

## ENGLISH

# Everything you need to know about the Abel Prize Week 2025

The Abel Prize Week is not really a week, but four days and goes from Monday May 19 until Thursday May 22 in 2025.

Media registrations will open on April 23 and close on May 15. Please register here:

<https://dnva.pameldingssystem.no/media-registration-for-the-abel-week>

After the so-called week, mathematical enthusiasts continue with an Abel Day to spread mathematics to other parts of Norway. In 2025, this day is set to be in Trondheim at NTNU – The Norwegian University of Science and Technology. By coincident, this also happens to the affiliated institution of Prof. Helge Holden, Chair of the Abel Committee. (See more later)

### **Official start of the Abel Prize Week**

The Abel Prize Week will start its official program on Monday May 19. The date for the Abel Week is set by The Royal House of Norway and always start on the Monday after the Norwegian National Constitution Day on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.royalcourt.no/>

### **Plan ahead: National Constitution Day, May 17th**

Just before the Abel Prize Week, Norway celebrates May 17. This is not a good day to arrive in the country, as the celebration of May 17 is a huge holiday in Norway. Plan to arrive before this day or after.

### **National Constitution Day, May 17th**

May 17th is celebrated everywhere in Norway with a long parade with kids, waving flags and wearing national traditional dresses, the “bunad”. In Oslo the parade of children walks past the balcony of The Royal Castle (Slottet), before the kids and their families normally gathers at their local schools to continue the celebration, eating sausages, ice cream and having a good time. If you have the possibility to see this live, please do, as it tells a lot about the Norwegians and their culture.

### **The Abel Prize: Traditionally awarded by His Majesty King Harald or a representative from The Royal House of Norway**

The Abel Prize is traditionally awarded to the Abel Prize laureate by His Majesty King Harald or His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon.

H.M. King Harald is also the Honorary President of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letter, the very institution that awards the Abel Prize on behalf of the Norwegian Government. Crown Prince Haakon is a Honorary Member of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

### **Short version on organization of the Abel Prize**

The Abel Prize is financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. The Ministry of Education and Research is led by two female ministers:

- Kari Nessa Nordtun (Labour Party) is Minister of Education.
- Sigrun Aasland (Labour Party) is Minister of Research and Higher Education.

The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for primary and secondary school, upper secondary and tertiary vocational education and higher education sectors, kindergartens, cultural schools, vocational education, research and training and adult learning.

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kd/id586/>

### **The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Abel Committee**

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (hereafter called The Academy) contributes with managing the Abel Prize on the administrative and scientific level. The Academy appoints five members of outstanding mathematicians to the Abel Committee. The Chair of the Abel Committee is always a member of The Academy.

The Abel Committee consists of five handpicked and excellent mathematicians from all over the world. The Abel Committee meet several times a year to go over nominations. The Abel Committee selects the Abel Prize laureate for the year. Then the Abel Committee present their suggested laureate to the board of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. The Academy formally decide the Abel Prize laureate of the year. The Announcement is made in mid March. The Abel Prize is presented and awarded in May every year.

Read more about the work in the Abel Committee for 2025, told exclusively by Chair of the Abel Committee, Professor Helge Holden

<https://abelprize.no/article/2025/years-abel-prize-winner-be-announced-march-26>

Watch Professor Helge Holden talk about the work in the Abel Committee in this video

<https://youtu.be/FMAfxT1RJfI?si=dISs5f0TfqJitAPe>

### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 am / 11.00: Honouring a teacher / “Norwegian mathematic teacher of the year” – The Holmboe Prize**

The week in 2025 starts with honouring an exceptional Norwegian mathematics teacher by giving the selected teacher the Holmboe Prize. The Holmboe Prize is given its name after the teacher of Niels Henrik Abel (1802-1829), Bernt Michael Holmboe (1795-1850). Holmboe

was Abel's teacher at Oslo Cathedral School, the same school where the Holmboe Prize is awarded on Monday 19 during the Abel Week 2025.

The Bernt Michael Holmboe Memorial Prize, popularly known as the Holmboe Prize, is a national teacher award that annually honours a mathematics teacher or a mathematics environment in Norwegian primary or secondary schools. The prize is awarded by the Norwegian Mathematics Council (Norsk matematikkråd) and not by The Academy, but the award ceremony is always held during the Abel Prize Week because The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, the Norwegian Mathematics Council and the Ministry of Education cooperate very well.

Minister of Education, Kari Nessa Nordtun will award the Holmboe Prize at Oslo Cathedral School (secondary school) on the very first day at during the Abel Prize Week. The pupils at the Oslo Cathedral School will present what they have been working on.

Several other young mathematical talents will also attend the Holmboe prize award at Oslo Cathedral School as part of the "Abel Prize Emerging Talents 2025" during the Abel Prize Week.

**The Emerging Talents** is a program for young talented mathematicians between the age of 15 and 19 from all over the world. A team of five youngsters with an adult leader can be invited to participate, but the cost of travel and lodging must be covered by the team itself. Various financial models are chosen by the teams coming from Germany, Hungary, France, Netherlands and Norway this year.

The young mathematical talents are invited to participate in the celebration of mathematics during Abel Prize Week. The annual Abel Prize laureate is the star everyone wants to meet, but the young people also get the opportunity to learn from several of the world's leading mathematicians, both the international lecturers and the members of the Abel Committee.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup>: Official opening of the Abel Prize Week:  
Wreath-laying ceremony at Abel monument at 17.00 / 5 pm**

The Abel Prize laureate will lay a flower wreath in this simple outdoor ceremony at the Abel monument at Abelhaugen (translates to Abel mount) in the Palace Park.

This ceremony officially marks the start of the Abel Prize Week. It is outdoors in the Place Park (which is open to public at all times, even nights).

If you can't find the spot: Do not panic: The Abel monument can be easily found on the left side of the Castle (standing on Karl Johans Street looking towards the Castle) and is located behind the trees in the cross section between the Karl Johan's street and Henrik Ibsen's street.

The Palace ground is open to the public and is not closed with barriers at all. In fact, a lot of Oslo citizens walk through the Palace Park when walking to or from work or other events.

There will be a lot of activity from the Henric Ibsen street side (some cars, and persons setting up the event), so the best tip is to approach the Abel Monument from Henrik Ibsen's street.

The event is seat free for the press and the audiences, meaning everyone will just gather round (standing) on the grass near the Abel Monument. Please be polite to and give room for everyone. Only the participants who is preforming speeches or wreath laying will have chairs.

The Abel Monument is a four-meter-tall stone monument created by Norway's most famous sculptor Gustav Vigeland in 1908.

The short ceremony starts with The Abel fanfare, often played by selected trumpeters from Forsvarets Musikk-korps (The military band of the Norwegian Armed Forces).

The program contains speeches given by the President of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (Annelin Eriksen) and the Chair of the Abel Board (mathematician Ingrid K. Glad). The Abel Prize laureate will lay down a wreath by the Abel Monuments foot.

After the wreath-laying ceremony the special invited guests have a "mathematical dinner". By invitation only. The Academy might host an unformal journalist dinner for media. Everyone that have registered (see Media registration) will be informed.

### **The art: The Abel Monument**

At the beginning of the 20th century, Norway's most famous sculptor, Gustav Vigeland (1869-1943) created several portraits and monuments, including the Abel Monument in the Palace Park, which is considered Vigeland's definitive breakthrough. With this monument he started to create within the art movement called symbolism as he depicted "the mathematical genius". In 1908 the artist had no photo or drawings of Niels Henrik Abel. He therefore chose to develop the sculpture as an idea, more than a realistic portrait.

Vigeland is most famous for the Vigeland Park, an outdoor park with timeless sculptures depicting humans as they go about their everyday life. Vigeland's most famous sculpture is The Angry Boy (Sinnataggen), which can be found outdoors in the Vigeland Park. Original sketches in plaster of the Abel monument and other sculptures can be found in the beautiful Vigeland Museum, known for its soft and special light, near by the Vigeland Park.

Yes, the sculptures are naked, but not in a rude way. The reason for the naked sculptures in a whole park is that Gustav Vigeland wanted his art to be timeless and without references to class or time. <https://vigeland.museum.no/en/>

Gustav Vigeland is also known for being the maker Medal for The Nobel Peace Prize, which is a different prize entirely and has nothing to do with the Abel Prize.

### **Tuesday May 20: The Emerging Talents luncheon at The Academy (time to be decided)**

Talented, young mathematicians between the ages of 15 and 19 will meet and greet the Abel Prize laureate during an unformal lunch with the established mathematicians – the mentors. The mentors, among them mathematicians from The Abel Committee and the Abel Prize laureate, will give the new generations advice they wish they had when they were 15 years old.

The visiting youngsters will all have merits, some of them have won various mathematics competitions in their home country and for some of them the participation in the exclusive program during Abel Prize Week is part of the awarding them for their hard work. Some come from the *Mathematical Olympics*. The team from Germany is the winner team from the competition *Tag der Mathematik*. In 2024 a French team participated for the first time, as Prof. Michel Talagrand from CRNS was the Abel Prize laureate 2024.

After the lunch and event, all participants will be transported to the Abel Prize Award Ceremony at the University Aula.

### **Tuesday May 20, at 14.00 / 2 pm: The Abel Prize Award Ceremony at 14.00**

The beautiful and formal Abel Prize award ceremony at the University of Oslo Ceremonial Hall (University Aula) with His Majesty King Harald V is the highlight of the Abel Prize Week.

As H.M. King Harald or another representative from The Royal House of Norway will attend, expect to show a passport or an ID card before entering. There will be highted security. A security brief on what to expect will be given later.

The ceremony will be produced as a tv program and published on the Abel Prize YouTube after the Abel Prize Week. A link will be provided to interested parties so that it can be recorded and edited. It is filmed before a live audience.

### **Official photos by link**

An official photographer will take photos and share them with a link in due time. The official photo of the Abel Prize laureate and representative from The Royal House of Norway should come from this source only and can be used free of charge. A press officer from The Academy will provide the link.

### **Seats for media, press and cameras**

Press and photographers will be placed on the balcony galleries at the University Aula. A press officer from The Academy will make the seating for everyone.

For tv teams, standing cameras will be placed in the University Aula itself, so that potential tv

interviews can be conducted straight after the ceremony. Note that just after the ceremony, the laureate, the audience and everyone will go straight to another venue for an interview. This means that only short interviews, set for 1 to 3 minutes is possible.

Academic interviews or other interviews with the Chair of the Abel Committee (Helge Holden) or the Abel Prize laureate will be scheduled for a different time by the press officers. Each individual journalist can request time slots for interview from the Communication Team. Please respect the time schedule.

### **The Art at The Univeristy Aula: Edvard Munch's The Sun**

The University Aula is the location for the artist Edvard Munch's monumental paintings. Edvard Munch (1863-1944) is Norway's most famous painter, living at the same time as Vigeland. His unique Aula decorations tell stories of the university and the sciences – and of the sun as a symbol of life and creative forces. The Sun is one of the central paintings in the Aula, stretching for the whole end wall, a perfect backdrop for the Abel Ceremony.

The Munch museum has the same paintings in smaller versions, but in the University Aula you can experience the big-format originals in the very spot where Munch organised and painted them over a hundred years ago.

Read more: <https://www.munchmuseet.no/en/>

### **Tuesday May 20, at 18.00 / 6 pm:**

#### **The official governmental Abel Prize banquet at medieval Akershus Castle at 18.00 / 6 pm**

The old castle at the harbour of Oslo, dating from medieval times and developed further during the Renaissance, will be the location the official Abel Prize banquet. Akershus Castle seats for up to 175 guests. It is the Ministry of Education who selects the invitees, and the invitations are exclusive and hard to get.

The surrounding areas also serves as a military compound, but parts of the grounds are open to public and even contains a defence and war museum and an outdoor cultural scene. The governmental banquet is to honour the Abel Prize laureate. The host is the Minister of Research and Higher Education, Sigrun Aasland. The Academy is not in charge of the invitations or the seating.

To arrive at the banquet, the best way is to join prescheduled taxies or order a taxi and join the line of taxies before the banquet starts. Going as a group is a good solution. Taxies are also the very best way home from banquet and out of the military compound area at night when the banquet traditionally ends around 23.00 / 11 pm.

Arrival should be on time, but not too long before because of the red carpet event.

**The red carpet event** has its selected photographer. He or she takes the photos of the important guests arriving. The media will get the photos from the Academy by link in due time. The media has traditionally limited access to the banquet.

### **Wednesday May 21, at 10.00-16.00 / 10.00 am – 16.00 pm. The Abel Lectures**

The Abel lectures at Blindern Campus at Georg Sverdrup's house (University Library) at the University of Oslo is the academic highlight of the Abel Prize Week.

It is open to all, please but remember to register. Free seating in Auditorium 1 (seats 460). The Abel Prize lectures is a tradition during the Abel week. Specially invited mathematicians give academically relevant lectures during the day. The lectures will later be published on YouTube. Open to all.

### **19.00 / 7 pm: The Abel Party at The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Drammensveien 78. By invitation only.**

Everyone making the Abel Prize Week fun and festive will be invited to the legendary Abel Party at the Academy's unique villa in Drammensveien 78, Oslo. This is a less formal setting with food, entertainment and mingling.

The invitations are just as popular as the invitations for the banquet, and it provides an opportunity to talk to everyone involved in an easy way. The Abel Party ends around 22.00-23.00 / 10-11 pm.

## **Official program of The Abel Prize Week 2025**

### **Monday May 19**

11.00 / 11 pm: **The Holmboe prize** is awarded at Oslo Cathedral School (Oslo Katedralskole), Ullevålsveien 31, Oslo. Open to all.

17.00 / 5 pm: **Official opening of the Abel Prize Week: Wreath-laying** at the Abel monument, Abelhaugen at the Palace Park (Slottsparken). Oslo. Open to all.

### **Tuesday May 20**

**11.00 / 11 am: (to be decided) The Emerging Talents luncheon at The Academy,**  
Drammensveien 78  
By invitation only.

14.00 / 2 pm: **Abel Prize Award ceremony**, The University of Oslo Ceremonial Hall (University Aula), Universitetsplassen, Karl Johans gate 47, Oslo. Open to all (with ID card or passport). Registration. Due to security reasons, please note that everybody has to be seated by 13.30.

Press will be directed to their seats on the balcony galleries

19.00 / 7 pm: **The government's official Abel Prize banquet**, Akershus Castle. By invitation only. Arrival and departure by taxi. Read more about the dress code in invitation.

### **Wednesday May 21**

10.00-16.00 / 10 am to 4 pm: **The Abel lectures**, Georg Sverdrup's house, Campus Blindern; University of Oslo. Address: Moltke Moes vei 39. Open to all. Registration.

19.00 / 7 pm: **The Abel Party** at The Norwegian Academy of Sciences, Drammensveien 78. By invitation only.

### **Thursday May 22: The Abel Day in Trondheim**

The Abel Day in Trondheim, NTNU continues after the celebration in Oslo is well and over.

The Abel Day is organized by the Norwegian Mathematical Council, a dear friend of the Abel Prize. The program is made by this NGO and is still to be determined.

The day serves as an opportunity to spread mathematics to all parts of the country. NTNU is also the affiliate of Prof. Helge Holden (Chair of the Abel Committee).

- NTNU has 43.550 students, around 8960 employees and near 400 study programs. They have an annual budget of 11 billion NOK.
- NTNU is an international oriented university with headquarters in Trondheim 500 kilometers north of Oslo. Plane is the best option for traveling, as the program usually starts with travels to Trondheim on the morning, and the continue with a program after lunch.
- NTNU are known for the Nobel Prize Winners Maj-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser at the (Fred) Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience (KISN). The Mosers are friends of The Academy as they are both members of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
- Maj Britt Moser and Edvard Mosser was awarded The Nobel Prize in Physiologi or Medicine in 2014 together with John O'Keefe.
- As the Academy also awards the Kavli Prizes in astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience, NTNU and The Academy are often cooperating.
- Fun fact: Maj Britt Moser became even more famous when her Nobel Prize dress used grid cell glitter, designed by Matthew Hubbel, a tunnel engineer.

<https://www.ntnu.edu/kavli/nobel-prize>

<https://norwegianscitechnews.com/2014/12/gala-dress-with-grid-cell-glitter/>

NTNU has a profile in science and technology, and the university's root goes back to 1760. A merger in 2016 made NTNU Norway's largest single university.

### **How to get to Trondheim**

Trondheim is approx. 500 kilometres north of Oslo, best reached by plane. The city claims to be Viking capital of Norway. It is the location for the world's most northern pilgrimage spot



for Catholics: Nidarosdomen, a gothic cathedral in the middle of the city. The Martyr Viking King Olav the Saint christened and gathered Norway by dying a Martyr in 1030.

The city of Trondheim is small with its 215.000 citizens, but well known for its technological expertise and a vibrant international student scene.

<https://visittrondheim.no/en/>

**The emerging talents will in 2025 come from:**

- Germany
- Hungary
- France
- Netherlands
- Norway