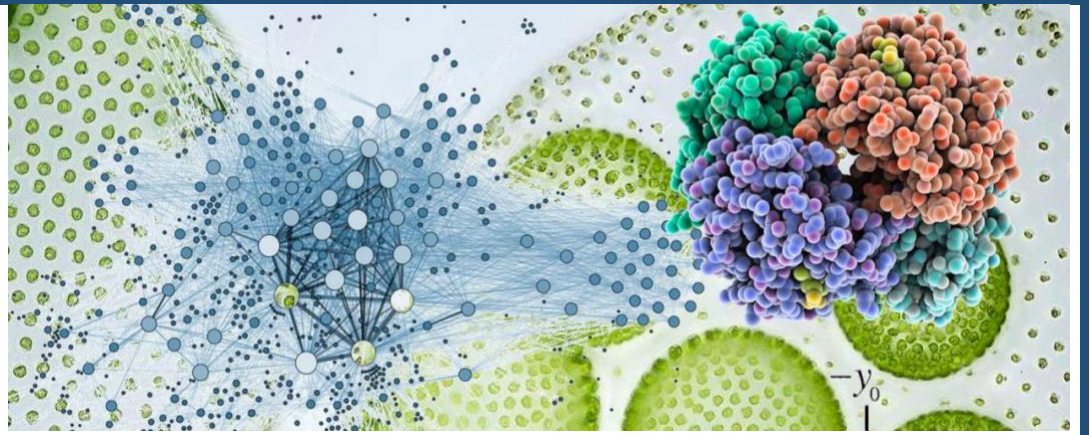


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 08/2019
26th April 2019



Editor-in-chief: Pinar Heggernes. Editor: Linda Vagtskjold. Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.

Dear colleagues,

I hope that you all had a very nice Easter! I also hope that you are energized and ready for the discussions to come at our Solstrand gathering on Monday and Tuesday! As you might have seen in the [program](#), we have quite a number of important and interesting things to discuss, concerning research, education, and outreach.

We have just passed two of the most important deadlines of the year: 10th of April for submitting research proposals to the Research Council of Norway, and 15th of April for receiving applications to bachelor and master studies at all universities and university colleges in Norway. I am extremely pleased to announce that we submitted 14 applications to the Research Council with a project manager from our department! And there will be even more applications to come for the open call of the IKTPLUSS program. The outcome of these will not be ready before the end of the year, whereas the number of applicants to our study programs are already out.



This year there has been an unexpected decrease in the total number of applications to higher education in Norway, after a steady increase every year over the past decade. On the positive side, I am really proud to see that our university has actually an increase in its share of the total number of applications, as the only one of the traditional universities. In particular, more than 1000 applicants chose some bachelor program in ICT at our university as their first priority! For our department [we notice in particular a clear increase](#) in the number of applications to our [bachelor program in information security](#), and to our master program in informatics with specialization in machine learning. [This has also been noticed and remarked by the UiB leadership.](#) I am pleased to see that our efforts to [strengthen our research in cryptography](#) and our hard work towards student recruitment has paid off. I would like to thank Ida, Pål, and Liljan for their commitment in this direction; especially the hard work of Ida has been invaluable, and I am really grateful to her. Ida and Pål will present all application numbers for us in detail at Solstrand.

Another current reason to be proud of our university is [the recent agreement with Elsevier on open access publishing](#). Our university leadership, together with NTNU, University in Oslo, and UiT, have managed to negotiate what appears to be a surprisingly good deal! You can read the details [here](#), but in short it seems to imply that we will be able to publish in Elsevier journals as before and our publications will be freely available to everybody. This is a first ever agreement world wide of its kind between academic institutions and Elsevier, and a similar agreement has already been reached also with Wiley. Many of us have been quite concerned about the time frame within which all academic publications in Norway are required to be open access. This recent development might indicate that it was perhaps necessary to set a short time frame and strict rules and guidelines. I find it really motivating and inspiring that Norway, and our university in particular, are taking a leading position in producing good solutions for open access dissemination of properly reviewed research results.

I wish you all a very nice weekend, and I am truly looking forward to see many of you at Solstrand on Monday!

-Pinar

The Dean's Blog – Helge K. Dahle

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

His latest postings: [Fakultetets vårseminar peker på en rekke utfordringer vi har tenkt å gjøre noe med](#) - [Lyser fyrtårnet sterkt nok?](#) - [Strategiske grep for at UiB skal bety noko for folk og vise igjen i samfunnet](#) - [Tre gode grunner til at Marineholmen er en klyngesuksess](#)



Congratulations colleagues

Congratulations Inge and Eivind on their new duties at the Research Council!

Congratulations to our professors Inge Jonassen and Eivind Valen on being elected as members of two of the [portfolio boards](#) at the Research Council of Norway.

Eivind is a member of the board of Enabling Technologies and Inge is a member of the board of Life Sciences. [Our university has in total 10 members in these boards](#). Five of these are from the faculty of mathematics and natural sciences, of which two are from our department.



Congratulations Sergej on his new position at our department!



Our previous PhD-student Sergej Stoppel enters into a new 4-year position as postdoctoral fellow in the Visualization group from 1st May. He will be heavily involved in the research conducted by our Center for Data Science [CEDAS](#).

Actualities [På Høyden](#) - [Khrono](#) – [News from NFR](#) – [News from UiB](#) – [Informatics on Facebook](#)

Datablokken closed this weekend

Please remember that Datablokken will be closed this weekend, starting from today, 26th April at 3.30 PM sharp. This implies that no one can stay in the building no longer than 3.30 PM today, and no one can come to work in Datablokken during the weekend.

The closing is due to the upcoming refurbishing of the entrance area. It is removing of the old tiles (the noisy and dusty part of the refurbishing work) that will be performed during this upcoming weekend.

Next Faculty and Staff lunch is on Monday 20th May

We will meet in the lunch room on the fourth floor at 12:00 as usual. During this lunch we will celebrate Ketil's 50th birthday, and thus there will be cake, too!

Student affairs [bioCEED news](#)

New head of education for informatics



We are very happy to announce that Fredrik Manne has joined the department leadership as the head of education. As of next semester he will also take over as head of the board of informatics study programs.

Michal Walicki has been serving both as the head of the board of study programs and as the head of PhD education board for a year, and we greatly acknowledge his efforts and willingness. Michal will continue as head of the PhD education board, which also consists of PhD student Erlend Raa Vågset, student advisor Pål Gunnestad, and research coordinator Stefanie Meyer.

Best practices in education award #inclusion Informatics Europe

[Best Practices in Education Award](#) [Call for Submissions Now Open](#)

Informatics Europe proudly announces its 2019 Best Practices in Education Award devoted to initiatives targeting Inclusive Education of different student groups such as the elderly, immigrants or people with functional diversity. The Award is sponsored by Microsoft and carries a prize of EUR 5,000. Deadlines: Proposal: June 1, 2019. Notification of winner(s): August 1, 2019.

The Award will be presented at the [15th European Computer Science Summit](#), in Rome, October 28-30, 2019, where a representative of the winning institution will be invited to give a talk on their achievements.

Insentivmidler for kvalitetsarbeid i studiene og nominasjoner til Ugleprisen for 2019

Studieadministrativ avdeling lyser ut insentivmidler for utdanningskvalitet, og ber om nominasjoner til [Ugleprisen](#). Fakultetet ber om at søknader om insentivmidler sendes fakultetet **innen 10. april**. Frist for å melde kandidater til Ugleprisen er innen **20. mai**.

PhD Updates

There's a new PhD in town - congratulations Adam Giess!



Adam Giess successfully defended his thesis "*Understanding translational landscapes through the footprints of ribosomes*" on Thursday 11 April.

[Here you can learn more about his project.](#)

Congratulations to Adam and also to the CBU group and his supervisor Eivind Valen!



Research Science and Seminars

Horizons Lecture 30 April: Professor Rainer Helmig

Welcome to a new Horizons Lecture Tuesday 30. April in "Egget" Auditorium at the Student Centre! Professor Rainer Helmig presents and discusses relevant model concepts for flow and transport processes for environmental, technical and biological systems.

Refreshments will be served from 16.00, prior to the lecture. Everybody is welcome!

[Find the event on UiB's web pages here.](#)
[Join the event on Facebook here.](#)



Norwegian Conference for ICT Research and Education (NIKT) 2019



NIKT 2019



NORSK IKT-KONFERANSE FOR UTDANNING OG FORSKNING
NARVIK 25.-27. NOV.
NIKT2019@UIT.NO

25. – 27 November 2019, Narvik - nikt2019.uit.no

UIT The Arctic University of Norway will arrange Norwegian Conference for ICT Research and Education (NIKT) from 25.-27. November 2019 in Narvik. The conference consists of four tracks: NIK (Norwegian Informatics Conference), NOKOBIT (Norwegian Conference for Organizations' Use of Information Technology), NISK (Norwegian Information Security Conference) and UDIT (Norwegian Conference for Education and Didactics in IT subjects).

NIKT is a broad national conference aimed at being an important national venue for discussions, networking and dissemination of research and advanced development work in information and communication technology, computer science, information science and information systems. Each of the four tracks on the conference has its own call for papers.

[More information here.](#)

Den store formidlingsprisen 2019

Fakultetet ønsker å stimulere til økt formidling, og oppretter fra i år av en egen pris på 50 000 kroner som deles ut i forbindelse med bachelorseremonien i Universitetsaulaen i juni.

Kandidaten skal vurderes på bakgrunn av følgende kriterier:

«Formidlingsprisen skal inspirere til å ta formidlingsoppdraget alvorlig. Prisvinneren skal strekke seg langt for å bidra til å opplyse samfunnet, skape debatt, synliggjøre forskning og utdanning ved Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet, stimulere til formidling eller på annen måte være en viktig bidragsyter til kunnskapsspredning og samfunnsdebatt.»

Alle som studerer, arbeider eller forsker under Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet oppfordres til å [sende inn nominasjoner her](#) innen **15. mai 2019**.

Funding opportunities

New informatics webpages for research support services ☺

Thanks to our new brilliant research advisor Stefanie, we can proudly present some really useful webpages for research support services ☺ [Please click the link and take a look!](#)

The service includes helping you to prepare funding applications, setting up and negotiate contracts, and managing your research project. The new webpage is designed to get you started and help you find the right contact persons in our administration, and also contains an overview of relevant funding sources, support for grant applications, research contracts and collaboration agreements and kick-off meetings and operational phase.

Momentum – Career Development Program for Young Researchers



The UiB Career Development Program- Momentum is a one year training programme designed to give talented postdocs and associate professors the opportunity to acquire and strengthen their professional skills whilst offering a forum to reflect on the opportunities and challenges working in academia present. The program aims to increase UiBs participation in ERC, FRIPRO Young Research Talents and other relevant calls for proposals for young researchers.

The programme is designed for early career researchers embarking on an academic career at a research university. Postdocs, researchers and associate professors who are employees at UiB are invited to apply. The candidate must be

under the age of 40 or have being awarded the PhD degree less than 5 years ago, not including statutory leaves. Employees on a temporary contract must have a minimum of one year remaining on their contract.

Application deadline: 10 May 2019. [Link to more information and the application form](#)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Research Fellowship Programme

The Individual Fellowship (IF) Programme within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) is a bottom-up, excellence funding program which aims to support the career development and training of researchers through international and intersectoral mobility. One can apply in two main categories: (i) European Fellowships are held in EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries and are open to researchers either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the European Fellowship is held.[1] (ii) Global Fellowships are based on a secondment to a third country and a mandatory 12 month return period to a European host. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the Global Fellowship secondment takes place, not for the country of the return phase.[1]; [1] [MSCA-IF-2019](#); Further reading: [MSCA-IF general information](#)

Please note that this program is targeting Experienced Researchers, i.e. researchers that at the date of the call deadline are in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

If you have a researcher in mind that could be relevant for one of the two funding schemes and/or are interested in applying yourself, please contact Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no. Early planning is crucial as this is a highly competitive program. **Deadline: 11 September 2019**

NCI Grants for Member University Researchers

The Nordic Centre in India announces the following programmes for researchers at our NCI member universities:

- a) [NCI Travel Grant](#): NCI will annually support 6 scholars from member universities travelling to India for the purpose of research with an NCI Travel Grant that covers travel expenses upto 500 Euros per successful applicant.
- b) [NCI Academic Activity Grant](#): NCI will be supporting collaborative academic activities between member universities and Indian higher educational institutions through a grant for a max of 3500 Euros per successful application.
- c) [Ganga Mahal Scholar in Residence Programme](#): NCI will support one scholar annually from a member university travelling to India for the purpose of research with the NCI Ganga Mahal Scholar in Residence Programme. This programme is in cooperation with Karlstad University and it covers travel costs upto 500 Euros and one month's stay at Karstad University's India Study Centre located in Varanasi.

The **deadline** for receiving applications for this Spring 2019 Call is **15th of May 2019**. A second call will be announced in the Fall of 2019 .

Vacant positions

PhD position in Algorithms

Closing date: 05.05.2019. [Please find the announcement here.](#)

Postdoctoral position in Algorithms

Closing date: 03.05.2019. [Please find the announcement here.](#)

PhD position in Bioinformatics – Computational Systems Biology

Closing date: 30.04.2019. [Please find the announcement here.](#)

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences is recertified as an Eco-Lighthouse



On April 2, the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences was recertified as Eco-Lighthouse. The recertification includes the departments, centers and faculty administration.

In order to be recertified as an Eco-Lighthouse, the faculty has documented that we fulfill a number of requirements within the systematic HSE work, in addition to requirements in the field of waste, purchases, transport and energy.

Being an Eco-Lighthouse commits us as an institution and as an individual employee to make environmentally conscious choices in everyday life. The environmental certificate is valid for 3 years. When it is to be re-newed in 2022, we must be able to document that we have become even better.

On UiB's website you will find [examples](#) of how each us, both employees and students, can contribute.

Department Boat Trip and Summer Party – save the date 22nd August!



On the 22nd of August, in the afternoon, we are planning a summer party combined boat trip for all our employees together with all our new bachelor and master students of the fall semester of 2019!

Two boats will come and pick us up from Marineholmen, close to the department building. Food and refreshments will be served. There will be games and entertainment.



We encourage everybody to reserve the date in their calendars and plan to join this event!

Fire extinguishing course

All employees at our university are required to attend a fire extinguishing course at least once. There are several courses in May, and one in June which is held in English. [Information about the courses and sign up here.](#)

Please notice that they are offering one course in English only once per semester. This semester the course in English will be held on 23rd May.



Reminder: Informatics yoga on Wednesdays

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work. Yoga classes are held at our department on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm at the Meeting room in 5th floor.

Our professional yoga instructor, Kjersti Næss, is teaching in English. No signing up, and no participation fee. Please bring your own yoga mat. We also have some mats for loan.



Reminder: Kakeklubben on Mondays



Kakeklubben aims to help our international colleagues to practice Norwegian while spending nice time together with people across group borders. Club meetings are held on Mondays at 12 o'clock in the lunchroom, 4th floor.

You bring your own lunch, and we share a cake or fresh baked waffles. All are welcome!

We hope to see you there, both internationals and Norwegians!

Welfare offer from the UiB: “Begynnelsen”



Begynnelsen

Eksistensiell komedie: Om jakten på kjærligheten og frykten for forpliktelse! Det er duket for en rekke gjenkjennelige, pinlige, morsomme og ubehagelige situasjoner.

Med: Karoline Krüger og Eirik del Barco Soleglad

Fredag 24.mai kl 19.30. Teaterkjelleren **UiB pris kun 240,- (ord 390,-)**

Bestill [her](#) eller ring 55 60 70 80 innen 14. mai!