arQus
European University Alliance

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Maynooth, Ireland ▶ 8-10 July

Arrival Guide

Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

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Fáilte go hÉirinn !

Welcome to Ireland !

We are delighted to host our Arqus colleagues in the university town of Maynooth for the 2026 Arqus Annual Conference. Ireland is a country rich in history and tradition, from its music and storytelling to the many historic buildings that shape its landscape. Maynooth itself is deeply rooted in this heritage, with a proud past and a vibrant present.

Cliffs of Moher

Dublin City Centre

Ireland is known for its friendliness and recently Ireland ranked as the 2nd most peaceful country in the world (2025 Global Peace Index). It also boasts a lively, young, vibrant culture (discoverireland.ie) with its traditional music and atmospheric pubs across the country.

Ár dteanga Gaeilge (our Irish language) remains an integral part of our national identity. Spoken daily in various regions, it is now experiencing a cultural renaissance as more people embrace and practise the language once again.

As you arrive in Ireland, we encourage you to take time to explore our heritage and engage with the stories that have shaped this island. We hope you enjoy your stay on the Emerald Isle and that your time here will be both inspiring and memorable.

Meet Maynooth Town

Maynooth is a lively university town in north County Kildare, about 15 miles west of Dublin, known for its blend of historic charm and youthful energy. Once the seat of the powerful FitzGerald family, its heritage is visible in the ruins of Maynooth Castle and the grand Carton House estate.

The town's bustling Main Street is lined with cafés, restaurants, independent shops, and traditional pubs, giving visitors both warmth and atmosphere. Scenic walking routes connect the town to the Royal Canal Greenway, a beautiful, easy-going trail ideal for walking or cycling. With its mix of heritage, nature, and a vibrant food and social scene, Maynooth offers delegates an inviting and walkable base for their visit.

Who We Are

Maynooth University, officially known as the **National University of Ireland, Maynooth**, is a dynamic and fast-growing institution situated in **County Kildare**, just west of Dublin. Originally founded in 1795 as a theological college St. Patrick's College Maynooth, it became an autonomous university in **1997** and now serves over 17,000 students who come from across the country and a growing international population, and we have over **75,000 alumni** worldwide.

The university is renowned for its **research excellence**, particularly in the fields of computer science, climate change, immunology, sociology, and digital humanities. It is **home to several leading research institutes**, such as the Maynooth University Hamilton Institute, the National Centre for Geo computation, and the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI). These centres foster innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration, contributing both to global scholarship and national policy. Maynooth also has an **International Engineering College**, which is a joint international partnership with Fuzhou University (FZU), located on Fuzhou University Campus in the Fujian province **in China**.

Academically, Maynooth offers a flexible and **student-centred degree structure**, allowing undergraduates to combine subjects across arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences, while also providing a rich portfolio of professional programmes in business, law, engineering, and education. **Postgraduate opportunities** are extensive, with taught master's programmes and PhD research degrees attracting both Irish and international students.

The historic **South Campus**, with its striking **Georgian** and **neo-Gothic architecture** and peaceful gardens, contrasts with the North Campus symbolises the university's modern identity, which houses state-of-the-art facilities, student accommodation, and sports amenities. With almost **100s of clubs and societies**, an exciting **Students' Union** who host events and advocates for students, the campus offers a lively social scene alongside its academic experience.

The heart of Maynooth

Leaders in Innovation

Frequently ranked among the world's top young universities, Maynooth is recognised for its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and community engagement both nationally and internationally.

It plays a vital role both in Ireland's higher education landscape and in the wider international academic community, embodying a distinctive blend of historic tradition and forward-looking innovation.

The University Subject Rankings

School of Law and Criminology

#1 in Ireland and **#55** globally in the Social Science Research Network 2025

Psychology

176-200 globally **2nd** globally in the Social Science Research Network 2025

Law

#251-300 globally in Times Higher Education (THE) 2025 World Rangkings

Geography

#251-300 globally in Times Higher Education (THE) 2025 World Rangkings

Social Sciences

#201-250 The 2025 World Rangking

How to get to Maynooth?

Dublin Airport (DUB) - Maynooth

Aircoach

- Route: Aircoach 700/700X from Dublin Airport (Terminal 1 Zone 2 / Terminal 2 Zone 20) to Drumcondra Train Station.
- Frequency: Every 20 minutes throughout the day.
- Transfer: From Drumcondra, take a frequent Maynooth-bound train; it's a 10–15 minute walk from Maynooth Station to campus.
- Fare Tip: Booking online in advance is usually cheaper (around €6–€8 one way).

This option is slightly more comfortable and direct, with more space for luggage, but typically costs more than standard public buses.

Dublin Bus

- Routes: Dublin Bus 16 or 41 from Zone 15 (outside Terminals 1 & 2) to Drumcondra Train Station.
- Frequency: every 15–20 minutes during the day.
- Transfer: From Drumcondra, take a frequent Maynooth-bound train; 10–15 minute walk from Maynooth Station to campus.
- Fare Tip: Standard Dublin Bus fares are lower (around €2–€3 exact fare in coinage required, paper currency not applicable).

This option is cheaper, though buses make more stops and have limited luggage space.

How to get to Maynooth?

Dublin Airport (DUB) - Maynooth

Expressway (Direct Bus Option)

- Route: Expressway Route 22 from Dublin Airport to Ballina.
- Terminal: Stop 9, Zone 13, a short walk from Terminals 1 and 2.
- Frequency: Buses depart 4 times per day here.
- Tickets: Available at the stop or pre-book online.
- Fare Tip: Pre-booking is recommended due to limited departures.

This option is direct but much less frequent than Aircoach or Dublin Bus.

Taxi

A taxi from Dublin Airport to Maynooth typically costs €50–70 and takes 40 mins, depending on traffic.

When you arrive, follow the "Taxis / Ground Transport" signage in the terminal to reach the official taxi ranks. Taxi ranks are located directly outside the arrivals area of both Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 and are clearly signposted throughout the airport buildings.

You can also pre-order a taxi using apps such as Free Now, Lynx, Uber, or Bolt and many of these services will direct you to a designated pickup point if it differs from the official rank location.

Local taxi companies:

- **Express Cabs / Maynooth Cabs: (01)628 9866**
- **Manor Cabs: (01)629 3596**
- **Transfer Crew (airport-specific): 083119 6574**
- **Major Minor Cabs & Taxis: (01) 601 6160**
- **Flood Aidan Taxi: 087 259 1600**
- **Maynooth Cabs Ltd: (01) 628 9999**

These are local services based in Maynooth that can be useful for getting around during the conference, and many also provide airport transfers.

Our Recommendations

Maynooth Campus

We warmly encourage all participants to stay on campus at Maynooth University. Your Institutional Coordinators have received dedicated booking forms to reserve your delegation in our on-campus accommodation.

Glenroyal Hotel

The Glenroyal Hotel is a 4-star hotel with leisure facilities. It is located within Maynooth town, a short five-minute walk to the university.

Link

Dunboyne Castle Hotel & Spa

The Dunboyne Castle Hotel & Spa is a 4-star estate hotel with leisure facilities. It is located a 20-minute taxi from the university in Dunboyne but does not have public transport options.

Link

Springfield Hotel

The Springfield Hotel is a 4-star hotel located in Leixlip. It is accessible via a 20-minute taxi or serviced by a number of public buses to the university.

Link

Clayton Hotel

The Clayton Hotel is a 4-star hotel located in Liffey Valley. It is accessible via a 25-minute taxi or serviced by a number of public buses to the university.

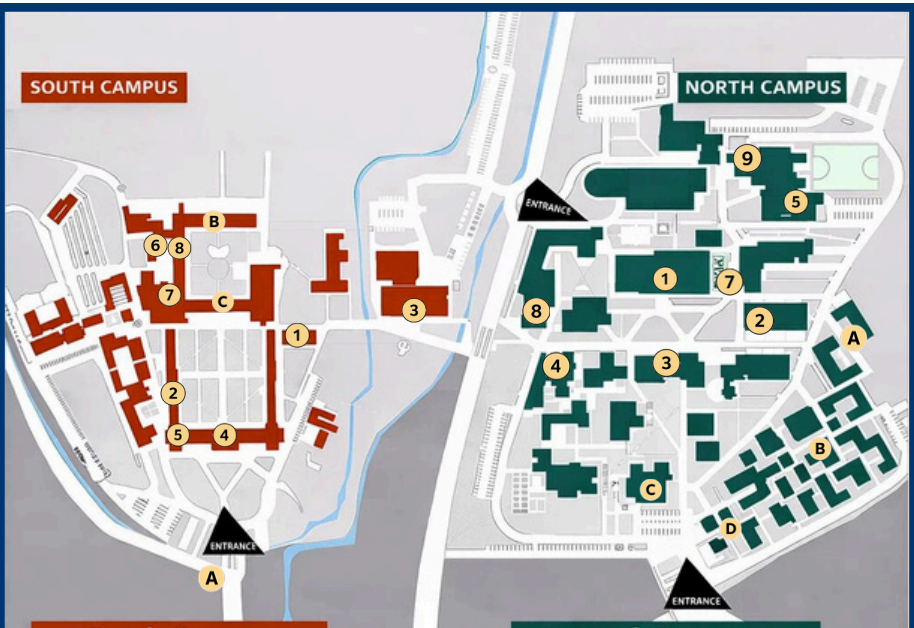
Link

Court Yard Hotel

The Court Yard Hotel is a 4-star hotel located in Leixlip. It is accessible via a 20-minute taxi or a public bus, C3 Dublin Bus, to the university.

Link

Maynooth University Conference Areas



South Campus

1. Aula Maxima
2. Humanity House / Maynooth University Arqus Team
3. John Paul II Library
4. Long Corridor
5. Maynooth Campus Conference & Accommodation
6. Museum
7. Pugin & Renehan Halls
8. Russell Library

South Campus Accommodation

- A Buckley House (Student: Accommodation Off-Campus)
- B St. Mary's House
- C St. Patrick's House

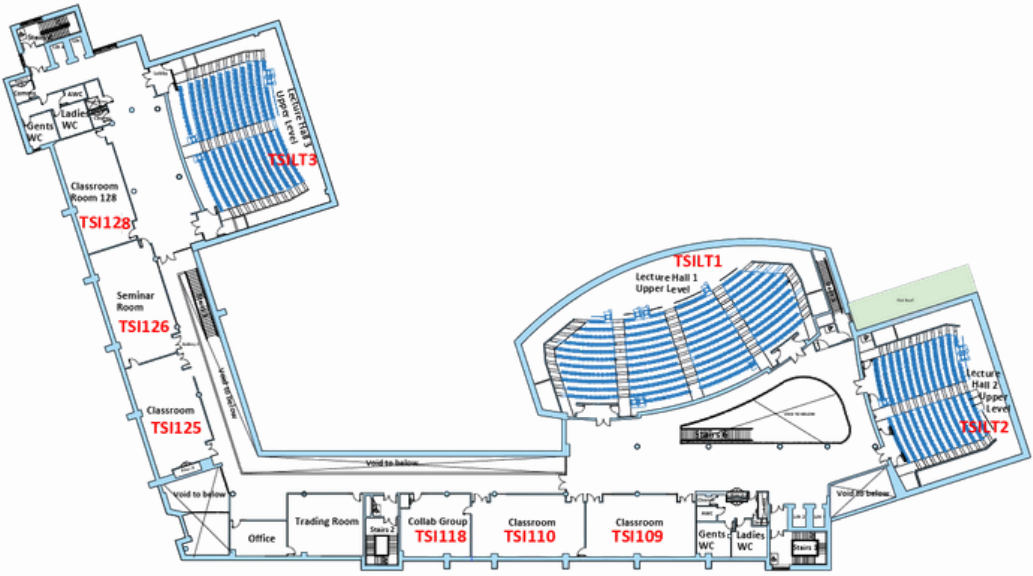
North Campus

1. Arts Building
2. Eolas
3. John Hume Building
4. School of Education
5. Sports Complex & Astroturf Pitches
6. Student Union Centre / MSU
7. The Pods
8. T.S.I Building
9. Phoenix Restaurant

North Campus Accommodation

- A Courtyard Apartments
- B River Apartments
- C Rye Hall & Apartments
- D Village Apartments

Maynooth University
TSI Floorplan



FIRST FLOOR

TSI BUILDING

What to do on Campus?

There are many things to do on campus, with numerous nature paths, and a historic library

South Campus (the historic heart)

- **St Patrick's College Chapel** – A stunning neo-Gothic chapel with one of the largest choir stalls in the world; worth a look inside if open.
- **College Square & Courtyard** – Atmospheric quadrangles surrounded by historic buildings, ideal for soaking up the sense of tradition.
- **The Russell Library** – For those interested in rare books and manuscripts; guided visits are sometimes available.
- **National Science Museum (old)** – Housed in a beautiful Victorian building, showcasing historic scientific instruments.
- **Gardens & Grounds** – Peaceful green spaces to wander, with lovely old trees and a sense of history everywhere.

North Campus (modern and lively)

- **Walks and Green Spaces** – Open lawns, modern sculptures, and pedestrian routes connecting back to the South Campus
- **Phoenix Building** – Includes gym, climbing wall, and pitches; a good spot for those interested in fitness.

What to do in Maynooth and surrounds?

Maynooth Castle

- 12th Century Castle located by the gates of the South Campus is open to the public throughout the summer.

Royal Canal Greenway

- Stretches 130km through 5 counties, perfect for walking or cycling taking in the countryside.

Carton House State

- An 18th-century manor house on 1,100-acre grounds which now acts as an upscale golf and spa resort.

- **Transport options** - Accessible from Maynooth University by bus followed by a 30 minute walk. Travel by taxi is recommended. The grounds provide a lovely retreat for an afternoon stroll. There are daily tours available from 10am.

Dublin Castle & Chester Beatty Library

- Built in the 13th Century on a Viking site and served as the seat of the British administration in Ireland until 1922. Today it's used for State occasions.
- **Transport options** - C3/C4 to Dame Street

Guinness Storehouse

- Opened in 2000 inside a 1904 fermentation plant at St. Jame's Gate Brewery, where Arthur Guinness signed his famous 9,000 – year lease in 1759.
- **Transport options** – Take the C3, C4, or 115 to Heuston Station and walk 15 minutes.

Maynooth Main Street

- Embrace the Irish pub scene by enjoying food and drink in one of the few pubs on the main street. Some nights there may be quizzes, comedy gigs, or live music.

What to do in Maynooth and surrounds?

Custom House

- A beautifully restored 18th-century landmark offering exhibitions on the building's history, architecture, and dramatic role in Irish events. Guided and self-guided tours available.
- **Transport options** - Accessible via train, bus, taxi, or car, with a typical journey time of around 48 minutes.

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

- Opened in 2016 in the restored CHQ building (a 19th century tobacco warehouse) EPIC tells the story of the 10 million Irish people who emigrated worldwide.
- **Transport options** - Train to Connolly Station, walk 8-10 minutes to Custom House Quay.

Kilmainham Gaol

- Built in 1796, this prison played a pivotal role in Irish history, especially during the 1916 Rising. Many leaders of independence movements were imprisoned and executed here. Closed in 1924, it is now a museum.
- **Transport options** – C3/C4/115 to Heuston Station, walk 9 minutes.

Phoenix Park

- Phoenix Park is one of Europe's largest enclosed urban parks, home to wild fallow deer, Dublin Zoo, Áras an Uachtaráin, and miles of walking and cycling trails, offering a peaceful green escape just west of Dublin's centre.
- **Transport options** - From Maynooth University, visitors can take a direct train to Dublin's city centre (Connolly/Tara Street) and transfer to nearby park entrances, or take the 115 bus to Wellington Quay and continue by foot or local transport.

What to do in Maynooth and surrounds?

GPO Museum

- The GPO (General Post Office) was the headquarters of the 1916 Easter Rising, a pivotal event in Irish independence. The neoclassical building, with bullet marks still visible outside, remains an iconic landmark.

- **Transport options** – train to Connolly station, walk 10 minutes

Viking Splash Tour

- Roar your way through Dublin City in a unique Land and Water experience provided by one of Ireland's most unique sightseeing experiences.

- **Transport options** – 115 bus stop from North Campus and a 17-minute walk to St Stephens Green North.

Dublinia and Christ Church tours

- Visitors can explore Viking and medieval Dublin through interactive exhibits at Dublinia, then cross the stone bridge into Christ Church Cathedral for guided or self-guided tours. Combination tickets are available.

- **Transport options** -115 bus stop from North Campus; C3 bus from Maynooth Main Street; Train from Maynooth to Connolly with a 30 minute walk through Dublin City Centre.

Places to eat

Try some traditional Irish pub grub or the iconic spice bag in one of the numerous restaurants you can find on Maynooth Mainstreet.

ELY Wine Store
Wine bar and café

Avenue Café
Restaurant & Bar

Red Torch Ginger
Thai and Southeast Asian

Sásta By the River
Restaurant & Café

The Orient
Japanese Restaurant

Falò
Italian Restaurant

Picaderos
Argentine, Spanish tapas

Delhi Darbar
Indian cuisine

Bistro 53
Mediterranean

Places to eat

Try some traditional Irish pub grub or the iconic spice bag in one of the numerous restaurants you can find on Maynooth Mainstreet.

McMahon's Bar & Lounge
Pub

O'Neill's
Pub

Bradys (Clockhouse)
Pub

Roost
Lively bar and restaurant

Coffee Mil Bistro
Café and traditional Irish lunch

Donatello's
Italian restaurant

We are delighted to receive you all!

Thank you for taking part in this year's Arqus conference!

Your participation, energy, and curiosity are what make gatherings like this so valuable.

We're grateful for the time you've taken to be here, and we hope the days ahead are inspiring, productive, and enjoyable.

"Céad míle fáilte agus go n-éirí an bóthar leat"

"A hundred thousand welcomes and may the road rise to meet you"

arQus European University Alliance

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Contacts

GENERAL QUERIES

arqus@mu.ie

WEBSITE

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/arqus

EMERGENCY

Security 24h a day:
(01) 7083929

Local Police Stations:
Maynooth - 01 6292380

Ambulance or Police:
112 or 999