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International Centre

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News from international HR November 2021



Photo from <https://www.bt.no/kultur/i/RRBGW5/naa-er-lysfestivalen-i-gang-se-bildene>

November is here and we are getting closer to winter and Christmas. November is a dark month, so the city of Bergen is arranging several events to make the months before Christmas as bright as possible. We recommend you to visit the Christmas market, the Gingerbread town and the Light Festival. New this year is Lumagica at the Bergenhuss Fortress.

Unfortunately, we in the Euraxess team have been sick and thus not been able to arrange social activities. We hope to be well soon and meet you all again. In the meantime, stay warm!

Introduction course for new employees – November 24th

All new international employees are invited to our introduction course November 24th. We address different subjects like holidays, parental leave, tax, pension, unions, and other helpful information that makes it easier to navigate as a new employee at UiB. [Please see more information and sign up here](#). The seminar is held digitally due to the covid situation.

Paying tax in Norway

We also offer a short seminar on paying tax in Norway which is for international employees who have just started their position at UiB and wondering about how to get started paying taxes in Norway and how to get their tax card. Next seminar is Friday November 26th, and you may [register here](#). The seminar is held digitally.

Christmas Market

The Bergen Christmas market first opened in 2017 and have since then become a tradition for many people from Bergen and surrounding areas. This year it will be open from November 12 to December 22 at Torgallmenningen.

The world's largest gingerbread town

The gingerbread town, or *Pepperkakebyen*, has been a tradition in Bergen since 1991. Anyone can send in their contribution in October, and this is often done by families, schools, neighborhoods, companies or similar. The result is a mini-town of smaller and larger gingerbread houses. This year it is opens November 13 at the shopping centre Xhibition. Tickets are 150 NOK, and all profit is donated.

Lysfesten

For over 30 years the light festival, or *Lysfesten*, has been held in Bergen by Bergens Tidende. It is a free event with music, entertainment, and fireworks. Entertainment is often focused on the children, but it is an enjoyable festival for all, lasting from 16:00 to 17:30 November 20th at Ole Bulls plass.

LUMAGICA Light Show

A light show that takes place at Bergenus festning (Bergenus Fortress). The park will be filled with lights and has been designed as a magical path with more than forty unique and spectacular light installations.

UiB Events

There are still several events happening in relation to UiB's 75 years. Upcoming events can be found [here](#) and there are also some special events from UiB Innsikt on some Saturdays, you can find this [here](#).

Norwegian language courses

UiB offers free language courses to international employees and their partners every semester. The application deadline for the autumn semester has passed and the deadline for the spring semester is December 1st. More [information can be found here](#). Employees may also be refunded for Norwegian courses taken outside of UiB, please contact us should you have any questions about this. Kindly note that this does not apply for partners.

Travelling outside of Norway during the holiday?

We recommend anyone travelling outside of Norway for their holidays to thoroughly look into restrictions in the country they are visiting, and also check current restrictions in Norway before your return.

Covid-19 vaccination

Anyone residing or staying in Bergen over the age of 16 can go to one of the vaccination centres in Bergen for drop-in vaccination. If you want to book an appointment instead, you can call the corona phone at +47 55 56 77 00. Not all of Bergen kommune's web pages are in English, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Suggestions?

Do you have any suggestions to information you would like to find in the newsletter, please send us an email: euraxess@uib.no.