

Times of Informatics

SPECIAL EDT. 09 / 2025
16.05.2025

NEWSLETTER FOR DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATICS, UIB

INGE JONASSEN: - GRATULERER MED DAGEN!



Photo: Robin Strand

“Head of Department, Inge Jonassen, wishes Happy May 17th, and praises echo for great contributions for the student body at our department.

- They are contributing to a “sticky campus”, Inge says.

Read the letter from Inge on page 2.



**UIB 200 YEARS:
JOIN THE MAY 17TH
PROCESSION!**

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Dear colleagues,

Today I had the pleasure of meeting with the new main board of echo – the informatics student organization!

A continued strong collaboration with echo is of great importance to the department. Our student body makes up around a quarter of the faculty's total, and echo plays a vital role in recruiting and retaining students, contributing to a truly "sticky campus."

Organizing more than 200 events each year and involving over 100 students in the organization itself, echo does a lot for our students — things we wouldn't be able to manage on our own. So, hurra for Echo!

After many years of increasing interest in informatics studies in Norway, we're seeing a decline in applications this year. Nationally, the number of applicants has dropped by 22% when considering each applicant's top-priority program ([see the press release](#)).

For our study programs, the "datateknologi" program has a decrease at this level, while the other programs have a considerably smaller decrease so that the overall fall is less than 10% for our bachelor and siving programs. At the master level, we have an increase in applications.



Head of Department, Inge Jonassen

These changes may reflect a slightly less heated job market, which naturally fluctuates over time. That said, I firmly believe there will be a continued and growing demand for IT experts with strong theoretical foundations in the years ahead. AI will not replace the most complex and critical aspects of software development — the experts we educate will be more essential than ever!

The exam season is now at its peak, and thankfully it comes with a stretch of beautiful weather! I hope you find some time to enjoy the sunshine and perhaps some warmth. I also hope you get the chance to take part in the celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day – the 17th of May!

Gratulerer med dagen – and hurra for 17. mai!

Enjoy the weekend!

Inge



Photo: Randi Heggernes

NEW COLLEAGUE: MARTIN DRAGSETH GREGUSSON

Martin is from Tromsø, Norway, and completed both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Computational Science at the University of Oslo, finishing his Master's in 2024. As of May 1st, he has joined us as a PhD candidate, affiliated with the Optimization group and Wind3D project. Martin's supervisor is Ahmad Hemmati.

Welcome to the department, Martin!

DEANS BLOG: INCREASED APPLICANT NUMBERS

This is a summary of [the latest post](#) from the Deans Blog.

Steady Interest, Smart Campaigns, and a Few Worries for the Future

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (NT) saw a small but solid 1% rise in first-choice applicants—holding steady over six years. A clever campaign with Q-Meieriene, funny videos, and student ambassadors led to 10 million views and 48,000 clicks on the faculty's website.

Nationally, STEM interest is slipping (IT down 22%), but the faculty had highlights: the new MSc in Geophysics tripled its spots in applicants, and programs like Geology and Marine Technology also stood out. Master's applications rose 7%.



Dean Gunn Mangerud

The Deans Blog aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Read the full blog [here](#) (norwegian).



Bergen harbour during May 17th celebration

Photo: Robin Strand

MAY 17TH - NORWAYS CONSTITUTION DAY

Join UiB in the 17th of May Parade!

As is tradition, the university invites all staff, students, families, and friends to walk with us in the main 17th of May procession. Meet at 09.20 at Muséplassen.

This year, we're celebrating the 200th anniversary of the University Museum. We'll be handing out posters and fun items like flowers, diplomas, and student caps to showcase UiB's rich history during the procession. Feel free to bring a flag that represents you.

[Click here to view event](#)

Norway celebrates its Constitution Day on May 17th, marking the signing of the Constitution in 1814. It's a joyful national holiday filled with parades, music, and other festivities across the country.

Children lead the way in colorful parades, people enjoy games and activities, and it's a day where eating lots of ice cream and hot dogs is a tradition in itself. Many also wear the bunad, Norway's traditional attire, which reflects regional heritage and local pride.

City centre will be closed for traffic between 09-15. See [Skyss](#) for more info.

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!

ELECTION FOR DEPARTMENT COUNCIL STARTING SOON

**Remember to vote at the candidates
for the department council!**

The election starts at 9am on May 21st and ends at 12 noon on May 23rd.

Find the candidates who run for election here: [Candidates for the Department Council 2025](#)

Smauet Kafé
Nygårdsgaten 5

After Work

Fredag 16. mai
kl. 14:30 - 20:00

Fotball
Brann - Sarpsborg 08
på storskjerm
fra kl. 17.00
(Avspark kl. 18.00)

Mat
Burger og
Hot Dogs i salg
kl. 14.30 - 17.00

Drikke
Bar åpen fra
kl. 14.30 - 19.00

Musikk
Brann-låter fra
kl. 14.30 - 17.00

From our friends in NG5:

Brann meets Sarpsborg on Friday, May 16th at 18:00.

We'll warm up with After-Work starting at 14:30 and show the match on a big screen at Smauet Café.

Burgers and sausages are on the menu, and refreshing drinks can be found at the bar.
Join us!



PINT OF SCIENCE
FESTIVAL **BERGEN**
May 19-21

Day 1: Learning from Nature
Litteraturhuset 19:00-21:00
 Rose Trappes: *Is citizen science good science?*
 Elena Kochetkova: *Where nature and the economy intersect: a historical perspective on forests*
 Carlo Coos: *Weather, wives and war: How climate change and polygyny shape violent conflict*
 Ragnhild Gya: *Why is being outside good for learning?*

Day 2: One Health, from cells to society
Kulturhuset 19:00-21:00
 Guillaume Nicaise: *But it's only a small gift: the fine line between being nice and corrupt*
 Solange Steen-Hansen Saballos: *Helping every student learn mathematics in their own way: an AI toolkit for ADHD, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia*
 Henrietta Christie Ertsås: *Why do you not tolerate?*

Day 3: Into the abyss, Creatures of the Deep Sea
Litteraturhuset 19:00-21:00
 Renee Hageman: *Microbial life beneath the ocean floor*
 Brenda Lizbeth Esteban Vazquez: *Masters of the deep: unseen Arctic Fauna in extreme ecosystems*
 Brian Wehner: *Elucidating elusive animals*

LITTERATURHUSET

Kulturhuset

#pint25
pintofscience.no
@pintofscienceNO

SCAN ME

PINT OF SCIENCE

MAY 19-21: PINT OF SCIENCE 2025

A festival that brings science to the pub

Pint of Science aims to bring science to the general public in the relaxed atmosphere of a bar, featuring researchers from both natural and social sciences.

Over the course of three days, Kulturhuset will be filled with talks about nature, health and even the deep sea.

All is welcome, with no cost. Find out more on <https://www.pintofscience.no>.



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:

27.-28.05.2025: [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships proposal writing Master Class](#)
(online, 2 days) (Course)
Registration deadline: 26.05.2025 at 12:00

[See full UiB Ferd calendar here.](#)

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](#).

OTHER NEWSLETTEROLOGY

- [News from the W4-project](#) (norwegian, only available for employees)
- [Etiri Medical Incubator](#)
- [Newsletter for international UiB staff](#)



NEXT OPEN SCIENCE WEBINAR

23.05.2025: [Research Data Management: Humanities, Law, Fine Arts](#)



VACANT POSITIONS

[Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Algorithms and Extremal Combinatorics](#)
[PhD Research Fellow in Computational Biology](#)



UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CONTACT

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WEBSITE:
[Research support services](#)

New

Pre-publication of EU work programme 2025

The European Commission has, amongst others, pre-published drafts of the 2025 Global Challenges work programmes on their website.

Pre-publication of work programme 2025

Please inform the department's Research Section if you are interested in applying to a topic. Some suggestions for topics that could be of interest to the groups have already been sent to the relevant group contacts this week. Additionally, we can leverage the expertise of the Division of Research and Innovation to identify more suitable topics.

Please note that the published documents represent near to final drafts. We expect the final work programmes to be published within the coming weeks.

Now open 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](#).

“The purpose of this call is to fund curiosity-driven and bold research that can contribute to advancing the state-of-the-art. This call is the first step in phased funding and is aimed at researchers who want to test particularly bold research ideas. The ideas must be so bold that the risk of failure is too high to justify starting a large project, but where the research could have a significant impact on the field if the project is successful. Project managers for successful research idea projects may later apply for larger FRIPRO projects and be prioritized there.”

Application deadline: open-ended

Now open 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](#).

“The purpose of this call is to fund curiosity-driven and bold research that can contribute to advancing the state-of-the-art. This call aims to give good, Norwegian research environments the opportunity to develop into being world-leading within their fields.” It is expected that project leaders will, later on, also apply for an ERC grant.

Application deadline: open-ended



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

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](#)

New Research Council of Norway – Center for Quantum Technology Research: “The purpose of this announcement is to [build strong Norwegian research communities at a high international level within quantum computing, quantum sensors, and quantum communication](#).”

Application deadline: 24 September (tentative)

New Research Council of Norway – Research Infrastructures of National Importance: The published information is still preliminary. The [announcement will most likely be divided into two parts](#): Part 1 will be aimed at named research infrastructures with particular strategic importance for Norway. Part 2 will be open to all other research infrastructures.

Application deadline: 12 November (tentative)

Research Council of Norway – Norwegian Centres of Excellence (SFF, stage 1): “[The SFF scheme gives Norway's leading scientific communities the opportunity to organize themselves into centers to achieve ambitious scientific goals](#) through collaboration and long-term basic funding. The research at the centers should be innovative and have great potential for groundbreaking results that advance the international research frontier. The centers should work with ambitious ideas and complex problems where coordinated and long-term research efforts within or across disciplines are important to achieve the goals.” Centres are funded for up to ten years (six + four years).

Application deadline: 12 November (tentative)

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



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

Stay tuned CAS Research Grant: “All faculty members who hold permanent, full-time, tenured academic positions at CAS’ partner institutions can apply for a [CAS Research Grant](#) and receive funding for a one-year stay at the Centre together with their handpicked team of internationally renowned researchers. [...] The project should be a contribution to basic research, blue-sky, challenge given truths and have the potential to advance the research frontier in the relevant field(s). Scholars in all fields can apply but note that laboratory-based research is not possible at CAS.”

Application deadline: The next call will be announced in June 2025.

New Abel Prize: “[The Abel Prize recognises pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics](#). [...] The right to nominate is open to anyone. Nominations are confidential and a nomination should not be made known to the nominee. The prize can be awarded to a single person or shared for closely related fundamental contributions.”

Application deadline: 1 September