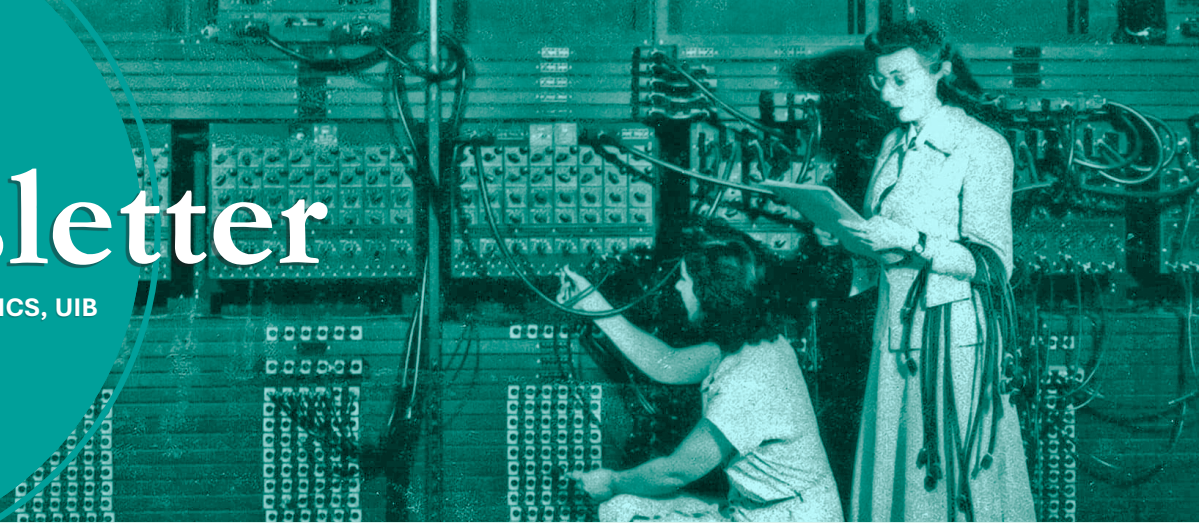


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.06/2025, 21.03.2025



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,

Inge is busy with seminars today, so your Head of Administration will be writing to you instead.

Our annual department gathering is rapidly approaching, and the program is taking shape. We expect the EVALMIT report to arrive before the gathering. Group contacts will present and comment on their group reports, while Inge will present and comment on the department unit's report. Additionally, there will be a "Computer Science Corner" session focusing on AI and the mechanisms underlying the capabilities learned by LLMs. The seminar will also cover the group leader arrangement and how to develop it further, as well as the organization of our first-year courses. Lastly, we will have our annual HSE seminar, featuring a fresh report from the recently conducted ARK survey. The presentation of the results will be followed by group work, as will many other sessions in the program. I am very much looking forward to the gathering and believe we have an excellent program lined up.

As you can see in the announcement below, we have extended the registration deadline for the gathering to March 27. You are all strongly encouraged to join in!

This week, the election for the new echo main board was concluded. On behalf of all of us, I want to congratulate those who were elected after strong competition and high engagement. echo does invaluable work for our students and is a critical factor in our department's educational success.

Good luck to the new main board, and I hope to see all of you at our upcoming department gathering at Solstrand.

This week, we also held an all-meeting where Bjørn Tore Sund from the UiB IT division presented the Project Secure Research Systems. The presentation covered the security situation, our local responsibilities and issues, and how the project and the IT division can contribute. Both the slides from the meeting and their notes were sent to all of you earlier today.

Lastly, I have some personal news to share. I have accepted a new position as Head of Administration at the Geophysical Institute, and my last day in this department will be June 12. I am forever grateful to all of you for my seven years in this wonderful department – for everything I have learned and for all the nice people, including our fantastic students in echo. However, I still have some time before I leave, so I trust I will have the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of you later.

Wishing you all a nice and sunny weekend!

Linda :)



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:

[Doktorgrad gir merverdi for samfunnet](#)

[Nytt kurs i undervisningsmetoder for undervisningsassistenter og gruppeledere](#)

PhD updates



Upcoming defence

Kenneth Langedal

Kenneth Langedal will defend his thesis "Graph Neural Networks in Algorithm Engineering" on the 27th of March from 12:15 to 14:00 in Stort auditorium.

See UiB event: [Kenneth Langedal disputas](#)

Welcome, new colleagues!



Ermes Franch

Ermes is from Italy, but he did his PhD thesis at the Selmer center. He is now back as a LEAD AI postdoctoral fellow working with cryptography and security of AI.

Welcome back, Ermes!



Carl Matthew Jones

Carl Matthew Jones is originally from the UK where he did both his Master's and PhD at Durham University. For the last few years he has been working at the Sars center, but is now joining CBU as a researcher.

Welcome, Carl!

Current issues

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 organising 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)

Startup Preschool

Between the 28th and 30th of March, Startup Preschool Bergen will be arranged for you who want to start a business. Join a 3-day free crash course in entrepreneurship!

During the Startup Preschool, participants will

- hear founders' personal experiences.
- learn about the legal aspects of starting a business.
- learn how to develop your idea into a business.
- get tips on where to start.

Schedule:

Friday: 15:30 - 19:30

Saturday: 9:30 - 17:00

Sunday: 9:30 - 14:30

[Signup and more info about the startup preschool](#)



Bicycling to the department gathering

Join us for a scenic bike ride from Høyteknologisenteret (or somewhere along the route) to the seminar at Solstrand. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings, get some fresh air, and connect with fellow participants before the seminar. Departure from Høyteknologisenteret 0630.

The return will of course also be by bike, and we will figure out a way to transport luggage.

Contact Pal.Gunnestad@uib.no if you want to know more.

-Fredrik and Pål



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 27th. 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.](#)



“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](#)

International HR Newsletter



Are you an international researcher or staff member?

Read about upcoming events that may be relevant to you in the [March 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 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:

[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:

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

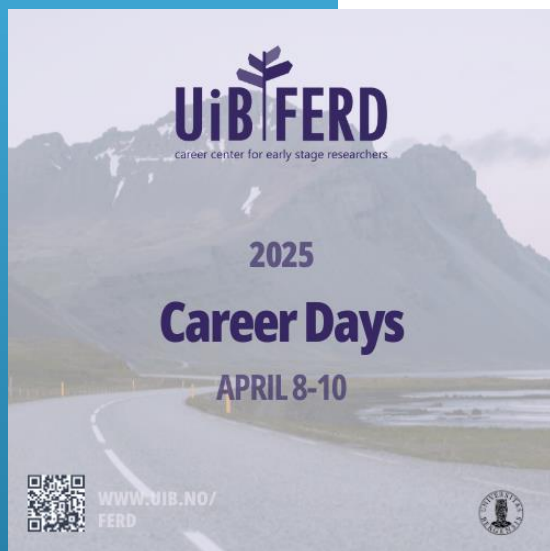
[PhD Research Fellow in Algorithms](#)

[Tenure Track Associate Professor in Information Security](#)

[Temporary researcher in Cryptographic Elements of Trustworthy AI](#)

[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



UiB will be holding its Career Days between 8-10 April 2025.

The program has a focus on *career development activities for younger researchers* and will feature a lot of exciting activities related to various aspects of reflecting and preparing for the next career step. There will be sessions on AI in research, on how to do mock interviews, on how to prepare an elevator pitch, on external funding (proposal reading sessions with insight presentations from successful grantees), on innovation and entrepreneurship, on mental health, on PhDs as the SuperNinjas of knowledge, and more. [You can have a look at the full program for the UiB Career Days by following this link.](#)

UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CONTACT

E-MAIL:
Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no

WEBSITE:
[Research support services](#)

New Research Council of Norway – Support for networks to follow up on national subject evaluations:

“The purpose is to [support network activities aimed at addressing needs described in the national reports for subject evaluations](#) of natural sciences (EVALNAT), mathematics, ICT and technology (EVALMIT), biosciences (EVALBIOVIT), and medicine and health sciences (EVALMEDHELSE). Evaluated research environments can apply for support for coordination and network activities for collaboration nationally and internationally within the same sector or between sectors for research groups that participated in the evaluation.”

Application deadline: 4 June 2025
(tentative)

New Research Council of Norway – Support for research schools to follow up on national subject evaluations:

“[The Research Council announces funding to establish new research schools as part of the follow-up to the subject evaluations](#) of natural sciences (EVALNAT), mathematics, ICT and technology (EVALMIT), biosciences (EVALBIOVIT), and medicine and health sciences (EVALMEDHELSE). The research schools will provide fellows with access to high-quality doctoral courses and professional networks. The research schools will contribute to renewal, development, and collaboration aimed at new research needs within the evaluated subject areas.”

Application deadline: 4 June 2025
(tentative)



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

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)

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 universities \[incl. UiB\].](#)”

Funding can be used for core research activities, pilot studies, smaller events and networking.

New Application deadline: 12 May 2025

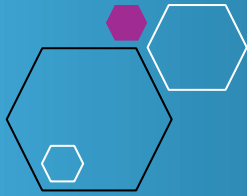
NordForsk - Nordic Research Infrastructure Hubs: “[NordForsk announces funding for approximately 12-15 Nordic research infrastructure \(RI\) hubs.](#) [...]”

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



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

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

Research Council of Norway – Radical Research Ideas for Early Career Scientists:

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!

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)

Research Council of Norway – Top Researchers: Researcher Projects to Develop World Leading Research Communities:

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!

Research Council of Norway – Support for events:

You can apply for [funding to organize conferences, workshops and seminars](#).

Application deadline: open-ended