS will cover the overnight stay for the course, and this expense is not needed for the budget, only your travel to Trondheim. You can receive up to NOK 2500 for the round trip (travelling to/from Tromsø and Bodø allows for a higher limit), and if you cannot find tickets within our rates, please explain this in your application. Take care of the environment and travel by train whenever possible.

## Machine Learning in Medical Bioinformatics

**This course is organized by MedBioInfo and open for NORBIS members. The course is given on site in Linköping.**

**Dates:** May 8-12, 2023

**Organizers:** Björn Wallner at Linköping University

**Registration:** [OPEN](#). The registration is limited to NORBIS members only and PhD students have priority.



**Registration deadline:** April 1st, 2023.

### **Practical information**

The workshop will consist of a mix between research talks, the theory behind the research, and actually applying the theory yourself in practical exercises. Topics discussed during the workshop: Unsupervised and supervised learning. Various machine learning techniques, ranging from linear models, support vector machines, random forests, neural networks, and deep neural networks. Please note there is a per-assignment that has to be completed before the course.

**Link to course:** <https://norbis.w.uib.no/machine-learning...bioinformatics-4/>

## **SMED8020 Genetic Epidemiology**

Date: 22-26 May

Location: NTNU

Number of places: 18

Course responsible: Ben Brumpton

Lecturers: Kristian Hveem, Maiken Gabrielsen, Frank Skorpen, Rebecka Hjort, Marta Moksnes, Therese Haugdal Nøst, Laxmi Bhatta, Nicole Warrington

**Registration deadline: April 20th, 2023.**

For more information and registration: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/smed8020-genetic-epidemiology/>

### **Courses that soon will open for registrations:**

- **Bioinformatics for DNA metabarcoding and long-read amplicon data**, 17-21 April at UiO.  
Course responsible is Håvard Kauserud.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

CEDAS and NORBIS are joining forces and will co-arrange this year's summer school! Are you considering joining the summer school? Then please fill out our survey here and you can help us shaping the summer school: <https://forms.gle/6TW9Yvwc4yfQy23k8>

For more information, please see our webpage: <https://norbis.w.uib.no>