

Stip-HF Annual Report 2025

Spring

General meeting and New Board

Stip-HF started the year with a general meeting on January 21st. Initially, Alejandro Ayala Wold (IF) – from the past board – acted as the temporary chair, but in the end had to step down. At the end of February, the board was constituted as Lina Harder (LLE) (co-chair), Lorena Figueiredo (LLE) (co-chair), and Annalisa Arcidiacono (LLE) (secretary).

Throughout the semester, we held a total of 12 meetings, including:

- 5 board meetings, where we planned and organized various activities;
- 2 meetings with both teams running for rector and pro-rector of UiB (Team Hagen and Team Øvreås) to discuss relevant topics for (international) PhD candidates;
- 1 meeting with Elisabeth Katrin Akselvoll (Adviser, PhD Coordinator at the Faculty of Humanities) and Ole Thomassen Hjortland (Vice-Dean for Research and Communication) to discuss the role of Stip-HF, matters related to the PhD program, program evaluation, duty work, and issues for the faculty board;
- 1 meeting with Melanie Susan Fieldseth (PhD candidate, LLE's Group B representative to the Research and Research Education Committee of the Faculty of the Humanities (FFU)) to discuss relevant topics for PhD candidates at HF;
- 2 meetings with both teams running for dean and vice-dean of HF (Team Brautaset and Team Maurseth) to discuss relevant topics for (international) PhD candidates;
- 1 meeting with Marianne van Baar (Coordinator of the Norwegian Language Course) to discuss the Norwegian Language Course for PhD candidates and language use at LLE/HF.

Budget and Plans

Stip-HF has a 15,000 NOK budget per semester (that can accumulate within the year). Following the previous board's recommendation and advice we received from the meeting with the Vice-Dean for Research and Communication, we applied (in spring) for extra funding (for fall), so we could organize bigger events in the fall semester: a full-day Topic Day and a 3-day writing retreat. Regarding the spring semester, all the activities we organized stayed within budget.

Events and social activities

During the spring semester, we organized the following activities and social events:

Topic Day and Writing Retreat

On May 8th, STIP-HF organized an on-campus Topic Day on Research Mobility + Writing Afternoon, located at Christies gate 18, gml. Kantine at the SV faculty. During the morning, the Topic Day focused on Research Mobility. We started with a talk by Annette K. Servan (Senior Advisor for International Collaboration, Division for Research and Innovation), followed by a panel discussion with 3 PhD candidates who were at different stages of applying for grants and stays abroad. During the afternoon, we had 3 shut up and write sessions, aimed at providing PhD candidates with a distraction-free environment to focus intensively on their writing. The atmosphere between sessions was social and pleasant. STIP-HF provided lunch, coffee, tea, and fruit throughout the day. Twenty people registered for the topic day, while fourteen participated. The program is available on p. 5 (Appendix).

Shut Up and Write

We continued STIP-HF's previous partnership with the University Library to organize shut up and write sessions every Tuesday after lunch, from 13:00 to 16:00. We had writing sessions between March 11th and June 24th. We coordinated the responsibility for organizing the sessions, with STIP-HF and the library alternating each week. On average, five to ten participants attended. From STIP-HF's perspective, the collaboration was only partially successful. As the semester progressed, it became increasingly difficult to hold the writing sessions, as students began using the room the library had reserved for our sessions, and sometimes we didn't have enough participants to justify the use of the room. Once, we even moved our session to a room at the Center for Digital Narrative (CDN), where one of our members is based. For the fall semester, we considered finishing the shut up and write sessions before the exam season or finding an alternative room in the library, that is not as big and accessible by students as the one we used.

Payday Drinks

Payday drinks are informal gatherings, where the only aim is to come together, relax, and have a fun time – regardless of whether one chooses to drink alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages. STIP-HF arranged payday drinks from 16:30 on the following dates and locations:

- March 14th at Kolonialen
- April 11th at Café Opera
- May 8th at Kvarteret

Between five and ten people showed up each time. Sometimes, occasions spontaneously turned into dinner after the drinks.

The Doctor's Orders: Pizza & Quiz with Stip-HF

The semester concluded with a pizza & quiz party. STIP-HF ordered pizzas and appetizers from Sammen, and provided soft drinks and snacks for the attendees. The event was hosted at the Center for Digital Narrative, which provided a good and enjoyable environment. Thirteen people registered, and fifteen attended.

Fall

The term started with new members joining the board: Margaux Susman (LLE), Ella Holi (LLE), and Sunniva Tobiasen (SKOK). Annalisa remained as secretary. Lorena became chair. Lina became a regular member of the board.

Throughout the semester, we held a total of 7 meetings, including:

- 6 board meetings, where we planned and organized various activities;
- 1 meeting with Elisabeth Katrin Akselvoll (Adviser, PhD Coordinator at the Faculty of Humanities) and Eivind Heldaas Seland (Vice-Dean for Research and Communication) to coordinate HF-dagen and the PhD candidates' poster session.

Budget and Plans

During the spring semester, we stayed under budget and spent 9,669.6 NOK. The remaining money rolled over to the next semester, totaling 20,330.4 NOK. In addition to that, we received the extra funding we applied for (an additional 21,000 NOK), which was granted because we presented a detailed plan of the activities for the fall semester – a full-day Topic Day and a 3-day writing retreat – to the Vice-Dean for Research and Communication and HF's PhD coordinator. At the end of the year, we still had some budget left, so we created a new logo for STIP-HF.

Events and social activities

During the fall semester, we organized the following events and social activities:

Topic Day: "Preparing for Academic Conferences"

On October 9th, STIP-HF held the fall semester Topic Day on preparing for academic conferences. This topic day was conceived in connection with the idea of having a poster session by HF's PhD candidates this fall, scheduled to take place on November 28th. The event was divided into 3 parts: i) Writing Compelling Conference Abstracts; ii) Designing & Presenting Research Visually; and iii) Mastering the Poster Pitch. For the first part, we had talks given by Vadim Kimmelman (LLE), Zahra Rizvi (LLE), and Rose Trappes (SVT), focusing on different types of abstracts in their areas of expertise, followed by a hands-on session where participants could start drafting a new abstract or work on reviewing a previous one. For the second part,

Andreas Hadsel Opsvik (LLE) talked about the academic poster, while Calle Börstell (LLE) talked about data visualization; this session was also followed by a hands-on session on poster making. Finally, the third part focused on pitching your research, and we wrapped up the day with a talk by Laura Saetveit Miles (LLE). Twenty-two people registered and nineteen people attended. STIP-HF provided participants with lunch, coffee/tea, fruit, and snacks. The program is available on p. 6 (Appendix).

Shut Up and Write

We continued the partnership with the University Library to organize shut up and write sessions every Tuesday after lunch, from 13:00 to 16:00. The Stip HF team proposed a shorter fall schedule and requested a smaller, quieter room to improve the sessions and number of attendants. The library agreed to keep the previous division of tasks and wanted to explore options for securing an alternative space, which unfortunately wasn't successful within the semester. We had writing sessions between September 23rd and November 25th, and we observed that the fall semester was more successful in terms of attendance (compared to the spring semester). We coordinated the responsibility for organizing the sessions, with STIP-HF and the library alternating each week. Typically, seven to ten participants attended. For next semester, the new board should consider if they want to continue the partnership with the library.

Payday drinks

STIP-HF arranged payday drinks on the following dates:

- September 12th (Café Opera),
- October 14th (Café Opera)

Attendance at the payday drink this autumn ranged from 5 to 10 participants.

Poster session – “New Horizons in the Humanities” – HF dagen

The Faculty and STIP-HF invited all PhD candidates to present scientific posters, either showcasing their overall project or focusing on a specific case study. The posters were displayed at the conference venue in Nygårdsgaten 5 during a dedicated session on “PhD education at HF: Status and challenges”. The faculty covered all the printing costs and the posters that met the criteria and were presented in person at HF-dagen were eligible for 1 ECTS credit toward the PhD program. The organization of the poster session was a joint collaboration between Elisabeth Katrin Akselvoll (Adviser, PhD Coordinator at the Faculty of Humanities) and Eivind Heldaas Seland (Vice-Dean for Research and Communication) and the STIP-HF board, which also had a 10-minute talk in the main session to explain what STIP-HF does and introduce the poster session. Ten people submitted their posters, but in the end only 7 people presented.

Writing retreat and cabin trip

From December 1st to 3rd, STIP-HF organized a combined writing retreat and cabin trip at Austefjordstunet 12, 5379 Steinsland. The retreat was structured into shut up and write sessions, aimed at providing PhD candidates with a dedicated period during which they set aside all regular work responsibilities and focus solely on writing. In total, twelve candidates registered and ten candidates attended. STIP-HF provided breakfast,

lunch, dinner, coffee/tea, etc., and covered the Airbnb rent. Participants brought snacks to share in a potluck system. We wanted to have the retreat in a place where people could still commute daily from/to Bergen, and we organized transportation from/to the closest bus stop. Participants could choose whether they preferred to attend during the day only or spend one or both nights there. To assess the number of sleeping places we needed, we created a form expressing interest in the writing retreat at the beginning of the semester and sent it out to all PhD candidates.

STIP-HF TOPIC DAY

MOBILITY & WRITE

➔ 8 MAY 2025

➔ 09:45 AM - 04:00 PM

9:45 AM Welcome

10:00 AM International Mobility in Research + Q&A
Input from Annette K. Servan,
Senior Adviser for International Collaboration

11:00 AM From Here to There:
PhD Perspectives on Research Abroad
Panel featuring an Archaeologist, a Linguist, and a
Gender Studies Scholar

12:15 PM Lunch Break

01:15 PM Write Here, Write Now!

03:45 PM What's Next?
Final Notes & Upcoming Events

 STIP-HF@UIB.NO

 STIPHF.W.UIB.NO

STIP-HF TOPIC DAY

OCTOBER 9 2025

PREPARING FOR ACADEMIC CONFERENCES!

English-language event for HF-PhDs

Thursday, Oct 9, 09:30–16:15, Christiesgate 18.

Lunch & coffee included.

Sign up via the form on our website

by September 29.



Writing Compelling Conference Abstracts

09:30–10:00 Coffee & Introduction
10:00–10:30 Vadim Kimmelman (LLE)
10:30–11:00 Zahra Rizvi (LLE)
11:00–11:10 Break
11:10–11:40 Rose Trappes (SVT)
11:40–12:30 Hands-on session (abstract writing)
12:30–13:30 Lunch



Designing & Presenting Research Visually

13:30–14:00 Andreas Hadsel Opsvik (LLE)
14:00–14:30 Carl Börstell (LLE)
14:30–14:45 Break
14:45–15:30 Hands-on session



Mastering the Poster Pitch

15:30–16:15 Laura Saetveit Miles (IF)

For more details and updates about the Topic Day and other events please visit our website <https://stiphf.w.uib.no/>