



Thomas and Sara for University Board

**ELECTION MANIFESTO 2024-2025**





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# Introduction

**Hello, fellow students!**

Each year, the students of UiB can vote for two students to sit on the **University Board**, the highest decision-making body at the university. It's election time, and we hope you will consider voting for us!

We are Thomas and Sara, and we are two experienced students with different knowledge and backgrounds. We are running because we have a vision for a university that is the best at study environment, student engagement, and dissemination of knowledge.

We are advocating for a more inclusive university that dares to speak and act in the face of injustice, war and human rights violations. We want a university that does everything in its power to become climate neutral and contribute in solving the climate crisis. This is only a small part of our agenda.

With us in the University Board, you will get engaged student voices that are not only focused on the issues that matter to students, but who also see this as a part in securing the best possible university for students and staff alike.

If this sounds promising, we can recommend voting for us. Not convinced yet? Don't worry – we have written an election manifesto!

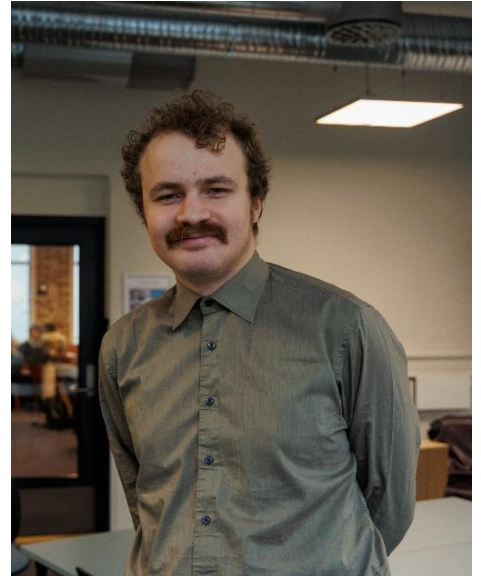


# Meet the candidates!

## Thomas Helland-Hansen

Thomas is 24 years old, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Comparative Politics, having previously earned a bachelor's degree in the subject. Ever since he came to the university, Thomas has been actively involved as a student representative both at the department and faculty. From 2021 to 2022, Thomas served as President of the Student Parliament at UiB, where he gained a solid understanding of the workings and administration of the university. Today, Thomas works as a seminar leader at his department and has also worked as a mentor.

Now, Thomas wants to make use of these experiences in the University Board. Thomas is passionate about a university that strives to solve the climate crisis, values international solidarity and encourages a thriving student democracy. He believes that the university should use its role in society as a promoter of democracy and human rights more actively.



## Sara Helene Lund-Tønnesen

Sara is 22 years old, and is currently finishing her bachelor's degree in History. She has been active in organizational life since middle school, and has participated in several levels of the student democracy at UiB, including as a representative in the Student Parliament and as a member of the executive committee in the Student Council at the Faculty of Humanities. When not engaged in student democracy, you can often find her reading at Sydneshaugen.

Sara is deeply committed to informing herself on the issues that matter to students. She aims to bring this commitment to the University Board, and emphasizes that the University of Bergen should be a university for students that values its fundamental pillars of knowledge, competence and dissemination. She wants to ensure that UiB is an active societal institution in Bergen, Norway and the world.





# The issues

## Core issues

International solidarity  
A sustainable university

## Other issues

An inclusive campus  
Improved facilitation for student democracy and participation  
Students and the labor market  
Artificial intelligence on the agenda



# International solidarity

The world is facing a challenging security situation which represents a threat to peace, democracy and human rights. As an internationally leading university, the University of Bergen is uniquely positioned to promote knowledge and solidarity in response to these challenges – and use its position in society to speak out.

However, we believe that the university has not spoken out enough. We believe that UiB should do more to support the Palestinian voice. All eleven universities and colleges in Gaza have been bombed to rubble, and hundreds of Palestinian students and academics have been killed. The university has condemned the conflict, but we believe that more concrete actions must be taken. Due to this, we support an academic boycott of Israel, and that UiB stands in clear international solidarity with Palestinian students and academics.

International solidarity is about promoting voices under pressure – be it pressure from war, climate change or genocide. UiB is an international university, and must use its position to contribute to and create knowledge about a safer, sustainable world. Knowledge dissemination and critical thinking are the cornerstones of academia.

In the University Board, we will work to:

- Ensure that the university shows solidarity with Palestinian students and academics, taking concrete actions to condemn Israel not just with words but with actions.
- Ensure that the university does not cooperate with Israeli academic institutions that support attacks on civilian life.
- Continue the university's role in promoting Ukrainian students and academics, disseminating knowledge and facilitating debate on the war in Ukraine.
- Ensure that the university does not purchase goods from states violating international law.
- Continue the university's role in promoting knowledge dissemination about conflict and injustice worldwide.

## A sustainable university

UiB aims to be climate-neutral by 2030 – six years from now. It is crucial to have determined voices in the University Board that strives for a greener university. Achieving the 2030 goal means ensuring that the university's budget provides more support for climate initiatives, and less support for carbon emissions. We emphasize that climate considerations should not be deprioritized in budgetary considerations.

The simplest way to reduce carbon emissions is to not produce them. We want UiB to make reusability easier for students and staff alike. By increasing the support for initiatives such as "Byttebua" and collaborating with student organizations to organize the sale of used curriculum, UiB can take actions that do not produce emissions. Active student involvement in these initiatives is crucial.

The push for a climate-neutral UiB is part of a bigger picture, which is not only about the emissions themselves. A sustainable university is an institution that dares to create and promote knowledge and skills concerning climate and the environment, both locally and globally. The university has excellent courses and degrees focused on climate and sustainability. These must continue to receive the support and attention they deserve. We will work to ensure that additional fields also incorporate climate and sustainability as part of their agenda.

In the University Board, we will work to:

- Ensure that the goal of a climate-neutral UiB by 2030 is accomplished, through concrete actions and initiatives.
- Secure more support for climate initiatives in the budgets, and less for carbon emissions. Climate considerations should be prioritized over price considerations.
- Make reuse easier for students and staff, by making reusability initiatives more available.
- Promote climate and sustainability themes in more interdisciplinary fields, both to ensure that the sustainability goals are met, but also to ensure that all fields have climate expertise.
- Promote cooperation across faculties and disciplines to reach the sustainability goals.

## Other issues

### An inclusive campus

The University of Bergen must be accessible to everyone. The university's action plan for diversity, inclusion and equality (2023-2025) clearly states that all students and staff at UiB should enjoy an inclusive environment, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and age.

We believe that UiB must actively work towards this every day, and that the push for inclusivity should also be promoted in the University Board. There is always more that we can do to ensure that our student spaces are more open and accessible to everyone.

In the University Board, we will work to:

- Ensure that gender-neutral toilets are available in all university buildings.
- Design all student areas at the university to be universally accessible, as much as possible.
- Increase recruitment of more students and staff with diverse socio-cultural backgrounds.
- Ensure that the university actively works to combat discrimination.

### Improved facilitation for student democracy and participation

Most of the people at UiB are students. Therefore, it is important that our voices are heard and appreciated in interactions with leadership at the various levels: department, faculty and university. It is crucial to highlight the role of students in the various organs, and make positions accessible to all students.

A thriving student democracy is about participating in everyday student life, and the local study environment. Many student associations and councils have limited resources, and a greater investment in the student organizations can contribute to a better learning environment.

In the University Board, we will work to:

- Increase the financial support for student associations and committees.
- Ensure that university policy is made more visible and accessible for students.
- Facilitate cooperation between student democracies across departments and faculties.



## Students and the labor market

UiB educates future employees, and the question of the future workplace is essential to many of our university's students. The labor market needs the university, and, more importantly, it needs the students. Much has already been done to reduce the gap between students and the labor market – but more can be done.

In the University Board, we will work to:

- Create more career courses where students can learn about the practical applications of their educations.
- Develop continuing education offerings in various fields.
- Ensure that the possibility of internships is feasible for all programs at UiB.

## Artificial intelligence on the agenda

Artificial intelligence (AI) has made a great splash in society, and academia is no exception. Students and staff alike continue to face challenges in understanding the proper use of AI, and how to fit into academic environments increasingly impacted by programs such as ChatGPT.

Although artificial intelligence poses challenges, it also provides opportunities. UiB is a university that seeks to challenge and think innovatively – and it ought to do the same with artificial intelligence. In this, there exists a significant potential to explore how we can use this technology within safe boundaries.

In the University Board, we will work to:

- Continue UiB's thorough focus on artificial intelligence.
- Collaborate with students to promote a common understanding on how we can use artificial intelligence, including responsible use and the consequences of misuse.
- Facilitate the inclusion of artificial intelligence on the curriculum across disciplines, and encourage debate on its applications in various fields.

## Closing words

We hope this election manifesto was interesting to read, and that it made your decision in this year's student election a bit simpler. We are running for University Board because these issues matter not only to us, but to many of the students at UiB.

As student representatives, we aim to be available to anyone who wants to raise matters for us. Board students carry a significant responsibility and should be visible to students seeking change at the university. With us you will meet an open door, transparency about our actions and positions, and continuous dialogue with other student representatives to ensure a better student life for all of us.

We hope you will vote in this year's election – and ideally for us.

Happy voting!



Thomas Helland-Hansen



Sara Helene Lund-Tønnesen

