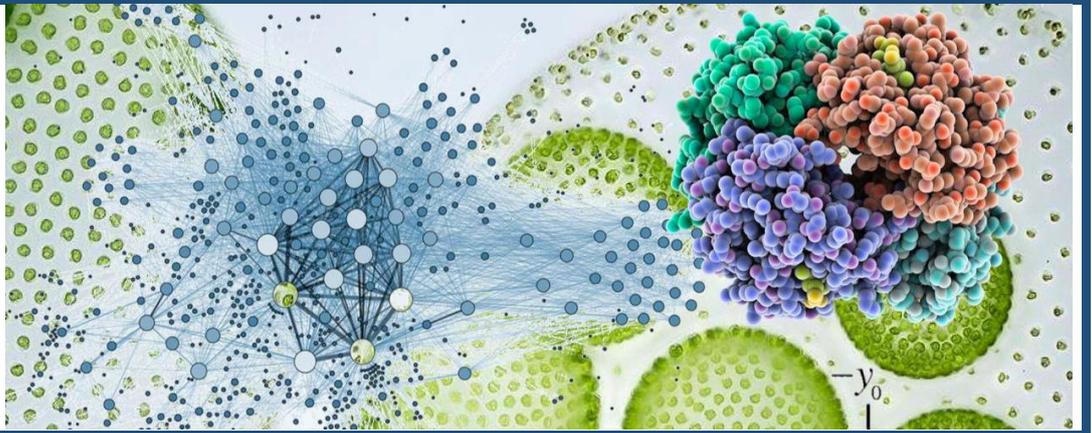


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 19/2020
13th November 2020



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

Dear colleagues,

After entering last weekend in a quite miserable mood, with stricter corona restrictions and the endless counting of the votes of the American election, this week fortunately brought quite a few good news and ended up being perhaps one of the most optimistic weeks of the year. First came the result of the election, which I think was uplifting for most of us, and then came the news of an efficient vaccine against COVID-19 that might be ready to use quite soon. Another piece of news that caught my attention this week is the possible benefit of Tran (cod liver oil) against COVID-19.

Do you take your Tran every day? If not, I can really recommend it! Especially this time of the year. If you have lived in Norway for some time, you must have heard of all the benefits of Tran. In fact, I cannot come up with anything that Tran is not good for. It is good for your heart, your bones and joints, your nails and hair, for staying healthy and avoiding colds and flus, and now perhaps also for avoiding COVID-19.



I was introduced to Tran when my first child was four weeks old. Then, at the family health care center, they said that the baby should start taking a baby spoon of Tran every day. (The recommendation has changed since then; now babies should wait until they are one year old before they are introduced to Tran.) Tran needs to be kept refrigerated, while a four week old baby is only used to drinking liquids at body temperature, so the recommendation was to heat the spoon in boiling water first, then fill it with cold Tran, check that temperature is right, and they try to pour it into the baby's mouth. You can imagine what a big ceremony this was every evening. Of course, half of the Tran ended outside of the mouth, so it was best to do the evening bath ceremony after the Tran ceremony. Fortunately, after a few weeks, one got the hang of it, the baby got older, easier to feed, could even drink cold Tran, and it all went into a smooth routine.

I let myself totally convince by the massive Tran propaganda, and I have been taking my daily spoon of Tran ever since. The whole family (even the boys who are now adults) have continued with Tran, I even introduced it to my parents, and kept bringing them Tran from Norway all these years. Interestingly enough, many of my Norwegian-born friends are not so keen on taking Tran. And every time we discuss the matter, I end up trying to convince them to start. Now it is your turn to be convinced!

November is here, and outside of the working hours the day is dark. We feel more tired and sleepy, and we are less motivated for outdoor activities. Some feel perhaps a bit depressed by the lack of daylight. Tran can help you through this period! I have recommended Tran to all my PhD students and postdocs arriving from outside of Norway so far. One postdoc arrived in November (about 10 years ago) in the beginning of one of the longest periods of rain in Bergen's history. It rained more or less continuously for about three months, so this poor postdoc came to a new country that was all dark and wet right from the start. Luckily, he was saved by Tran! He took my advice (he was quite desperate) and started taking Tran, and he quite immediately noticed the good effect. He left Norway at the end of his postdoc period, and I hear that he is still taking his Tran.

One last piece of advice: I recommend Tran with lemon taste. There is really a huge difference. And no, I am not sponsored by Möllers Tran.

I wish you a very nice weekend!

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: [Er påstanden om at vi er ein del av den så kalla eliten, som ser med forakt og arroganse på dei som har andre bakgrunnar og verdiar enn oss sann?](#) - [Vi skal ha innovasjon og entreprenørskap inn i våre studieprogram](#) - [Derfor står mye på spill i utviklingen av Nygårdshøyden sør](#) - [Eit budsjett som satsar på utdanning](#)



Congratulations colleagues!



The Algorithms group has 6 papers accepted to SODA 2021, SIAM-ACM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms - the primary conference in Algorithms! Special congratulations to William Lochet, with 2 accepted papers, one of them single-authored.

HAPPENING VIRTUALLY: ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA21)

January 10 - 13, 2021

Virtual Conference | Originally scheduled in Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.

The papers are:

- **A Constant Factor Approximation for Navigating Through Connected Obstacles in the Plane**
Neeraj Kumar, Daniel Lokshantov, Saket Saurabh, Subhash Suri
- **Efficient Computation of Representative Weight Functions with Applications to Parameterized Counting**
Daniel Lokshantov, Saket Saurabh, Meirav Zehavi
- **EPTAS for k -means Clustering of Affine Subspaces**
Eduard Eiben, Fedor Fomin, Petr A. Golovach, William Lochet, Fahad Panolan, Kirill Simonov
- **FPT Approximation for FPT Problems**
Daniel Lokshantov, Pranabendu Misra, M. S. Ramanujan, Saket Saurabh, Meirav Zehavi
- **Strong Connectivity Augmentation is FPT**
Pranabendu Misra, Kristine Vitting Klinkby, Saket Saurabh
- **The shortest disjoint paths problem**
William Lochet

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

Overview of Department Thursday seminars booked the rest of this semester

November 19	Enrico Motta: Integrating AI paradigms to make sense of big data (and the world)
November 26	Aidan Hogan: Knowledge Graphs: Research Directions
December 3	Speed Talks (Sayan Bandyapadhyay, Ana Ozaki and Stefan Bruckner)
December 10	HSE seminar
December 17	Lars Nyre: «Pushing students to make new media technology. Innovation pedagogy in Media City Bergen»

Corona updates and reminders

- Everybody should read very carefully the information given on <https://www.uib.no/korona> which gives answers to many possible questions.
- **Home office is compulsory** for employees and students, unless they have a special reason to ask for access to their work space at the department. This applies to Monday November 23, but it might be prolonged.
- **Master students** who need special access, must fill in [this form](#) Bachelor students who need special access, must fill in [this form](#).
- **Employees:** If you have a special reason to have access to your office, you must send an email to Linda and ask for access grant. Linda will keep a list of everybody who has access, and people who are not on that list, are not to be on campus.
- **Teaching and exams:** All teaching is digital for the rest of the semester. All written exams are digital home exams this semester (this was already the case for all our written exams, so there is no change for us there). We have not received information about oral exams, but I would assume many students to travel home to their parents now, so it would not be nice to require them to come back for the exam, thus I encourage these to be conducted digitally via Zoom, etc. Please contact our study administration for particular questions about teaching, exams, trial lectures, PhD defenses etc.
- **Meetings:** All meetings are to be conducted digitally until November 23.
- **Travels and retreats:** All travels are cancelled until November 23. If you had plans of a Christmas retreat with your group, we suggest to postpone this to December, hoping that the restrictions might be lifted then. You might also consider a simple dinner at a hotel in Bergen instead, however keep in mind that restaurants close at 22:00, and serving of alcohol stops at 21:30 until November 23.

Thanks a lot for your understanding, cooperation and patience!

PhD updates

There's a new PhD in town – congratulations Yaxin Xue!



Yaxin successfully defended his thesis "Development and application of computational methods for NGS-based microbiome research" on 5th November.

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

Congratulations to Yaxin, the CBU, supervisor Inge Jonassen and co-supervisors Lise Øvreås and Anders Lanzén!



PhD defense – Bjørn André Bredesen



Bjørn André Bredesen will defend his thesis "*Modelling the structure, function and evolution of Polycomb/Trithorax Response Elements*" on 20th November at 10:15 in [a digital meeting room \(zoom\)](#)

- Opponent: Professor Robert Klose, University of Oxford, UK
- Opponent: Dr. Simon van Heeringen, Radboud University, Nederland
- Committee member: Associate Professor Sushma Grellscheid, UiB
- Leader of the defense: Professor Fedor Fomin, UiB

Please find [the press release here](#)

All are welcome!

Upcoming NORBIS courses:

Genome sequencing technologies, assembly, variant calling and statistical genomics

The first part of the course will provide a broad overview of genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics and the second part will cover genetic association analyses in detail.

Dates: 30th November – December 4th, 2020. Location: This course will be given online

Lecturers: Håkon K. Gjessing, Rolv Terje Lie, Anil Jugessur and others

Credits: 4 ECTS

[Registration and information](#) Students who like to gain ECTS will have to register at UiB in addition. Visiting PhD students have to register on link found on our website.

Registration deadline for the course is 22nd November.



Research, Science and Seminars ScienceNorway.no - forskning.no

Welcome to Department / CEDAS seminar, November 19

WEBINAR: Enrico Motta

Integrating AI
paradigms to
make sense of
big data (and
the world)



🕒 19.11.2020 – 14:15-15.00

**More info and Zoom-link
in the calendar at uib.no/ii**



Please find the [full web- announcement and participation link here](#).

Visual Computing Forum

<http://vis.UiB.no/vcf/>



Communicating Uncertain Weather Information



Friday, 20th of November, from 10:15

Zoom meeting: <https://uib.zoom.us/>

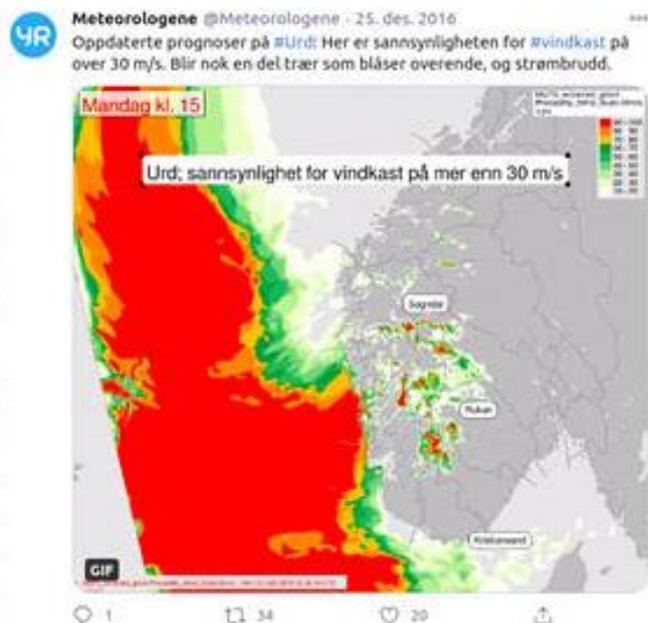
Anders Doksæter Sivle

Meteorologist @ MET Norway

Abstract:

Information on future weather conditions has always been important to people in different occupations. In 1919, Vilhelm Bjerknes and the Bergen School of Meteorology invented the Polar Front Model. This enabled weather forecasts with greater accuracy. The more precise predictions were presented as deterministic information, typically without statements of uncertainty. In the 1970s and 1980s, computer-based weather forecasts became more prevalent, further improving the accuracy. In addition, in the last 10-20 years, ensemble prediction systems are more frequently used, providing probabilistic forecast information. Although most forecast information still is deterministic, there is a movement toward including more uncertainty information. Several studies show that such information is useful to end-users. However, other studies suggest that uncertainty information can also make the forecasts more demanding to understand and use. At MET Norway, and the

Yr weather service, both deterministic and probabilistic information is communicated. In this presentation, I will give an overview of literature and practical examples of how complex and uncertain weather information is communicated and used by the general public.



Invitation to register for NIKT2020, November 24 and 25



24th - 25th November

Norwegian conference for ICT-research and education
University of South-Eastern Norway

This year's NIKT2020 is approaching and we are happy to welcome you to register through [our website](#)

Due to the Covid-19 situation, we had to move NIKT online for 2020. In addition, this year's conference has been shortened to two days, November 24th and 25th. However, we hope you will participate and find this year's conference a good alternative to meet our fellow researchers in the Norwegian context. To ensure inclusion of young researchers, we welcome PhD-fellows and Master's students without paper to participate at NIKT2020 to a reduced conference fee.

Zoom-links and passwords will be distributed through email closer to the conference.
We are looking forward to seeing you all on Zoom in November.

Welcome to Department / CEDAS seminar, November 26

CEDAS SEMINAR

Knowledge Graphs: Research Directions

Knowledge graphs are used to collect, represent and expose knowledge through a graph abstraction. This core idea is not new, having been explored for decades in works relating to graph databases, ontologies, data integration, graph algorithms, information extraction, and more besides. However, knowledge graphs as a research topic is increasingly becoming a confluence of these related areas, further attracting attention from new areas, in particular machine learning. From this confluence emerge a variety of open questions relating to how techniques traditionally addressed by different communities can be combined. In this talk, we will first look at how knowledge graphs are being used in practice, and at why they are receiving so much attention. We will discuss various graph models that can be used to represent them and query languages used to interrogate them. We will discuss the importance of schemata for imposing structure on knowledge graphs, and of ontologies and rules for defining their semantics. We will then look at graph analysis frameworks, before turning to novel machine learning techniques such as graph embeddings, graph neural networks and inductive logic programming. Throughout we will highlight some open research questions relating to how these diverse techniques can be combined.

Aidan Hogan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science (DCC) at the Universidad de Chile, and an Associate Researcher of the Millennium Institute for Foundational Research on Data (IMFD). He received his PhD in 2011 from the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) (now called INSIGHT) based in the National University of Ireland, Galway. His general research interests centre around the Semantic Web.

<https://uib.zoom.us/j/69131235702?pwd=RDO2MnhTK2FOVmJoc1Y0STE4eXpaZz09>

SEMINAR

🕒 26.11.2020 - 14.15–15.00

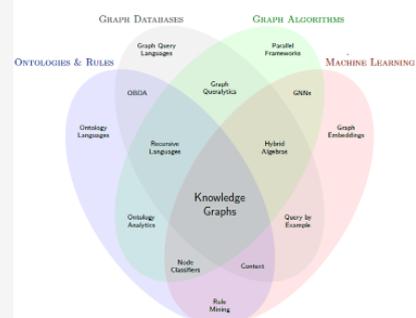
📍 Zoom

👤 [Stefanie Meyer](#)

📅 [Legg til i din egen kalender](#)



Foto/ill.: Aidan Hogan



Foto/ill.: Aidan Hogan

Publishing Open Access

The University of Bergen Library has prepared very good websites on the current status of local, national and international open access (OA) policies as well as their services related to OA publishing. Please have a look at their websites and make yourself familiar with the different policies as well as the existing publishing deals with several of the academic publishers. Furthermore, UiB has a publication fund for OA that can cover the article processing charges (APC) when publishing in eligible open access journals.

Before you (your group) pay(s) any fees for making an article openly available, please consult the webpages to see if you are entitled to a discount, may get the fees refunded through the publication fund, or maybe don't even have to pay anything based on an existing agreement with the publisher!

If you have questions, please contact the department's research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#).



[Publication fund for Open Access at UiB](#)



[Open access publishing deals](#)



[Open Access - what, why and how](#)

NEWS:

[Kvotene for åpen publisering hos storforlag er brukt opp](#)

[UiB's policy for Open Science](#)

[NFR webinar on Plan S!](#)

Please register your publications in the CRISTin database by 31st January!



CRISTIN

Current Research Information System in Norway

CRISTin (Current research information system in Norway) is a research information system for hospitals, research institutes, and universities and university colleges. One of the primary purposes of the system is to collect all the registrations and reporting of research activities of institutions within the three sectors in a common system.

As every year, we ask you to log into CRISTin and check if your publications for the current year (2020) are complete and correctly registered. Please correct potential errors and inconsistencies and add missing publications. In addition, UiB requires a full-text version of all research articles to be uploaded in the database. The deadline for completing those tasks is 31 January 2021.

More detailed information on how to register publications in CRISTin, as well as guidelines on how to upload the full text, can be found here:

<https://www.uib.no/en/ub/79539/cristin>

<https://www.cristin.no/english/researcher-pages/register-publications-nvi.html>

Please note, that the budget of our department is partly dependent on the publications that our scientific staff are authors and coauthors of. The research groups will be rewarded according to their registered publication points.

Upcoming funding opportunities

On a monthly basis, the department releases a comprehensive overview over [upcoming funding opportunities](#) on its website for [research support services](#). Please inform research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) about all planned and ongoing funding applications! **This includes both applications you coordinate yourself, and those where you are included as a partner/collaborator!** At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:



IKTPLUSS. The Research Council's call on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems will be **closed on 18 November**. It will be replaced by a **new call** for Collaborative Projects on Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. "The objective of this call is to generate new knowledge to find solutions to digital security challenges, particularly in exposed sectors and for users of critical infrastructures in society. [...] The project must involve two or more Norwegian partners that are not research organisations. Partners that are not research organisations must together participate with a minimum of 10 per cent of the total project costs." **Application deadline: open-ended.**



Researcher Projects 2021. The Research Council has announced calls for Researcher projects, which "are to contribute to important new insights, scientific publication, researcher training and international research collaboration." Currently, the following calls are announced:

- Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal,
- Researcher Projects for Young Talents,
- Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility,
- Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project.

Application deadline: 10 February 2021.



Student Entrepreneurship. This is a call for students with business ideas. For more detailed information, please have a look at the RCN call website and consult UiB's innovation support services for students. **Application deadline: 17 March 2021.**



SPIRE. SPIRE-funds are strategic funds that shall help to facilitate international research collaboration. One can apply for funds in two different categories:

- 1) international research collaboration (max per application: 200 000 NOK; additional details are mentioned on the website)
- 2) invitation of guest researchers (consult the website for rates and requirements).

Application deadline: 1 December 2020. Please send your applications to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no. **The call has been revised – please read the new guidelines carefully!**



Meltzer Foundation. Researchers from the University of Bergen can apply for financial support for academic travels and sabbaticals. In addition, the foundation supports talented students and PhD candidates with project stipends that can be used for covering costs in connection with their projects, for example research travel, field work, equipment, materials etc. **Application deadline: 1 December 2020.**

See below some more information about Meltzer prizes.



Bergen University Fund and other bequests. Researchers from the University of Bergen, including Postdocs, can apply to the university fund if they need support for communication and dissemination activities, including the organization of conferences, workshops etc. The university also administers several other bequests (legater) that support education, research, and outreach, and which are open for researchers, Postdocs, PhD cand. and/or students. **Application deadline: 1 December 2020.**



ERC. The European Research Council has announced the tentative application deadlines for 2021 on their website:

- Starting Grant, **9 March 2021**
- Consolidator Grant, **20 April 2021**
- Advanced Grant, **31 August 2021**
- No Synergy Grant call is planned for 2021 (foreseen again in 2022, possibly with an application deadline in late 2021).



Positioning funds for Horizon Europe proposals. UiB supports its researchers in their preparation of Horizon Europe grant applications (including ERC, MSCA, COST, Global Challenges etc.). The next deadline for applying for long-term positioning funding (POS) is **1 December 2020**. Please send your applications to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no. The application template can be found on UiB's website. POS category 1 is relevant for researchers, and the faculty has set a limit of 75 000 NOK per application.

In addition to POS, the support scheme also includes project establishment support (PES). Please have a look at the website to view the current support rates and contact the department's research coordinator in case you would like to make use of such funds.



UTFORSK (Diku). "Diku [has issued a] call for applications for funding of joint projects between higher education institutions in Norway and Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa, South Korea and the United States of America(USA). The projects may engage in bilateral or multilateral cooperation involving partners in one or more of the eligible countries. [...] The overall goal of UTFORSK is to strengthen higher education for a sustainable future." You can find the full call here. Please note that any application will need to be discussed in the respective research groups, and clarified both with the study administration and department leadership before submission. **Application deadline: 1 February 2021.**

RAPPORT, FEK

Stordata i forskning: store muligheter, store utfordringer



Utgitt av De nasjonale forskningsetiske komiteene, oktober 2020.



[Webinar om genetikk og kunstig intelligens](#)



ERC Proposal Reading Days. The Research Council of Norway is organizing a new round of ERC reading days where you have the chance to look at successful ERC proposals. **Event in Bergen: 19 November 2020.**

Need help?

Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you have questions with regard to your **planned and ongoing funding applications** as well as **all contractual work related to external funds!** All applications and agreements/contracts need to be approved by the department leadership. In addition, you can have a look at our websites for research support services. There you will find a list of our services.

Meltzerfondets priser 2020



L. MELTZERS HØYSKOLEFOND



Fondet vil den 8. mars 2021 dele ut Meltzerprisen for yngre forskere og Meltzerprisen for fremragende forskningsformidling.

Alle professorer og instituttledere ved Universitetet i Bergen har rett til å nominere kandidater til fondets priser. Forslagsstiller kan sende signert skriftlig nominasjon som pdf-vedlegg på e-post til kristin.hansen@uib.no ved Forsknings- og Innovasjonsavdelingen innen nominasjonsfrist 1. desember, 2020.

[Se sjekklister for forslagsstillere](#)

Vacant positions

PhD in digital security (for Norwegians working in industry) supported by NFR

If you know any Norwegian working for industry and interested in PhD in digital security, please [check here](#). Also the Selmer group can provide supervision for some.

PhD position in Informatics - Computational Biology and Machine Learning

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 20th November.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in Informatics and Computational Biology

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 24th November.

HR – HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) - Welfare

Are you ready for December?

Autumn is soon upon us and soon it will be a new year. And whether you are planning on spending the rest of your 2020 vacation days under the sun or in the snow, there is one thing you have to do right away: Register your rest-vacation for 2020 in PAGA. It is a requirement that everyone registers their vacation, and it is the general rule that all vacation days have to be taken within the calendar year.

Not sure when you'll be going away or taking days off? Register it now anyway (you can change it later) and avoid running the risk of someone else deciding when you're going to take days off. You will also be relieved from the stress of being followed up through emails and visits from the administration. This must be done even if we are still in the middle of a Corona epidemic.

The deadline for registering the rest-vacation days is 25th of November 2020. From 1st January 2021 UiB will transfer to a new pay roll system, so this year it is even more important than before that you make this a priority.

Further information on how to register vacation [can be found here](#) (in Norwegian). If you have any questions regarding vacation or the registration of vacation I PAGAWEB, please contact your local HR professional at your department, [Lene Sørheim](#).

BOTT is coming!

BOTT = Bergen, Oslo, Trondheim, Tromsø. Standardization of administrative systems and routines in our sector Effective from 1st January:

- New economy system, **Unit 4 ERP**: a big deal for the administration, insignificant change for all other employees. The Tableau report system for project leaders stays unchanged.
- New HR and salary-system, **SAP**: web-based self-service portal (DFØ*-app) for employees: for travel claims, reimbursement, registering of holidays, leaves etc – replaces PAGAWeb.
- New system for identity and access control / (identitets- og tilgangsstyring), **IAM - Rapid Identity** – replaces SEBRA

What to do:

- Stay calm and cheer on your administration 😊
- Do not expect everything to run smoothly from day one – kind and patient employees will be highly appreciated
- E-learning courses will be offered – some of them may even be mandatory (ex. travel claims)
- Information from webpages and webinars will be available

For those special interested in the why-question: **Strategiske forankringer**

- **Kunnskapsdepartementet**
 - Vektlegger standardisering og deling i sektoren
- **UiBs strategi**
 - Styrke og utvikle administrative tjenester og systemer med de ansatte og studentenes behov som premiss
 - Samarbeide nasjonalt om nye systemer for administrative tjenester
- **UiBs digitaliseringsstrategi**
 - Brukerorienterte digitale tjenester
 - Det administrativt selvbetjente universitet
- **En helhetlig administrasjon (målilde 2024)**
 - utvikle lett tilgjengelige tjenester med studenter og ansatte i sentrum
 - arbeide framtidrettet for utvikling og innovasjon av administrative tjenester
 - fungere som en kompetent, lærende og helhetlig administrasjon

Follow us on social media – like and share!

Social media channels are important for both recruiting new students and communicating our work. By following us and liking or sharing our content (or simply watching it, in some cases), you can help lift our brand and reach more people and potential future students. At the same time, you will keep yourself informed about our outreach activities.



If you use these media, please follow us there:

[Department of informatics at UiB on Facebook](#)

[Department of informatics at UiB on Instagram](#)

[Department of informatics at UiB on Twitter](#)

[Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB on YouTube](#)

[Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB on Facebook](#)

[Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science at UiB on Instagram](#)

[Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB on Twitter](#)