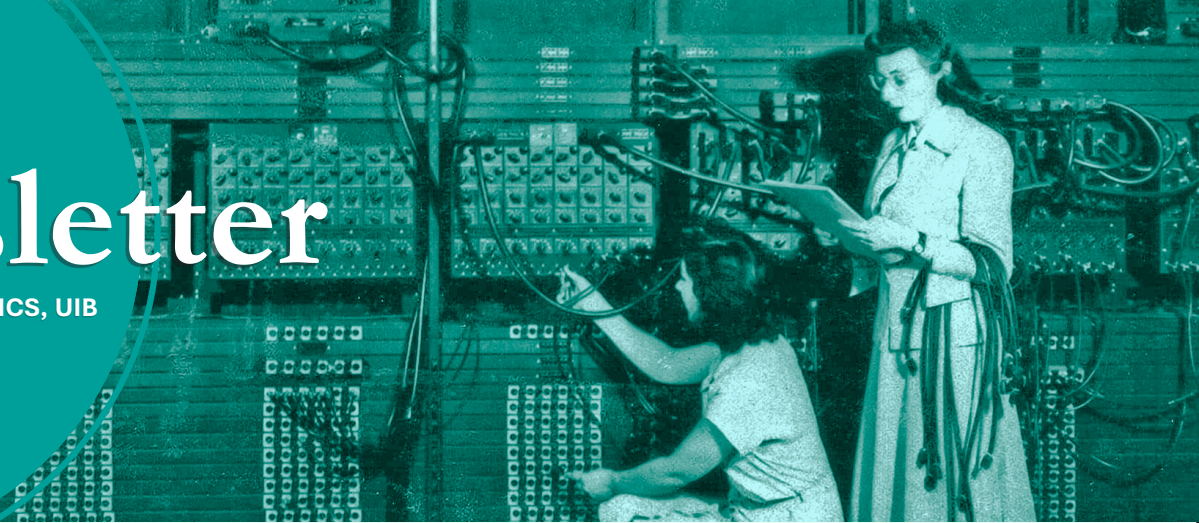


# Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB  
No.17/2022, 07.10.2022



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,

It was amazing to see how many people we are in the building when we had a fire alarm last week! But it also served as a reminder. First, when we get out of the building, we need to step away from the building and gather close to the “anchor” towards VilVite. If we stay in front of the entrance, we block the access for fire trucks, and there could also be explosions in the building or building parts falling down on us. Also, please remember that we have two staircases in our building. Those located in the North of the building should use the northern staircase, so that we can all get safely out of the building quicker. This time, the alarm was caused by a technical error – but another time it may of course be a real fire – in which case we would definitely like to get everybody out safely!

Yesterday the national budget and the long-term plan for research and higher education were both launched – and I guess we all need some more time to dive into these documents. The signals from the Research Council indicates that the budget will enable them to launch a FRIPRO call next year with funding in 2024. These are indeed good news. The funding for the universities is also maintained and given a small increase on top of the expected inflation. Still, I think it is a good idea that we seek funding from European programs as well.

The long-term plan includes this statement: “There is potential for the best environments within ICT research to better utilize the framework programs from EU” (my translation). Our minister of research also states that the FRIPRO programs should have a funding rate of around 25% - but he seems to be arguing for fewer funding applications rather than increased funding. I don’t quite see how this can be realized while maintaining the high quality of research. These discussions, along with the strategy discussions happening at our university, will be important for our activities in the coming years. If you want to stay up to date, and maybe engage in the discourse, I encourage you to subscribe to the Khrono and Forskningsrådet email updates.

After we had a lot of nice weather in September, the real Bergen autumn is now hitting us, and giving us good working conditions. 😊 Also, remember that with the right clothes, the outdoors can still be enjoyed!

I wish you all  
a very nice  
weekend!

Inge



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

Her latest postings:

[Strategi 2023-2030](#)

[Har studenter tid til å være fulltidsstudenter lenger?](#)



### New safety delegates

The new safety delegates from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 will be Stefanie Meyer and Anna Kornienko (deputy). They will be the departments delegates for two years.

Safety delegates represent all employees in working environment matters. The safety delegates have a supervisory role, as well as being an important collaborator for the Line Management.

Read more about [UiB Safety Delegates](#).



Forskningsdagene were held in Bergen was held on 23-24th September in the city center. CBU represented us with their very popular booth at Forskningstorget!



# Current Issues

## IMPORTANT: Ordering and purchasing

State purchases are strictly regulated by law mainly aiming to avoid corruption and misuse. We are bound by the framework agreements with suppliers made through strictly regulated tender rounds according to state law. **The main rule when purchasing, is using the UiB ordering system.** Staff making purchase and getting reimbursement is an exception from the main rule and can be done only in extraordinary situations and a detailed explanation is required when claiming the refund in the self-service portal.

When buying/ordering (regardless of where it is charged), the procedure is:

- **Stanislav** orders technical equipment
- **Our Receptionist** (Ingrid or the person replacing her when on sick leave) orders whenever we organize conferences/seminars/workshops (hotel, transport, social activities that will be invoiced), food, flowers, books, office supplies, furniture etc.
- **Anna** orders everything for CBU except the laboratory supplies. She also fills in for the II receptionist when needed.

The purchasers will ensure that we use the state agreements with vendors.

When the routine is not followed and invoices are sent by email from companies abroad directly to professors or others, it leads to much extra work for the admin people (among others our dear TorB). Companies must add the correct invoice address and send the invoice to [ap-invoice@uib.no](mailto:ap-invoice@uib.no). All these instructions and follow-ups will be handled by the department purchasers if we follow the correct routine and put them on the case beforehand.

## IMPORTANT: Register your holiday!

Autumn is upon us and soon it will be 2023! Whether you are planning to spend the rest of your 2022 vacation days under the sun or in the snow, there is one thing you must do immediately: Register your remaining vacation days for 2022 in [Selvbetjeningsportalen](#)! It is a requirement that everyone register their vacation, and it is the general rule that all vacation days have to be taken out within the calendar year.

Not certain when you wish to take some days off? Register them now anyway (you can change the dates later) and avoid risking that someone else decides when you're taking your holiday. You will also avoid follow-up via emails and visits from the administration.

So, if you have any vacation days left, please make it your priority to register these now!

Further information on how to register holiday can be found here (in Norwegian): [Universitetet i Bergen :: Medarbeiderhåndbok :: ferie \(compendia.no\)](#).

If you have any questions regarding holiday or how to register this in [Selvbetjeningsportalen](#), you are welcome to ask your local HR contact.

## Know your place.

This week, we had an unexpected fire drill due to a technical error in the system. Once again, we saw a lot of people – both students and staff – who stood right outside of the entrance instead of going to the designated area next to the big anchor.

We are not angry, we are just disappointed.

We would like to remind you of the illustration below:

Red zone:

- You trap all your colleagues inside
- You get run over by the fire truck
- You get hit by falling debris
- Possibly not in that order

Green zone:

- You can hang out with your colleagues inside the protective aura of the Anchor.



If you are teaching this semester, please take a minute to tell your students where to go in case of an emergency.

### **Have you still not completed the fire prevention course?**

All UiB Employees must complete a fire prevention course which consists of a digital part, and a practical part on how to put out fires. This is required by law.

If you still haven't taken the course, [please read more and sign up here](#).

The practical English course this autumn will be on the 8th of December.



## Save a life

It's a good idea to familiarize ourselves with the location of the defibrillator. At our department, it is located on the wall between the 4th floor, on the wall right outside the lifts. Use of the defibrillator is self-explanatory; the process is explained when one opens the case. However, watching an [instructional video](#) might be useful.

If someone is unconscious or difficult to wake up/keep awake, always call the emergency number: 113. They will be able to give you instructions and send help if needed.

## News from the reception

Ingrid is unfortunately still on leave, but Lene Tøftestuen is her substitute until November. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of November you will see a new face in reception: Maylill Helgesen. You will be introduced to her in the next newsletter.

Until the 1st of November, all orders that would usually go to Ingrid should be sent to Lene. After that, they should be sent to Maylill.

## Christmas party!

The legendary Informatics Christmas Party is finally back! Make sure you and your colleagues save the date:  
9th of December.

Be there!



## Guest and trainee registration, spring 2023

Are you considering inviting a trainee, intern, or guest student for the spring semester? The application portal is now open, with deadline 10 October.

[More information.](#)

## Department seminars: Suggest speakers!

Department seminars are back, and Mikhail Barash and Pål Drange are open for suggestions.

If there's someone who you think would make a great speaker, let Mikhail and/or Pål know.



### **“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.](#)

Upcoming UiB Ferd events include:

- [Improve Your Academic Writing and Presentation Skills in English \(Course - language\)](#)
- [Make your research visible using researcher profiles \(Course\)](#)
- [Corpus Workshop: Text mining of Norwegian public records \(Workshop\)](#)
- [OPEN ACCESS WEEK 2022, 24.-28. October \(Event\)](#)

## Portfolio workshop: Excellent Teaching Practitioner

Workshop: "The well-structured teaching portfolio"

The workshop is especially intended for those considering applying for the Pedagogical Academy (Excellent Teaching Practitioner) now, or in the future. It is also relevant for teachers, leaders and teaching/education staff that will write or read teaching portfolios.

In addition, Harald Walderhaug (vice dean education, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences) will contribute around the open application process to the Pedagogical Academy at the Faculty and Stein Dankert Kolstø (professor at the Department of Physics and Technology and ETP 2018) will contribute around his own application process.

Date: 29.10.2020 [Read more](#)

# 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. Here are some upcoming events:

[“Paying tax in Norway”](#)

[“Introduction course for new employees”](#)

[“Taking care of yourself” \(Seminar\)](#)

[“Working with Norwegians” - Crack the hidden codes of Norwegian workplaces and social life](#)

[See the full calendar here.](#)



## Nordic AI Meet

**14 and 15 November 2022, Oslo, Norway**

Join us for a conference with some of the world's brightest minds in the field of AI to learn, inspire and build a community. The NordicAIMeet symposium provides a platform for young AI researchers to exchange ideas, build collaborations and form a nordic approach to building AI solutions for the societal good.

[Read more.](#)

## NORA Research School

If you are a PhD student within the field of AI from a NORA-partner institution (that includes us), we encourage you to become a member of the [NORA Research School](#).

NORA is in the process of establishing research school for PhD students at our partner institutions. However, membership in NORA's Research School is already open to any PhD student from a NORA partner institution with a project related to artificial intelligence, machine learning and/or robotics.

You can be a member of several research schools simultaneously, and there are no obligations, costs or commitments to being a member. Through membership in NORA Research School you will be the first to receive relevant information about and the opportunity to participate in courses, lectures and events.

## Vacant positions

- [Tenure Track Associate Professor in Informatics - Machine Learning](#)
- [PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – \(energy informatics, optimization and data science\)](#)
- [Associate Professor in Informatics – Programming Theory](#)
- [MSCA SEAS postdoctoral research fellow in bioinformatics for marine sustainability](#)
- [Tenure Track Associate Professor in Informatics – Visualization / Visual Data Science](#)



# Upcoming Funding Opportunities



**CAS project:** “The Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) invites researchers to pursue excellent, fundamental, curiosity-driven research in Oslo during the 2024/2025 academic year. Assemble your international dream team of prominent researchers and [apply for a research stay at CAS](#).”

Application deadline: 18 October 2022



**TMS Trustworthy AI:** The Trond Mohn Foundation (TMS) has opened a [call for research projects in the area of Trustworthy AI](#). “UiB is invited to nominate 5-8 project proposals to TMS. Each project may be granted TMS funding for maximum 4 years. The maximum contribution from TMS is NOK 6 million per project (for projects lasting 4 years). It is a prerequisite for funding that any TMS contribution is matched by resources from the participating institutions at about the same level.”

Information about the application process at the department has been provided in a separate email. Planned initiatives need to be reported to Inge Jonassen and Stefanie Meyer latest by 7 October. Supported initiatives will be followed up in the coming week.



**New TMS TRACE:** “Proposed projects shall contribute to the development of TRACE as an interdisciplinary centre and must include the use of epidemiologic methodology in combination with experimental biomedical technology and/or informatics.” For more information, including the thematic areas that need to be addressed, as well as the application and evaluation process, please have a look at the call ([webpage](#)).

Planned initiatives need to be reported to Inge Jonassen and Stefanie Meyer latest by 9 October. Supported initiatives will be followed up in the coming week.



**AIM SQuaREs:** [Program](#) “to allow a dedicated group of four to six mathematicians to spend a week at AIM in San Jose, California.”

Application deadline: 1 November 2022



**NordForsk University Cooperation:** “The aim of the [call](#) is to strengthen international competitiveness and facilitate the development of excellent Nordic research environments. The call is open to all themes and disciplines.” This is a call for pre-proposals.

Application deadline: 2 November 2022



**ERC Synergy Grant 2023:** “Are you a researcher that wants to address a research problem so ambitious, that can not be dealt with you and your team alone? The Synergy Grants could be for you!” In Synergy Grants, 2-4 PIs at ERC level apply together.

[Application](#) deadline: 8 November 2022



**Forskningsrådet**

**Enabling technologies:** The Research Council is planning to open a [call for Researcher Projects targeting technology development](#), and a [call for Collaborative Projects advancing technology development](#) across relevant research areas within enabling technologies.

Application deadline: 16 November 2022 (tentative date)

**ERC proposal course for CoG and AdG applicants on 8-9 Nov 2022**

“Find out how to best prepare your application with this digital workshop. The Consolidator Grant stipend is for mid-career researchers (7-12 years after their PhD is defended), researchers with more than 12 years of experience are eligible to apply for the Advanced Grant.”

For more information and the link to registration, please have a look at the [website](#). Registration deadline: 7 Nov 2022



**Young CAS Fellow:** “The Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) in Oslo is now accepting applications for the [Young CAS Fellow programme](#) for the period of August 2023 to June 2025. CAS’ mission is to further excellent, fundamental research. By providing our scholars with optimal working facilities and uninterrupted time for research, we pave the way for groundbreaking scientific results.”

Application deadline: 9 December 2022



**ERC Consolidator Grant 2023:** “Are you a scientist who wants to consolidate your independence by establishing a research team and continuing to develop a success career in Europe? The ERC Consolidator Grant could be for you. You can also apply if you have recently created an independent, excellent research team and want to strengthen it.”

[Application](#) deadline: 2 February 2023





## Forskningssrådet

**Researcher projects:** The Research Council of Norway is planning to announce calls for researcher projects ([renewal](#) & [young](#)) targeting pre-defined focus areas. Even though free, groundbreaking research will not be among the topics, several other areas may be relevant.

Application deadline: 8 February 2023  
(tentative date)

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.

### OPEN SCIENCE

## Make your research visible using researcher profiles

This seminar will demonstrate how to use ORCID and other researcher profiles to showcase your work.

Having a researcher profile is a great way to showcase contributions to your field and open science engagement. Author IDs, which ensure your works are correctly attributed, are also allocated by some services.

However, there are many services to choose from, with various features and audiences, and it can be difficult to navigate. This seminar will:

- Give an introduction to the landscape of researcher profile services and advice about what to choose
- Demonstrate the main features in [ORCID](#), an author ID system used by many journals and funding agencies to identify authors. This will include how to add your works quickly using automatic import functions.
- Talk about how to showcase various open science outputs such as publications, conference contributions, peer-reviews, preprints, open datasets and code.
- How features compare to Publons and Google Scholar profiles
- How to link out to other profiles, such as social media

Use the "Register" link in the information box on this page to register your place.

This course is in English. The course will run if there are 5+ UiB participants registered. A Zoom link will be sent to registered participants the day before the seminar.

### COURSE

🕒 14.10.2022 - 10.00–10.45

📍 Zoom

👤 [Caroline S Armitage](#)

📅 Registration deadline  
13.10.2022 - 10.00

[Register for the course here!](#)

📅 [Add to calendar](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

[UiB Library event calendar](#)

OPEN SCIENCE WEBINARS  
AUTUMN 2022

[Link to website](#)

# NORBIS activities

## 8<sup>th</sup> and last annual NORBIS conference

The last annual NORBIS conference will be taking place this October. Registration is closed but send an email to [contact-norbis@uib.no](mailto:contact-norbis@uib.no) if you like to join.

**Dates:** October 24-28, 2022. **Location:** Rosendal Fjordhotel, Rosendal.

**Organizers:** NORBIS in collaboration with MedBioInfo. **Invited speakers:**

Alexander Schug (Steinbuch Centre for Computing), Harald Binder (Institute of Medical Biometry and Statistics, University of Freiburg), Barbara Bakker (University of Groningen), Andreas Raue (HiFiBiO Therapeutics), Thomas Rattei (University of Vienna), David Pérez-Espino (Joint Genome Institute, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab), Milan Malinsky (University of Bern), Kara Dicks (Royal Zoological Society of Scotland), Marcin Wojewodzic (FHI).

**Short conference description:** A five-day NORBIS conference with Student talks, poster sessions, keynote lectures and workshops. The conference will this year be in collaboration with the MedBioInfo research school based in Sweden. Our focus will be on the students and their research, with four themed days from the core of NORBIS topics: Statistical methods and machine learning, systems biology and modelling, metagenomics, and population genetics. We will also have a session on careers outside of university, and teambuilding with VilVite. [More information and link to registration here.](#)



## Bioinformatics Methods for next Generation Sequencing Analysis (MOL8008)

**Dates:** 3 – 7 October 2022. **Location:** St.Olavs Hospital/NTNU, Trondheim. **Organiser:** Morten Beck Rye.

**Evaluation:** Report based with grade pass/fail. **Registration:** [HERE](#). If you wish to earn credits, you will find information about this [HERE](#). **Registration deadline:** September 2nd, 2022. **Credits:** 7,5 ECTS.

**Course description:** The course will introduce bioinformatic approaches, tools and pipelines for computational analyses of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) data. Focus will be on analysis methods for coding and non-coding RNA from RNA-seq, and transcription factors and epigenetic markers from ChIP-Seq. The course will cover strategies, methods and workflows used for analyses of such data, including mapping to reference genomes, feature extraction, and statistical analysis. In addition, the biological interpretation of output from such analyses will be presented as case studies from scientific journals. [More information here.](#)

## Genome sequencing technologies, assembly, variant calling and statistical genomics

**Dates:** 17-28 October & 1-2 December 2022. **Location:** University of Oslo. **Organizer:** Torbjørn Rognes. **Lecturers:** Arvind Sundaram (Oslo University Hospital), Ave Tooming-Klunderud (UiO), Bastiaan Star (UiO), Gregor Gilfillan (Oslo University Hospital), Ivar Grytten (UiO), Karin Lagesen (Norwegian Veterinary Institute), Milena Pavlovic (UiO), Sigve Nakken (Oslo University Hospital), Thomas Haverkamp (Norwegian Veterinary Institute), Torbjørn Rognes (UiO), Trine B. Rounge (UiO), Ying Sheng (Oslo University Hospital). **Credits:** 10 ECTS. **Evaluation:** There will be a 2-hour written exam, and the project work will be evaluated based on an oral presentation. Both exams have to be passed in the same semester. 80% attendance is required to be allowed to take the exams.

**Short course description:** The course provides knowledge of sequencing technologies and hands-on experience with the analysis of data from several sequencing platforms and for various applications. The two main applications that will be covered are de novo genome assembly and variant calling (SNPs and structural variants), while other aspects like control of quantity and quality of data will also be included. Furthermore, the course will show how to use statistical genomics to analyse features of annotated genomes. [More information and link to registration here.](#)

## Modern methods for analyzing survival and time to event data (IMB9335)

**Dates:** 5-9 December, 2022. **Location:** University of Oslo. **Organizer:** Morten Valberg. **Lecturers:** Morten Valberg, Håkon K. Gjessing, Ørnulf Borgan, Odd O. Aalen. **Credits:** 4 ECTS. **Evaluation:** The exam will be a home exam in the form of project work. The students should deliver their written project report within a month after the end of the course. The exam paper will be provided in English and should be answered in English.

**Short course description:** The analysis of survival data and other types of time-to-event data are central in modern medical research and a number of other fields. A large number of methods for analysing time-to-event data have been developed, but many researchers have no knowledge of survival analysis, or they only know the most basic methods. The aim of the course is to give PhD-students and other researchers in biostatistics, bioinformatics, epidemiology, and related fields an up-to-date overview of statistical methodology for analysing time-to-event data. The course is given over five days and computer exercises will be an integrated part of the course. [More information and link to registration here.](#)