Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB
No.05/2025, 07.03.2025

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,

The change of government in the USA is affecting the world in many ways, including academic freedom and human rights. The government is closing down funding programs and our colleagues in the US fear for their jobs and ability to perform research and research-based education. It is important that we stand up for academic and human rights. These are fundamental for modern democracy.

Today I am at a UiB AI seminar, and the role of AI in this picture and our responsibility as experts in AI and informatics is on the agenda. I would recommend watching the video from this seminar – available on the web site. In the break we will also mark the Stand Up for Science – linked with the main event in Washington DC and across USA and the world. I hope you will all engage!

I know this is a busy time of the year in terms of teaching, I hope you also have to prepare and submit applications for research funding. After a couple of years with fewer relevant calls, there are now several open calls from the Research Council of Norway that I would like you to consider carefully. First, there is a call for research projects towards ICT where the chances are extra good this year. In addition, the portfolio for ground-breaking research (that includes FRIPRO and SFF) recently got half a billion extra in funding and are launching new types of calls – including seed funding for radical ideas and top researcher projects with up to 40 million NOK per project (more details here). The extra funds will also be used for network projects and research schools to follow up the recommendations in the national assessments performed by the research (EVALMIT, EVALBIOVIT, EVALNAT and EVALMEDHELSE). This could also present opportunities for us to strengthen national and international collaboration and given the strength of our research groups, our department should aim to lead several such networks and research schools!

I wish you all a nice weekend!

Inge

STAND UP FOR SCIENCE 2025

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:

Nytt kurs i undervisningsmetoder for undervisningsassistenter og gruppeledere
Statsbudsjettet viser at vi må bygge sterkere allianser.

LEAD AI

On wednesday the 26th of February, the new LEAD AI researchers met each other officially for the first time.

Read more: LEAD AI welcome meeting

PhD updates

There's a new PhD in town...

Congratulations, Svein Høgemo!

Svein Høgemo successfully defended his thesis "Mapping Graphs to Trees" on the 27th of February.

Congratulations, Svein!

Welcome, new colleagues!

Krishnan Dehaleesan

Krishnan is originally from India, where he did his Master's degree at The Chennai Mathematical Institute.

He is now joining the algorithms group as a PhD candidate.

Wecome, Krishnan!

Kirill Simonov

Kirill is originally from Russia, but as many will remember, he did his PhD here at our department. After having done his postdoc in TU Wien, he is now back as a tenure track associate professor in the algorithms group.

Wecome back, Kirill!

Tanya Bykova

Tanya is a student and former research assistant at CET who will be temping for Kine-Marie in the reception for a while.

Welcome, Tanya!

Current issues

Do you want to join the department council?

In 2025, we are electing new representatives for the department council in all four groups.

Gr. A - 4 members and 3 substitute members
Gr. B -1 member and 2 substitute members
Gr. C - 2 members and 2 substitute members
Gr. D - 2 members and 2 substitute members

If you want to run for the department council, or you know someone who would make a good candidate, we would like to hear from you!

Deadline for the nomination of candidates is 19. March 2025, at 12:00 PM

Read more: **Department council election**

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. The course has an online part and a practical part.

You can find the online part by following this link: https://nettkurs.tiv.no/no/feidelogin

The department is orgnising a practical course on the 7th of April at 10:30. You will learn basics about different types of fire extinguishers and different ways of putting out fires (including practical demos).

Sign up to the fire prevention course

(Meet the instructor outside the south side of the building at 10:30)

First aid course

You can now sign up for the first aid course 2025

Date: Tuesday, March 25
Time: 09:30 - 12:30
Location: Blåbær (505O2)
Suitable for everyone.

Participants will learn basic life-saving first aid. The course is designed to combine theoretical instruction with practical exercises.

The cake club is back

This year Kakeklubben is on Tuesdays from 12:00. Drop by Kantarell for some cake and a chat in Norwegian!

Department gathering

Dear employees of the Department of informatics, group leaders of CBU, emeriti and the main board of echo,

It is a pleasure to invite you to this year's department gathering at Solstrand on April 10-11, 2025.

Please register here: Department of Informatics Gathering 2025 by March 20. The program is in the making and will be announced soon. It will consist of one session regarding education, one session regarding research where our plan A is the EVALMIT rapport which we are waiting for these days, and the annual HSE-seminar – this year focusing on the results from the ARK survey. Please join in for a nice time at the wonderful Solstrand together with your awesome colleagues!

Photos from CBU's booth at Forskningstorget 2024

Forskningsdagene 2025

Forskningsdagene is a research festival held across Norway every autumn with the purpose of bringing research to the people. There are several different events for kids and adults. It has been announced that this year's festival will be held from the **17th till the 28th of September**, and **the theme will be "safety"**.

The exact events have not been announced yet, but there is always an exhibition in the middle of the city where universities/research institutions are encouraged to have a booth for showing off their work. You can also organize your own event.

If you are interested in participating and/or organizing an event, you can send an email to Randi H Eilertsen for help with planning/developing your idea.

If you already know that you are going to participate, you can contact Silje Vik Pedersen (silje.pedersen@uib.no).

If you want to sign up with a booth at Forskningstorget, you can use this form: Skjema, Forskningstorget

Service Centre for salary, travel, and absence

From 1st of March, you can contact the Service Centre for salary, travel, and absence if you need help with, for example, travel expenses, salary, holiday, the self-service portal, leave of absence, and more. The services provided by the Service Centre will largely be the same as those previously delivered by the Salary Section, but there will be an increased focus on user support through a dedicated support team that can assist you with your inquiries.

The Service Centre's support team has the following three channels and opening hours:

- UiBhjelp: Available 24/7
- Telephone (via Teams or mobile phone): 10:00 – 14:00
- Chat: 9:30 – 14:30

Find more information on the Service Centre's website here: Service Centre for salary, travel, and absence.

All staff meeting

March 19 at 10:00 in Skogen, 4th floor.

We have previously been visited by Projects Secure Reseach Systems, but UiB also has a big security programme ongoing where this project is only part of the effort to lift the general security level at UiB. Over the coming months, both the programme and the project will have considerable impact on systems at the Department of Informatics. Bjørn Tore Sund heads both the programme and the project and will in this meeting run us through what is happening.

In the meantime, please learn more here:

- Project Secure Research Systems
- IT-sikkerhetssatsingen ved UiB

"Living Computers – Replicators, Information Processing, and the Evolution of Life"

27.03.2025 - 10.00–11.00 in Stort auditorium

A guest lecture by Alvis Brazma (EMBL-EBI)

Read full abstract: Alvis Brazma - Living computers

Save the date

The next edition of Speed talk will be held on the 20th of March at 13:00.

Talks TBA.

Coimbra Group Webinar:

"AI Ethics and Governance"

Thursday 13 March 2025, from 3 to 4.30 pm (CET)

with Francesca Rossi (IBM Fellow and IBM AI Ethics Global Leader)

Read more and register

International HR Newsletter

Are you an international researcher or staff member?

Read about upcoming events that may be relevant to you in the January edition of the international newsletter.

Our competitors in newsletterology

Did you know there are other people who also make newsletters?

Here are a few that may be relevant to you:

- **UiB Ferd newsletter**
- **Nytt fra W4-prosjektet (In Norwegian, only available to UiB employees)**
- **Eitri Medical Incubator**
- **Newsletter for international UiB staff**

UiB FERD
career center for early stage researchers

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 read more and sign up for the UiB Ferd newsletter here.

Upcoming events:

12.03.2025: Introduction to OpenRefine for Data Cleaning (Workshop)
Registration deadline: 11.03.2025 at 12:00

21.03.2025: How to manage and share sensitive research data (Course)
Registration deadline: 20.03.2025 at 12:00

04.11.2025: Hands-On Data Management Planning (Course)
Registration deadline: 03.04.2025 at 10:00

08.04.2025: UiB Ferd CAREER DAYS 2025 (Event)
Starts - Event ends at 10.04.2025

09.04.2025: Getting started with LaTeX (Course)
Registration deadline: 07.04.2025 at 12:00

Open Science webinars

Open Science webinars planned for the spring of 2025:

21.03.2025 How to manage and share sensitive research data
04.04.2025 Hands-On Data Management Planning
09.05.2025 Make your research visible and open using researcher profiles
23.05.2025 Research Data Management: Humanities, Law, Fine Arts

Vacant positions

PhD Research Fellow in Algorithms
Tenure Track Associate Professor in Information Security

See all vacant positions at UiB

Please visit the **HSE page on uib.no** for info about health and safety efforts at our department, as well as info about your representatives

UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CONTACT

E-MAIL:
Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no

WEBSITE:
Research support services

New **ERC proposal training.**

- One-day digital workshop on How to Write A Competitive Proposal for the **ERC Advanced Grant 2025**. The workshop will be held on Zoom on Friday 28th March 0900-1500. All scientific and administrative staff are welcome!

- A 1.5 day digital workshop on How to Write a Competitive Proposal for the **ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants 2026**. The workshop will run from 0900-1500 on Tuesday 29th and from 0930-1100 30th on Wednesday 30th April. All scientific and administrative staff are welcome!

- One-day digital workshop on How to Write a Competitive Proposal for the **ERC Synergy Grant 2026**. The workshop will run from 0900-1500 on Wednesday 7th May. All scientific and administrative staff are welcome!

New **UiB SPIRE**: You can apply for seed funding to initiate and develop new international research collaborations as a foundation for project proposals for external funding to Horizon Europe, the Research Council of Norway, and other external funding sources.

Proposals need to follow the template (see website) and have to be sent to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no.

Department deadline: 17 March 2025

New **Research Council of Norway – Short-term Researcher Projects to test radical research ideas:** This call is aimed at early career researchers (2-7 years after PhD) who want to test particularly bold research ideas. Project leaders for successful research idea projects can later apply for larger projects in FRIPRO and be prioritized there.

Application deadline: The call has not been opened yet and changes in the details may occur. Stay tuned for updates!

New **Research Council of Norway – Large Researcher Projects to develop world-leading research environments:** This call will support projects where collaboration between two or more researchers is a prerequisite for achieving the project's research objectives. It is expected that project leaders will, later on, also apply for an ERC grant.

Application deadline: The call has not been opened yet and changes in the details may occur. Stay tuned for updates!

UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Seed funding within Climate and energy transition: UiB has published a call for seed funding within its priority area Climate and energy transition. The funds can be used for different activities - either related to the preparation of external funding applications, or related to the development of interdisciplinary teaching offers (incl. EVU).

If you plan to apply, please let Stefanie Meyer know as soon as possible.

Application deadline: 9 April 2025

NordForsk - Responsible use of Artificial Intelligence: "Making the most of the potentials and mitigating the risks and harmful consequences of the use of Artificial Intelligence in the Nordic-Baltic region. NordForsk announces funding for a minimum of 12 Nordic and Nordic-Baltic research projects."

Application deadline: 13 May 2025

Research Council of Norway – Groundbreaking research:

- Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists (FRIPRO)
- Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists (FRIPRO)
- Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility (FRIPRO)

Application deadline: open-ended

NordForsk - Nordic Research Infrastructure Hubs: "NordForsk announces funding for approximately 12-15 Nordic research infrastructure (RI) hubs. […] The consortium must include research performing organisations* in at least three Nordic countries. Nordic countries are defined here as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland Islands. […] Maximum amount of funding that may be sought: NOK 6 million in total and NOK 1,2 million per year. Each consortium must provide resources equalling twice the amount of funding sought from NordForsk. The own contribution can be cash or in-kind as long as the resources are dedicated exclusively to the infrastructure hub and are necessary for its implementation."

Application deadline: 21 May 2025

Young CAS Grant: "Early-career scholars can apply for a Young CAS Grant to establish a research group and gain valuable experience from organising multiple workshops and a two-month research stay at the Centre."

Application deadline: 21 May 2025

Research Council of Norway – Support for events: You can apply for funding to organize conferences, workshops and seminars.

Application deadline: open-ended

UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Research Council of Norway – ICT research: The Research Council of Norway has a call for Researcher Project for ICT Renewal and Development. «The purpose of this call is to promote innovation and development in research that can contribute to advancing the international research front in ICT, including digital security and sovereignty, the next generation of data processing/ICT systems and other ICT research areas.»

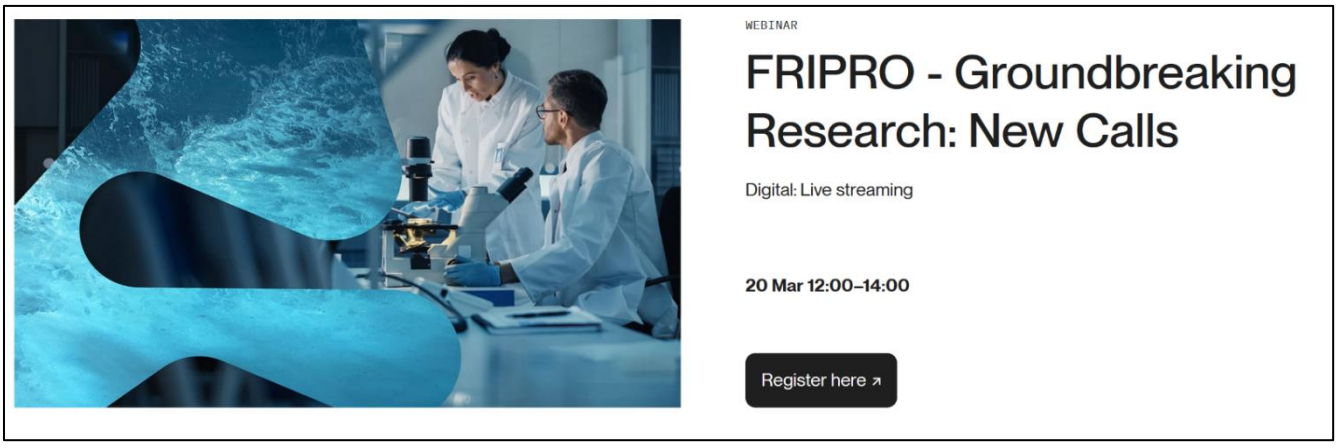
Application deadline: open-ended

New **Peder Sather Grant Program**: "The Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study supports projects carried out by researchers at UC Berkeley in collaboration with researchers from eight Norwegian univer-sities [incl. UiB]." Funding can be used for core research activities, pilot studies, smaller events and networking.

Application deadline: 7 April 2025

EU - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PFs): "The objective of PFs is to support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research. The Postdoctoral Fellowships action targets researchers holding a PhD who wish to carry out their research activities abroad, acquire new skills and develop their careers. PFs help researchers gain experience in other countries, disciplines and non-academic sectors."

Application deadline: 10 September 2025 (tentative)

Research Council of Norway – Norwegian Centres of Excellence (SFF, stage 1): The Research Council of Norway has launched a preliminary call for this funding scheme. "The SFF scheme gives Norway's leading researchers the opportunity to organise themselves into centres to achieve ambitious scientific goals. The research shall move the international research front, be innovative and groundbreaking. Centres are funded for up to ten years (six + four years)."

Application deadline: 12 November (tentative)