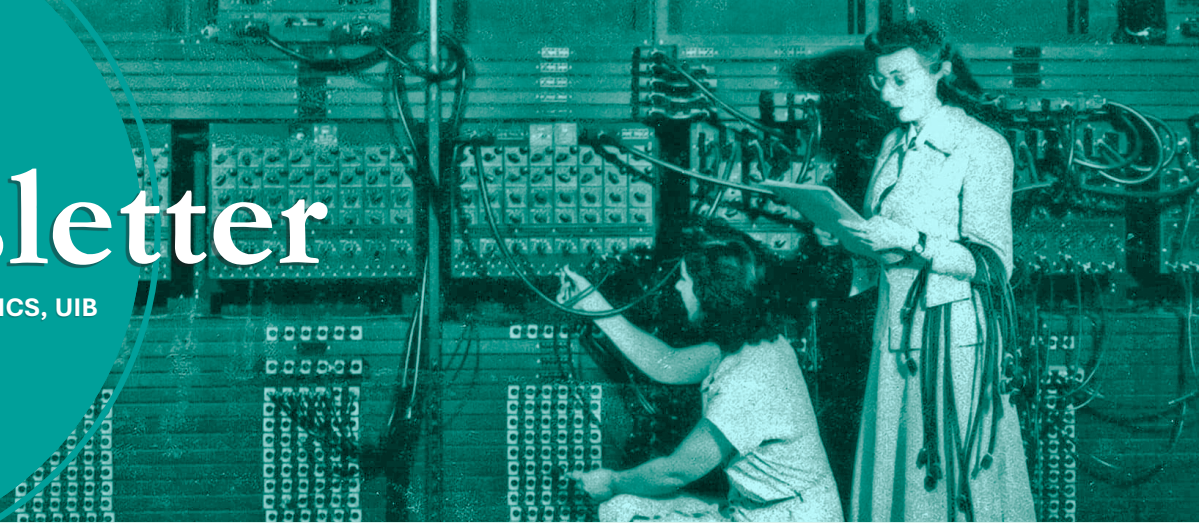


# Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.08/2025, 30.04.2025



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 EVALMIT report for the department observed that our strategy says our aim is to address “pressing basic problems in computer science”. The evaluation committee suggest an alternative formulation, “to identify societal challenges that basic research in computer science may help solving”. The evaluation committee further recommends that our research strategy is aligned with the societal impact.

I appreciate these comments, and I agree that this is a weakness in our strategy document. Historically the department has considered needs in the society and in science when establishing new research groups and initiatives, for example when starting the bioinformatics group in 1992, the visualization group in 2007, machine learning in 2018 and the Energy informatics lab in 2022. Each of these initiatives have in part been based on consideration of societal needs and at the same time how this would help strengthen the department’s research and education overall. Our strategy documents should describe how we envisage considering societal needs and impact also in the future, both at the department level and at the research group level. But I think we should find a different formulation than that suggested by the evaluation committee.

Our department, having its origin at the Department of mathematics, has always had a strong focus on theory and on basic research. And in terms of education, our focus has been on providing our students with fundamental knowledge that remains valid and enables our students to use and develop technologies for the duration of their professional careers. The education should be research-based and led by researchers publishing their findings in the best conferences and journals internationally. The EVALMIT reports confirm that we have to a large extent been successful in this strategy, and the assessments and recommendations at the research group level, as well as at the department level, will help us find a good way forward.

This newsletter comes out on a Wednesday since many of us will take the “locked in” Friday off. I wish you all a good International workers’ day and 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:

[Doktorgrad gir merverdi for samfunnet](#)

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



# Department gathering

From the 10th to 11th of April, the department gathered at Solstrand for presentations and discussions (both formal and informal) around EVALMIT, HSE, and the golden gate bridge vs the concept of love.

Thank you to all who participated and helped make the department gathering both productive and enjoyable!









# Current issues

## 15th of May: Lønningspils

The next after-work meetup will be from 17:00 to 20:00 on Thursday the 15th of May. Join your colleagues for a drink with or without alcohol from 17:00 to 20:00 at Programmerbar (the door in the corner on your right when you exit the lifts on the 1st floor)!



*Illustration: The optimization group cleaning their corner of the 4th floor.*

## Save the date:

## Annual spring cleaning - 6th of June

After lunch on the 6th of June, we will have our annual spring cleaning event, where we will make it easier for you to get rid of old equipment, furniture and electronics - and of course be rewarded with pizza!



## UiB AI #15: AI in higher education: Opportunities, limits, and ethical dilemmas

**09.05.2025 - 10.00–12.00**

“We are pleased to invite you to an event on UiB-IT services for AI (AI@UiB-IT) in Storsalen. This event will immediately follow the UiB AI seminar scheduled for the same day.”

As artificial intelligence rapidly enters the world of higher education, how can we harness its potential while staying grounded in sound pedagogy and ethics? In this seminar, award-winning educators and AI experts explore how AI can enhance assessment, deliver real-time personalized feedback, and support active learning – even in large classes. Join us for a timely conversation on the opportunities, limits, and dilemmas of using AI in universities.

This seminar is in English. [It will be streamed and recorded, watch it on Youtube here.](#)

## IT-services for AI in research at UiB (AI@UiB-IT)

**09.05.2025 - 12.00–13.00**

The goal of the AI@UiB-IT event is to inform about IT services available locally, nationally, and internationally to support the AI aspects of research, to gather insights from researchers about their AI@IT needs, and to establish collaborations to address those needs.



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:

08.05.2025: [Predicting the Buried Past: Using Digital Tools in the Search for Hidden Graves in the Falstad Forest](#) (Lecture)

Registration deadline: 07.05.2025 at 15:00

09.05.2025: [Make your research visible using researcher profiles](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 07.05.2025 at 23:00

27.-28.05.2025: [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships proposal writing Master Class \(online, 2 days\)](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 26.05.2025 at 12:00

[Pitching workshop](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 09.06.2025 at 23:31

[See full UiB Ferd calendar.](#)

## 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](#)

## 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.](#)

## Open Science webinars

- 09.05.2025 [Make your research visible and open using researcher profiles](#)
- 23.05.2025 [Research Data Management: Humanities, Law, Fine Arts](#)

# Vacant positions

[Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Algorithms and Extremal Combinatorics](#)

[Simula UiB: PhD Position in Information Theory/Machine Learning](#)

[Simula UiB: Postdoctoral Fellow in Privacy-Enhancing Cryptography](#)

[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** 100 million NOK to attract international researchers

The Research Council of Norway will launch a new funding scheme this year to [attract top international researchers to Norway](#).

The scheme will foremost target experienced researchers. The call is expected to be opened in May and will initially be linked to the Research Council's research and innovation centre funding schemes, (e.g., Centres of Excellence, Centre for Research-based Innovation, Centre for Environment-friendly Energy Research, Research Centres for Artificial Intelligence).

**Now open** Research Council of Norway – Support for networks to follow up on national subject evaluations: “The Research Council [supports network activities that address the needs described in the national reports for the subject evaluations](#) of natural sciences (EVALNAT), mathematics, ICT and technology (EVALMIT), life sciences (EVALBIOVIT) and medicine and health sciences (EVALMED-HEALTH). Evaluated research groups may apply for funding for coordination and networking activities for national and international collaboration within the same sector or between sectors for research groups that participated in the evaluation.”

Application deadline: 4 June 2025

**Now open** Research Council of Norway – Support for research schools to follow up on national subject evaluations: “The Research Council of Norway is announcing [funding to establish new research schools as part of the follow-up of the subject evaluations](#) of natural sciences (EVALNAT), mathematics, ICT and technology (EVALMIT), life sciences (EVALBIOVIT) and medicine and health sciences (EVALMEDHELSE). The research schools will give research fellows access to doctoral courses of high scientific quality and academic networks. The research schools should contribute to renewal, development and collaboration aimed at new research needs within the evaluated subject areas.”

Application deadline: 4 June 2025



## UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**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. As such is used to organise and fund events, Short-term Scientific Missions, Training Schools, communication activities, grants to attend interesting international conferences, and virtual networking tools.”

Application deadline: 21 October 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.

Application deadline: 12 May 2025

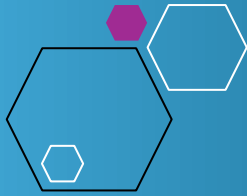
**NordForsk - Nordic Research Infrastructure Hubs:** “[NordForsk announces funding for approximately 12-15 Nordic research infrastructure \(RI\) hubs](#). [...]”

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.

### 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.

### Research Council of Norway – Support for events:

You can apply for [funding to organize conferences, workshops and seminars](#). **NB: There is no funding left for events within ICT.**

Application deadline: open-ended