

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

Informatics final master seminar

Final checklist for master thesis!

18th of March 2026





Matthew Good

PhD in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Leader of Digital Scholarship Centre

Matthew.good@ub.uio.no



Andri Spilker

PhD in Astrophysics

Subject responsible for physics &
informatics at the science library

andri.spilker@ub.uio.no

Plan for today

09:00-09:15 Coffee, tea & snacks

09:15-10:00 Final writing & presentation

Andri Spilker

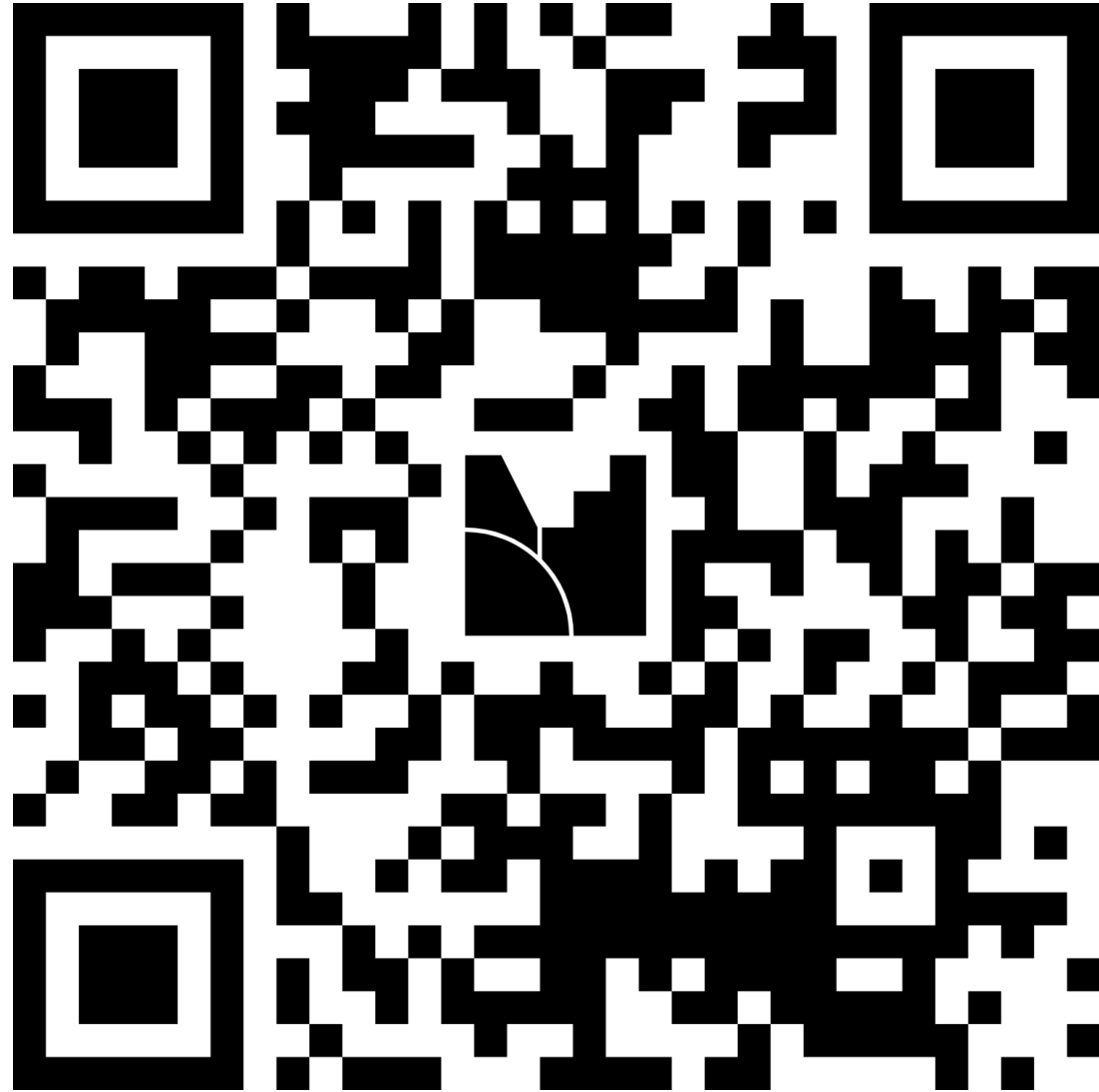
10:15-11:00 Final checklist

Matthew Good

11:15-12:00 How is thesis evaluated at IFI?

Leif Harald Karlsen

Check in



<https://www.menti.com/alnnptfziqcd>

Were you here for the fall master seminar?

- Finding, reading & evaluating literature
- Writing: structure & story
- Data management
- Project planning

Not there? We can help 😊



Presenting your work:
thesis & presentation

Reflection exercise: 2 minutes nonstop writing

How is your master thesis going and what do you have left?

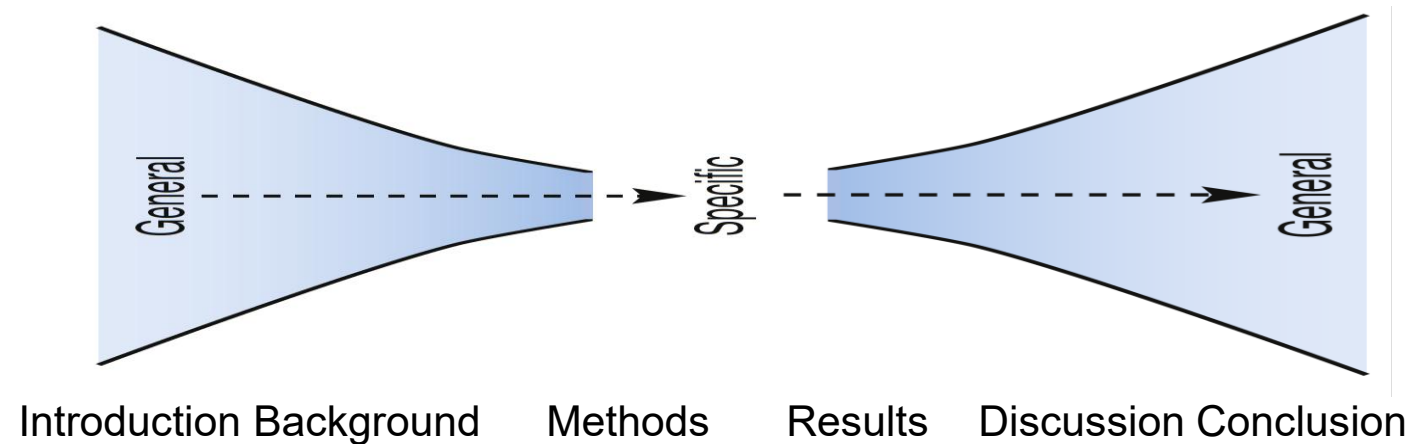
**Present your project to your neighbor
in 2 minutes**

How was it?

Did you notice something that needs clarification?

Both thesis and presentation:

- Make it into a story: big picture, why, how (specific), findings, meaning



- Match the beginning and end
- Motivate and guide the audience/reader

An illustration on a textured tan background showing five stylized figures in a dark grey rectangular area. Four figures are red, and one is light blue. They are in various poses: one is hunched over a white sheet, another is on the ground with arms raised, a third is on the right pointing at a laptop screen, and a fourth is at the bottom with arms raised. A white rectangular box with the text 'Wrapping the thesis' is centered over the figures.

Wrapping the thesis

Recap: Making your thesis into a story

- Motivate and guide the reader through the text
- Refer to *all* plots, figures and tables that you include
- Make it clear why a figure or a paragraph is included
- Match the introduction to the discussion/conclusion

The discussion: the most important chapter!

- What do the results show?
- How do the results fit in with other researchers' findings?
- What could the results mean?
- What are the problems and limitations?
- Go back to the big picture from the introduction
- What are the perspectives for future research?
- What are the implications of your findings?

Writing exercise: 2 minutes nonstop writing

1. What do your results show?

2. How does it connect to other work?

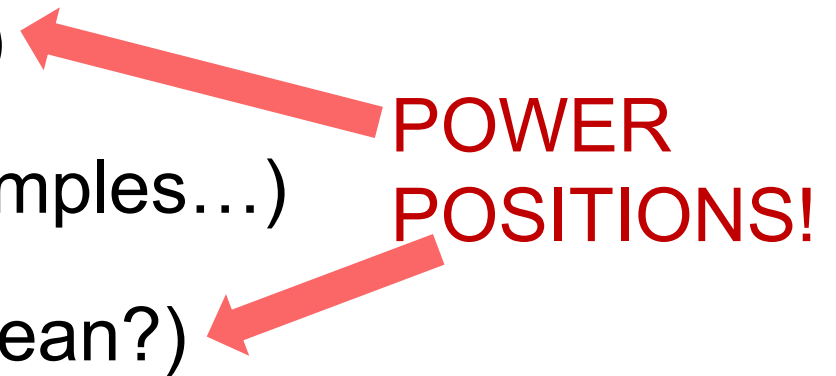
3. What could the results mean?

**Bring in the rest of
the questions from
the previous slide
and you have a draft
discussion 😊**

Do you have a red thread?

- Are you answering the expectations set up in the introduction? (Are you introducing new concepts late?)
- Is it clear why all paragraphs, figures, tables are included?
- Write keywords in the margin to each paragraph
- Check: Is there a logical connection between the paragraphs?

Recap: Recipe for a paragraph

1. Topic sentence (What is it about?)
 2. Elaboration (Explain, explain, examples...)
 3. Relevance/stress (What does it mean?)
- 
- POWER
POSITIONS!**
- The diagram consists of the text 'POWER POSITIONS!' in red, bold, uppercase letters. Two red arrows originate from this text. One arrow points diagonally up and to the left towards the first item of the list, 'Topic sentence (What is it about?)'. The other arrow points diagonally down and to the left towards the third item of the list, 'Relevance/stress (What does it mean?)'.

Bridging paragraphs

Astronomy, Renate Mauland (2019)

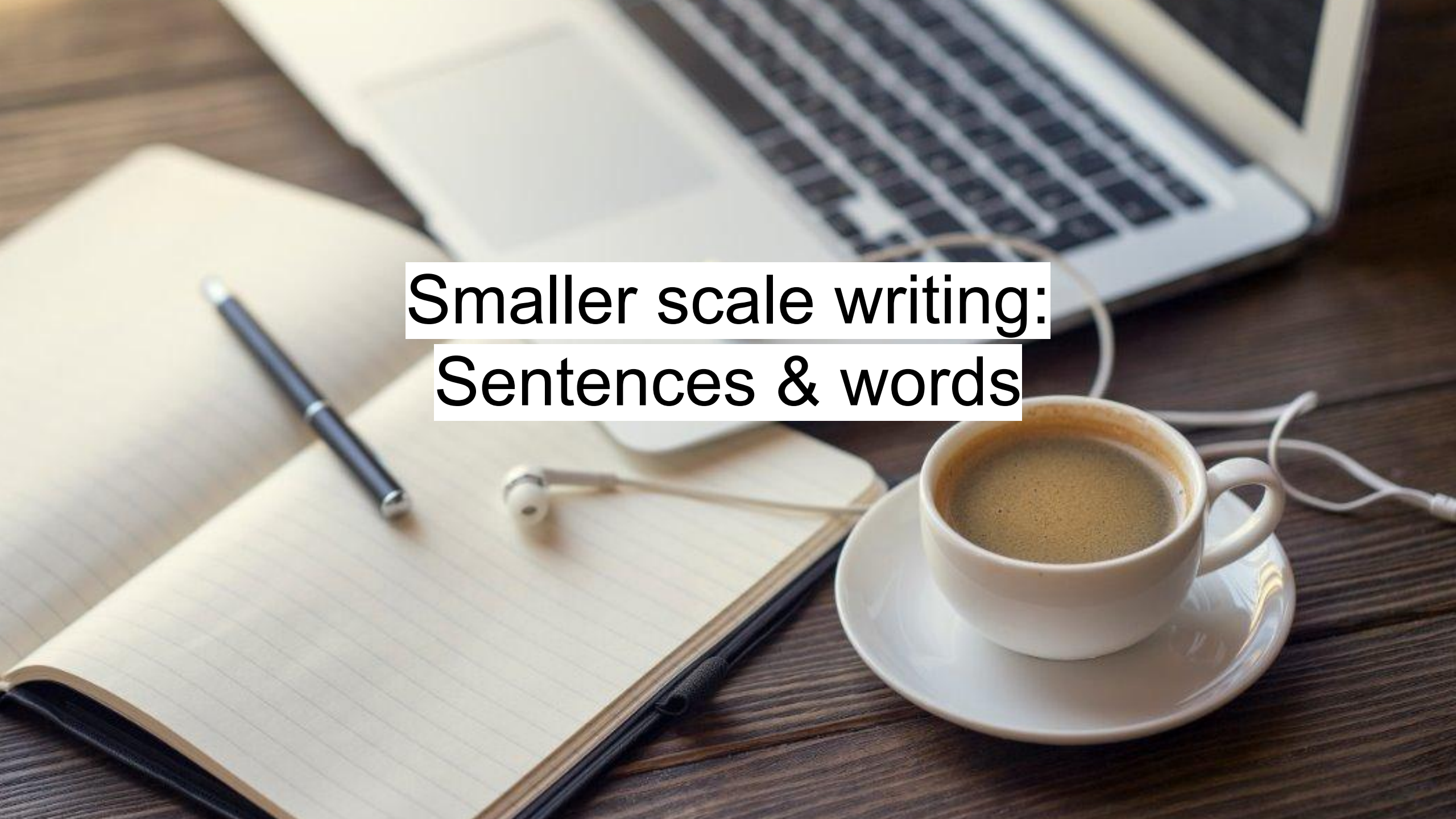
One of the puzzles that remains unsolved is the nature of the matter content of the Universe. There is one kind of matter that can be observed and measured directly. It is the matter that makes up all our stars and planets, and it is the same matter that makes up us. This is the baryonic matter, or luminous matter, and we seem to understand it quite well. However, based on observations and our (currently) most trusted theory, there must exist yet another kind of matter. One we cannot see, a dark matter. **It is the nature of this dark matter that is unknown to us.**



One theory that incorporates dark matter as well as baryonic matter is the Λ CDM model. This model is today widely accepted as the standard model of Big Bang cosmology. It includes cold dark matter

Note!

You don't have to make *all* paragraphs like this, but if you are struggling to make a paragraph work, it can be useful to try!

A photograph of a workspace on a dark wooden desk. In the background, a silver laptop is open. In the foreground, there is an open, blank, lined notebook with a black pen resting on it. A pair of white earbuds lies on the notebook. To the right of the notebook is a white ceramic cup of coffee on a matching saucer. A pair of glasses and a white cable are also visible on the desk.

**Smaller scale writing:
Sentences & words**

Four steps to writing better sentences

1. Write complete sentences (verb & subject)
2. Be active! («a measurement was taken» → «we measured»)
3. Take control over sentence length (Max 2, preferably max 1 comma)
4. Love variety

Don't worry about this when you start writing!
It's for a later stage.

Wordy

In the event that

In the vicinity of

The majority of

In order to

Give rise to

Through the use of

Crisp

If

Near/Close to

Most

To

Cause

By/With

Exercise

An additional approach that should be taken into account in order to further study solar flare phenomena is the employment of spectroscopy, which means applying the spectrometers on the solar satellite.

Hint: Needless words/repetitions.

Exercise

An additional approach that should be taken into account in order to further study solar flare phenomena is the employment of spectroscopy, which means applying the spectrometers on the solar satellite.

Hint: Needless words/repetitions.

31

We should also take spectroscopic measurements of solar flares.

9

Final word on sentences

- Variety is still key: You don't *always* have to use the crispest/fewest words
- But playing around with sentences like this helps you become more aware of your text
- *You* decide what your text will be like!

Advice on words

- Use spellcheck
(american/british/norsk)
- Check grammar
- Avoid contractions

aren't - are not	I'm - I am	that's - that is
can't - cannot	I've - I have	there's - there is
didn't - did not	isn't - is not	we're - we are
don't - do not	let's - let us	what's - what is

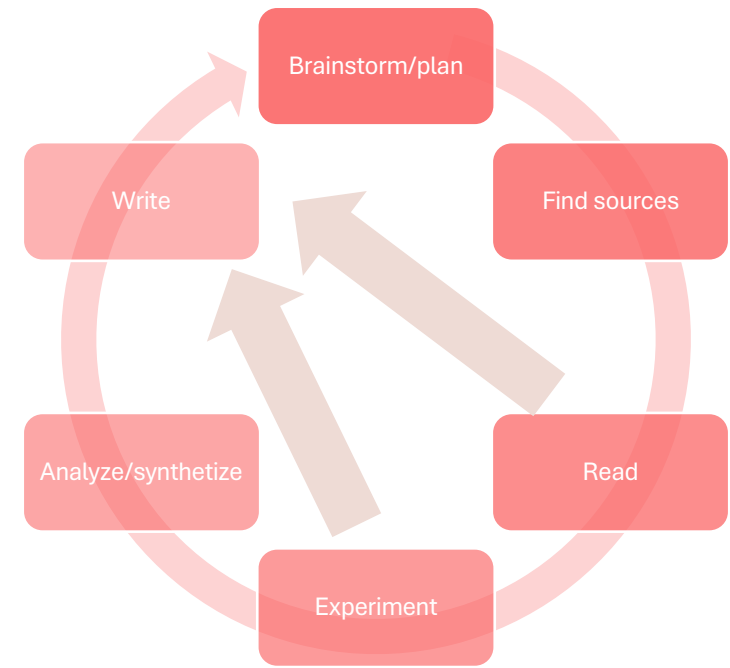
They

are

Don't worry about small scale writing at the beginning!

No point spellchecking carefully when big changes are coming.

Start with fast, bad and wrong, then edit and improve.



Use each other for feedback!

Sometimes you can get blind on your own text

Resources to use

<https://www.phdontrack.net/>



& <https://sokogskriv.no/>



Academic Writing Centre

The Writing Centre is open for students and researchers who wish to improve their writing. Come and discuss your ideas, drafts and questions with one of our writing consultants.

Come for a consultation!

We offer physical consultations, and e-consultations for all our services. Consultations can be booked two weeks in advance.

Book an appointment



We are located at the Georg Sverdrup's house at Blindern, Library of the Humanities and the Social Sciences, ground floor.

Opening hours

- Monday: 10–14
- Tuesday: 10–14
- Wednesday: 14–18
- Thursday: 13–18
- Friday: 11–16

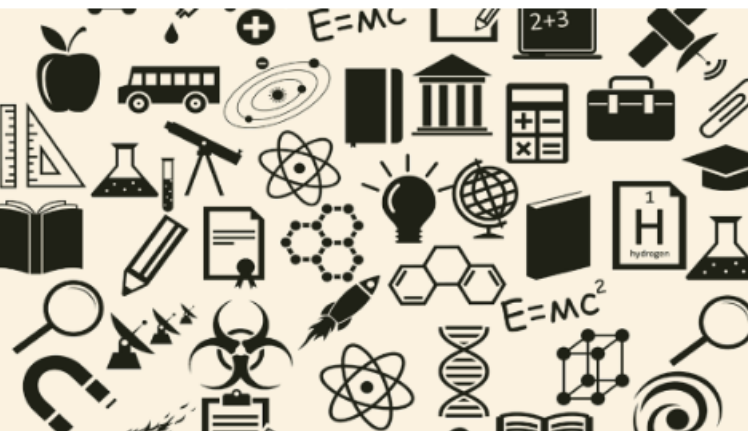
Variations may occur.

Shut up & write for Natural Sciences

Are you writing a master's thesis and struggling to get started or stay focused? Join us at the Science Library for a structured, distraction-free writing session — no distractions, just progress.

<https://www.ub.uio.no/english/courses-events/courses/shut-up-and-write-natural-sciences/>

Upcoming

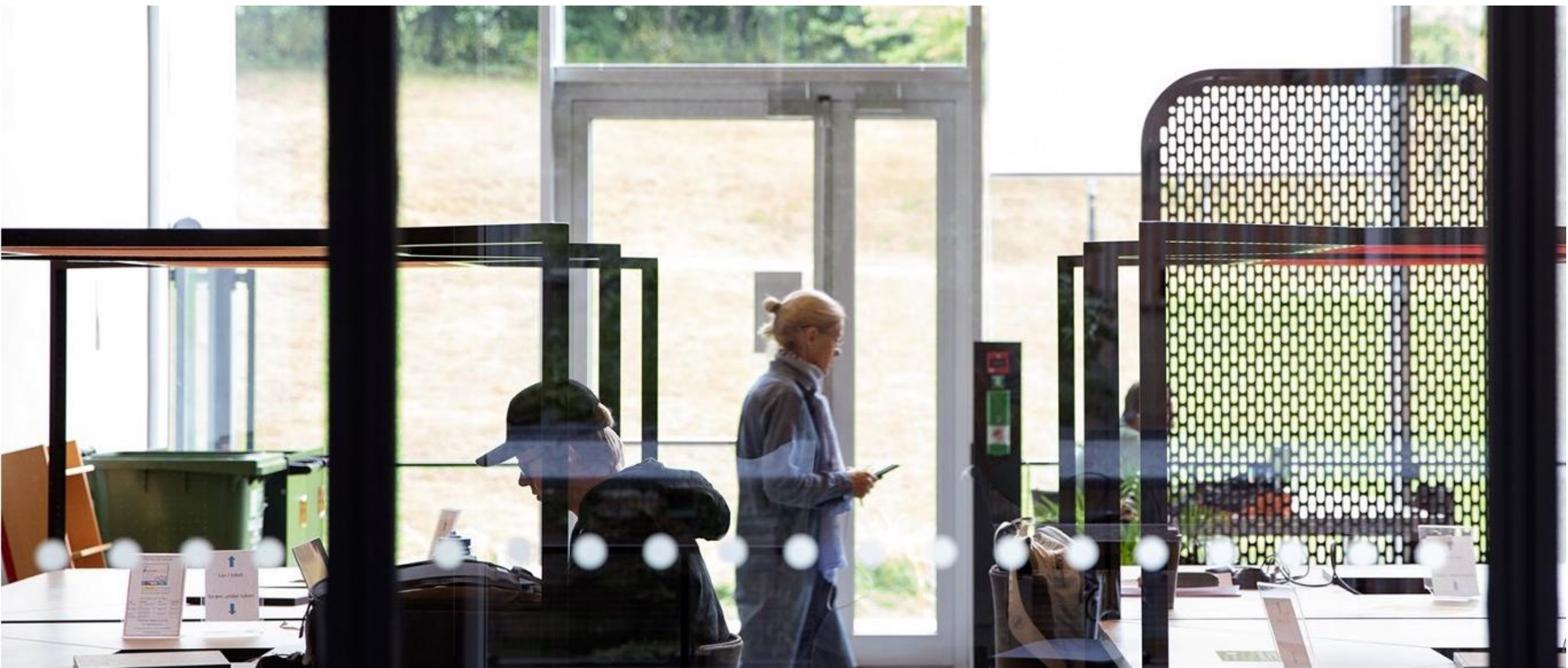


Time and place: Mar. 6, 2026 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, NHA: Realfagsbibliotekets undervisningsrom 209

Shut up & Write for Natural Sciences

Do you have a master's thesis deadline coming up? Is it hard to get started, or stay focused, on writing? Join us at the Science Library for a structured writing session to help you put your words on paper. No distractions, no excuses!

Break



A top-down view of a wooden table covered with architectural blueprints. A person's arm and hand are visible, holding a black pen and pointing at a specific area on the drawing. Various tools are scattered around: a yellow hard hat in the top left, a yellow and black spirit level in the bottom left, a yellow and black tape measure in the middle right, and a portion of a calculator in the bottom right. A small spiral-bound notebook is also visible in the top center.

Presenting your masters

What is different when you present your work orally instead of in writing?

Oral compared to written communication

- Cannot stop or rewind a speaker!
- Shorter sentences
- Less complexity & formality
- Simpler figures
- More repetition
- Much less material!
- More effective
- Immediate feedback

How much do people remember from a 10 minutes presentation?

50%

Immediately after the presentation

25%

By the next day

10%

A week later

A common mistake...

- How many times have you seen a slide like this?
Probably too often.
- The use of too much text on one slide is so common that many of us don't even think to question it.
- If presenters are going to write out everything they are going to say during their delivery, then what is the point of attending their presentations? They might as well send their slides to us over email and we can read them whenever we want.

...but no less annoying.

- Seriously, slides like this are awful. Especially when every slide in the entire presentation looks like this.
- Too much text on a slide is one of the top reasons why audiences stop paying attention.
- One hundred years ago, movie studios realized that silent movies shouldn't contain too much dialogue because audiences didn't enjoy reading text on a screen. You'd think we would have learned the same concept in slide presentations by now....

**Even for complex scientific talks,
when it comes to text...**

**The simpler,
the better!**

Less is more!

Before

Point Reyes



A piece of the Salinian Block transported Northward by the San Andreas Fault.

Peninsula is a member of the Salinian Terrane, a segment of the southernmost Sierra Nevada range.

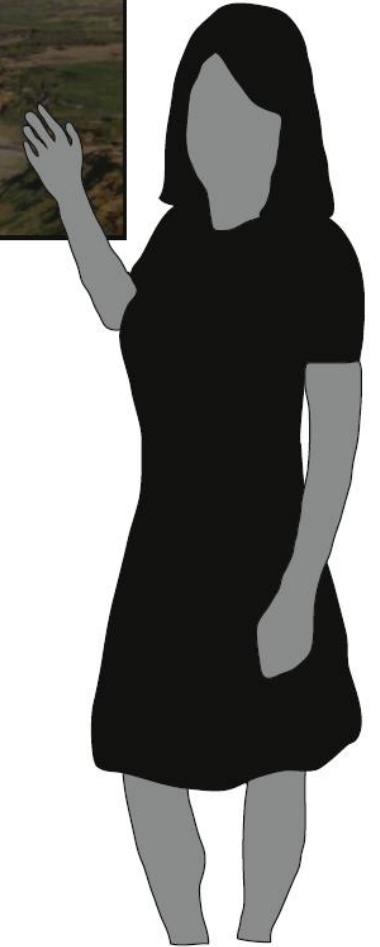
Nearly 490 Avian species

Can often become very foggy



After

Point Reyes



Takeaway title

Background

Infants with more experiences
of stroking or cuddling:

Cry less often

Vocalize more

Smile more



Infants benefit from positive touch

Infants with more experiences
of stroking or cuddling:

Cry less often

Vocalize more

Smile more



A tool for good scientific presentations: AB123C



A – Who, what, why

B – Interesting introduction

123 – Main highlights

C – Conclusion

Starting the presentation - A

- Present yourself
- Thank the audience or organizers
- Present the talk and title
- Present the background for the talk
 - Explain your role in the project
 - Present co-authors (supervisor)
 - Why did you do this work?
- Do you want questions during or after the presentation?
- Memorize the first 2 minutes of your talk

	Present yourself and the title Name: Position and affiliation:
 Thank the organizers: Title of the talk: Your role in the project: Other contributors:	

Introduction - B

- Background and context
 - Suitable for the audience
- Motivation & research problem
- Outline the talk
 - A recurring outline slide is sometimes a good idea
- Conclusion? – cliffhanger only

B

Introduction

Main message:

Outline talk and highlights:

- 1
- 2
- 3

Conclusion (cliffhanger only):

Background and context:

Highlight key results - 123

- What's new
- Clear figure or illustration if quantitative
- Why important

1	First highlight
	Headline:
	Into context:
	What is new:
	Example:
	Example shows:
	Scientific argument:
	Advantages:
Known weakness:	
Future research:	

Conclusion - C

- Summary slide with highlights
- Conclusion (should answer to B – the introduction)
- **Make sure your audience remembers this!**
- Future research

BEST TO END ON THIS SLIDE
(avoid ending on an empty thank-you slide!)

C

Conclusion

Summary slide listing 1 2 3

What you gain when you combine 1 2 3

Conclusion:

Future research:

Applause slide:

- Contact information
- Summary slide and conclusion
- Take home message:

Expected questions & answer:

UNIVERSITETET
I OSLO

My presentation

AB123C

A – Who, what, why

B – Interesting introduction

123... – Main highlights

C – Conclusion

Master presentations often also include...

- Theory / Hypothesis
- Method & Data
- Discussion:
 - Comparison with previous work
 - Known limitations/weaknesses
 - Implications and tying back to big picture

A – Who, what, why

B – Interesting introduction

M – Method

123... – Highlight results

D – Discussion

C – Conclusion

More like thesis IMRaD structure but remember to choose key points!

Questions?

The Ultimate Checklist

1. Delivery
2. Format and structure
3. Proofreading
4. Reference List
5. The Abstract
6. Acknowledgements
7. Figures++
8. Data/code
9. Appendices
10. Thesis presentation

March 2026						
14 days included						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2026						
30 days included						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2026						
15 days included						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

59 days left!

Or:
 5,097,600 seconds
 84,960 minutes
 1416 hours
 59 days
 8 weeks and 3 days
 16.16% of 2026

1. Delivery

- ☐ Do you know where, when, and how you need to deliver your thesis?
- ☐ Do you know who to contact if you have problems?
- ☐ Have you tried to pdf your thesis?

2. Format and structure

- ☐ Do you have consistent font size and style?
- ☐ Are the titles and numbering of sections and sub-sections correct and consistent?
- ☐ Is your table of contents correct (i.e. section titles, page numbers, etc.)?

3. Proofreading

- ❑ Read through and check spelling and grammar multiple times! Ask others to help you with this and help them with theirs.
- ❑ Check for lack of flow, statements that might need citations, inadequate explanation of concepts, or a lack of context.
- ❑ Use abbreviations but introduce them the first time they occur (e.g. Large Hadron Collider (LHC))

4. Reference list

- ☐ Do all the references exist? Are they findable? Do they say what you say they do? (Careful with AI)
- ☐ Are all citations included in the reference list and vice versa?
- ☐ Are all citations in the same style? Remember to check your captions, tables etc. as well!
- ☐ Does the reference list adhere to the correct reference style (e.g. APA)?
- ☐ Are all references formatted correctly?
- ☐ Tip: Often easier to print then check references manually.

5. The Abstract

- ☐ Have you written your abstract/summary?
- ☐ Remove references in the abstract/summary and in the conclusions.

6. Acknowledgements

- ☐ Have you written acknowledgements?
- ☐ Have you written a declaration of AI use?

7. Figures, maps, tables, plots, logs, drawings etc.

- ☐ Are they in the right place?
- ☐ Are they numbered and in the right order? Tip: print and mark-up.
- ☐ Are they referenced in the text?
- ☐ Are all features of the figure++ described in the text? Adjust the text or remove irrelevant features.

7. Figures, maps, tables, plots, logs, drawings etc. (continued)

- ☐ Do the captions stand on their own?
- ☐ Are all abbreviations explained in the caption?
- ☐ Do they have the necessary references/citations?
- ☐ If you're using someone else's figures, have you checked the copyright license and asked for permission?
- ☐ Do they have a high enough resolution? Are they large enough?
- ☐ Do figures have a consistent design style (i.e. lines, colours, etc.)?

7. Figures, maps, tables, plots, logs, drawings etc. (continued)

- ☐ Are the axes named and units displayed?
- ☐ Do you have a legend? (i.e. which line/curve/dot/triangle refers to what)
- ☐ Are the legends readable (i.e. font size > 2)?

8. Data/code

- ☐ What will you do with your data/code after the thesis?
- ☐ Does your data/code contain sensitive information?
- ☐ Is your data/code well organized?
- ☐ Is your data/code well documented? (e.g. abbreviations, units, instrumental settings, readme file)
- ☐ Will you be sharing your data/code? If so, where and under what terms?

9. Appendices

- ☐ How many will you have?
- ☐ Are appendices included at the end of your thesis (after the reference list) and included in your table of contents?
- ☐ Are appendices referred to in the text or in a caption/table?
- ☐ Is the font size, style, design consistent with the rest of your thesis?

10. Thesis defense - General

- ☐ Is your presentation clean and organized?
- ☐ Have you visited and tested the room?
- ☐ Have you practiced? Tip: present for others
- ☐ Is it 30 minutes long?
- ☐ How well do you know your audience? Can master students in other master programs understand the content?

10. Thesis defense – Preparing yourself

- ☐ Dress appropriately
- ☐ Use body language and your voice to “control” the room
- ☐ Be humble, kind, respectful and self-confident
- ☐ Make a cheatsheet - avoid using a script

10. Thesis presentation – Main parts

- ☐ Introduction
- ☐ Main message, outline, and motivation
- ☐ Highlights with examples and discussion
- ☐ Conclusion and future work

Remember to read this:

[Finishing your master's studies - Department of Informatics](#)

The ULTIMATE Checklist

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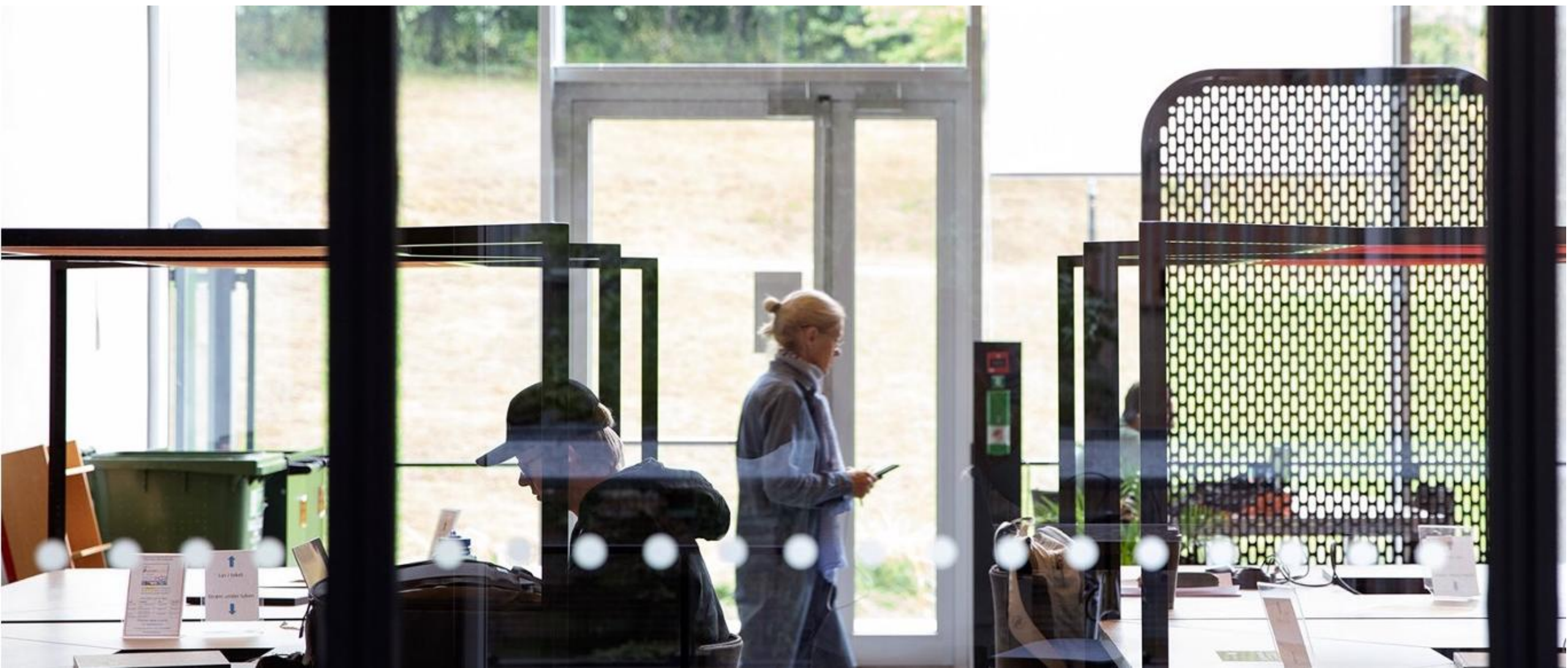


<https://www.mn.uio.no/ifi/studier/master/masterseminarer/dokumenter/ultimate-checklist.docx>

Matthew Good

matthew.good@ub.uio.no

Break



Feedback



Let us know if you have questions or comments, or if we can help with anything 😊

matthew.good@ub.uio.no

andri.spilker@ub.uio.no

<https://nettskjema.no/a/611347>