



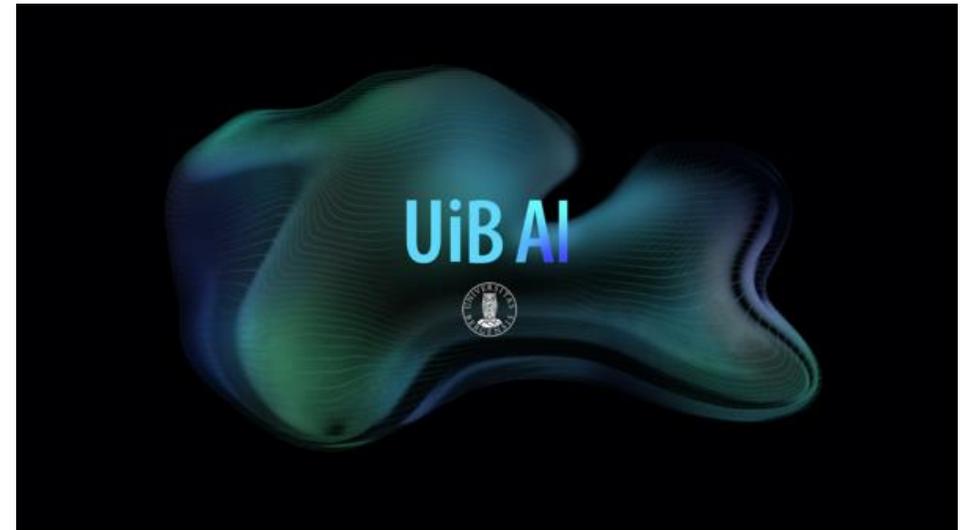
Pinar Heggernes
Professor of informatics, University of Bergen (UiB)
Previous prorector of UiB (2021 – 2025)

Bergen research and training program for future AI leaders across the disciplines - LEAD AI

- 5 years duration January 2024 – December 2028
- 19 postdoctoral fellows from various disciplines
- Highly interdisciplinary: 6 of 7 faculties of UiB involved
- 17 associated partners



UiB AI



- UiB AI is a platform to coordinate, promote and make visible research, education and innovation initiatives in artificial intelligence at the University of Bergen
- UiB AI facilitates collaboration and contact both between faculties of UiB and with partners and collaborators outside of UiB.
- UiB AI hosts regular seminars and an annual conference in AI, and serves as a contact point for AI at UiB

Timeline

- New rectorate started August 2021
 - A significant focus on digital knowledge and AI
- UiB AI founded September 2021
 - representatives from all faculties of UiB
 - prominent researchers in leading positions with research interests in AI
- The idea of applying for COFUND born in October 2021
 - Several research groups had plans of announcing postdoctoral positions in AI. Why not seek additional funding from COFUND?
 - Deadline February 2022
 - Massive mobilization, a lot of help from UiB administrative divisions
 - Most of the recruitment and appointment requirements are already fulfilled by UiB (Norwegian) routines

Inviting the deans onboard

- Extra financial support for postdoctoral positions that are anyway planned to be announced.
- No additional in-kind necessary.
- For each position that is financed by UiB or any other source than EU, we can seek about 1.5 million NOK from COFUND.
- The additional funding can be used to co-finance the mentioned positions, other related supporting positions or other supporting activity for the announced positions (some reserved for common activities).
- All positions must be announced together, but each involved department will handle the recruitment of “their” postdocs.

Writing the proposal

- Several board members of UiB AI were directly involved in writing the proposal
- Five members of the board are mentioned with names and roles in the proposal:
 - Dept head of informatics was given the role of program scientific manager
 - Program placed under the administration of this department
 - Prorector was given the role of program general supervisor
 - Three board members of UiB AI formed the scientific training group
- Writing coordinated by UiB's division of research and innovation, with members from divisions for HR and Finance involved

Scientific reasoning for LEAD AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents opportunities and challenges across disciplines. We had a broad engagement from across the university through the **UiB AI** structure and saw it as an opportunity to develop a broad training program in AI.

LEAD AI at UiB will recruit experienced researchers (Postdoctors/postdoctoral fellows) across a broad range of disciplines. The programme will enable UiB to fully exploit its unique cross-disciplinary strengths in AI research.

- Diverse research fields: computer science, medicine, law, natural science, psychology, information science, learning science, humanities.
- Disciplinary expertise and the broader knowledge of AI research that is needed to develop trustworthy and ethical AI that benefits society.

LEAD AI



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Round 1

- Application February 2022
- 28 postdoctoral positions were provided from 5 faculties and the University Museum:
 - MN (16), MED (4), SV (4), PSY (2), JUS (1), UM (1)
- We asked for 50 mill NOK

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Skal ansette 28 forskere knyttet til AI - og ber EU om 50 millioner kroner

Karriereprogrammet Lead AI skal gjøre postdoktorer ved universitetet i Bergen til forsknings- og teknologiledere.



Result of round 1

Score: 88.4%

- Excellence: 4.50
- Impact: 4.70
- Implementation: 3.80

Main weaknesses:

- Description of management of selection process and guiding information
- Contribution of training to improved career perspectives; communication; exploitation
- Description of management structure and timeline

Round 2

- Application February 2023
- 19 postdoctoral positions were provided from 6 faculties:
 - MN (9), MED (3), SV (2), HF (2), PSY (2), JUS (1)
- We asked for 33 mill NOK
- Score: 97.00%
- Excellence: 4.70
- Impact: 5.00
- Implementation: 5.00

Round 2

- Application February 2023
- 19 postdoctoral positions were provided from 6 faculties:
 - MN (9), MED (3), SV (2), HF (2), PSY (2), JUS (1)
- We asked for 33 mill NOK
- Score: 97.00%
- Excellence: 4.70
- Impact: 5.00
- Implementation: 5.00



Universitetsmuseet, Universitetet i Bergen. Foto: Marit Hommedal/NTB

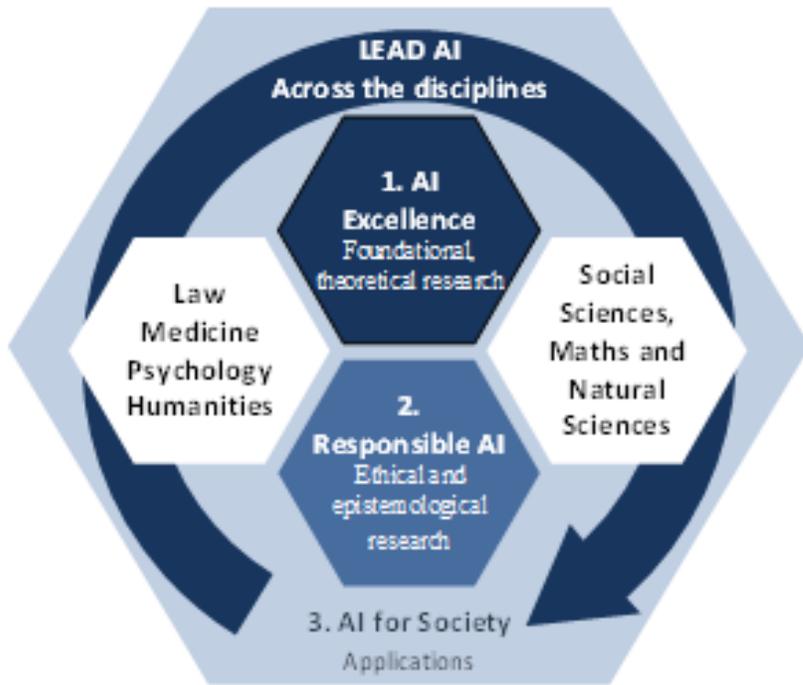
UiB skal gjøre 19 forskere fra ulike felt til fremtidens ledere innen kunstig intelligens

Universitetet i Bergen vil flytte kunnskapsfronten innen kunstig intelligens (AI) gjennom et nytt tverrfaglig forskningsprogram. Programmet er støttet av EU og skal utdanne 19 erfarne forskere fra ulike disipliner til fremtidens forsknings- og teknologiledere innen AI.

Redaksjonen shifter.no
redaksjonen@shifter.no



LEAD AI Scientific pillars



Pillars:

- AI Excellence – Foundational, theoretical research
- Responsible AI – Ethical and epistemological research
- AI for Society – Applications

Involved UiB faculties:

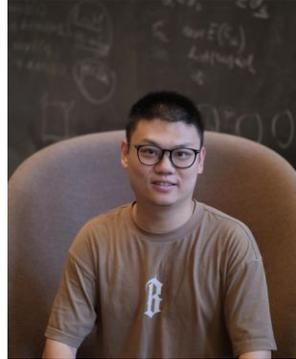
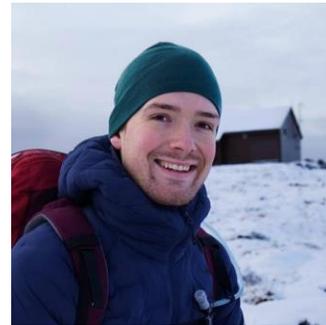
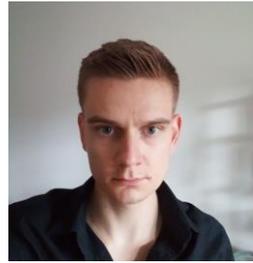
- Law
- Medicine
- Psychology
- Humanities
- Social science
- Science and technology

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12 LEAD AI fellows by December 2025

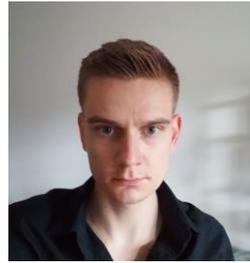


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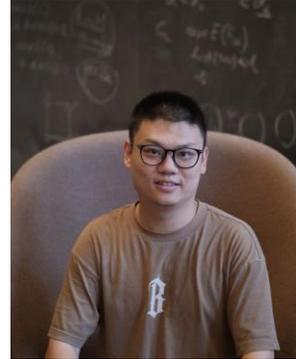
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12 LEAD AI fellows by December 2025



These were announced in the first round

The remaining were announced in the second round and are (being) finalized



LEAD AI



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LEAD AI office



Inge Jonassen
Programme
Scientific
Coordinator



Pinar Heggernes
Programme
General
Supervisor



Guro Akre
Programme
administrative
manager



Karoline
Christiansen,
HR



Corina Freifrau
Von Rolf,
Research &
Innovation dept



Sergio Mora,
Economy

LEAD AI



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Visit from Programme Officer Nov 2025

- 8:00 Coffee and arrival
- 8:20 Welcome, update on status for LEAD AI, Inge Jonassen, Guro Akre
- 8:40 Fellows' individual reports – questions
-
- 11:30 Lunch
-
- 12:00 Ethics in LEAD AI projects - Fellows and supervisors, + External ethics expert, Leonora Onarheim Bergsjø.
- 12:00 Other room: Mid-term review of administrative processes in LEAD AI – LEAD AI administrative team, and Project officer Daniela Radu
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- 13:45 Short break
-
- 14:00 Project officer meets fellows alone
- 15:15 LEAD AI office re-enters the room for conclusive discussion
- 15:30 Daniela leaves, LEAD AI team stays for a final talk.

LEAD AI



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Learning points

- One scientific person in charge who really burns for this
- One very motivated administrative coordinator in charge
- Commitment from
 - the dean(s) and all department heads (if one or few faculties involved)
 - the rector and all deans (if whole university is involved)
- How the funding can/will be spent should be discussed in detail in advanced and written explicitly in the proposal
- Good to have many partners and collaborators
- Use as much as possible already established procedures

More information

- <https://www.uib.no/leadai>
- <https://www.uib.no/ai>

Announcement for the first batch of postdoctoral fellows:

<https://www.uib.no/en/leadai/169041/call-1-lead-ai>