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European University Alliance

2026 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Maynooth, Ireland ▶ 8-10 July



**Maynooth
University**

National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Arrival Guide



Maynooth University



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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.

About Maynooth

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 is home to St Patrick's College, a centuries-old Catholic seminary, and Maynooth University, which together give it a vibrant, international atmosphere. Centred around a bustling main street lined with pubs, cafés and shops, Maynooth also offers scenic walks along the Royal Canal and the Lyreen River, making it a hub for both students and visitors seeking a mix of history, culture and natural beauty.

About Maynooth University



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. Patricks College Maynooth, it became an autonomous university in **1997** and now serves over 16,000 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.



Subject rankings:

- **School of Law and Criminology**
#1 in Ireland and #55 globally in the Social Science Research Network 2025.
- **Geography**
#3 in Ireland and #201-250 globally in QS by subject 2025.
- **Phycology**
#176 – 200 globally and #2 in Ireland in Times Higher Education 2025 World Rankings.

Maynooth graduates have gone on to work for KPMG, EY, Intel, Central Bank of Ireland and one has gone on to be a Chaser on the ITV quiz programme the Chase!

Transport to Maynooth

How to get to Maynooth ?

Dublin Airport (DUB) - Maynooth

To note; it is possible to get a visitor leap card when you travel to Ireland; find out more information here and order before you travel to ensure it arrives before you leave to come to Ireland

<https://about.leapcard.ie/leap-visitor-card>

By Bus

- 22 [Expressway](#) Ballina* (Drop off beside the Glenroyal Hotel)
- 23 [Expressway](#) Sligo* (Drop off beside the Glenroyal Hotel)

*Please check their timetables to see when they run and book your tickers online when possible.

Multi transport

- [Dublin Express](#) to Wellington Quay transfer to 115 Mullingar to Maynooth University (Drop off at Library).
- [Aircoach](#) 700/700x to Drumcondra train station. Transfer to Maynooth train at Drumcondra Station. (Arrive at train station, 10/15-minute walk to campus).

Taxi

A taxi will cost approximately €50-70 (Duration 40 mins). These are the apps that you can download in advance to order a taxi:

- Free Now, Lynx, Uber, Bolt, Taxy.



Local taxi companies:

- Express Cabs and Maynooth Cabs (01)6289866
- Manor Cabs (01)6293596
- Transfer Crew (083) 1196574 (specific for airport)
- Major Minor Cabs & Taxis (01)6016160
- Flood Aidan Taxi (0872591600)
- Maynooth Cabs Ltd (01)6289999

Our recommendations

Maynooth Campus

Guest rooms at Maynooth Campus range from college rooms to superior rooms with views on south campus or perhaps take yourself back and stay in the Student Accommodation on North Campus which has kitchen facilities.

[Link](#)

Glenroyal Hotel

The Glenroyal Hotel is a 4-star hotel which offers superb leisure facilities. It is located directly within Maynooth town with our campus just five-minute walk away and the rail station directly opposite the hotel.

[Link](#)

Lucan Spa Hotel

Only a 20-minute drive from both Dublin Airport and Maynooth University, Lucan Spa Hotel is a great choice for those interested in also visiting Dublin. From MU you can get the 115 which will drop you opposite the hotel

[Link](#)

Cartoon House Hotel

Carton House is a 5-star hotel situated minutes away from Maynooth University. Luxury resort with Michelin star restaurants, a spa, parkland, and a golf resort that will ensure each guest has a relaxing and memorable experience.

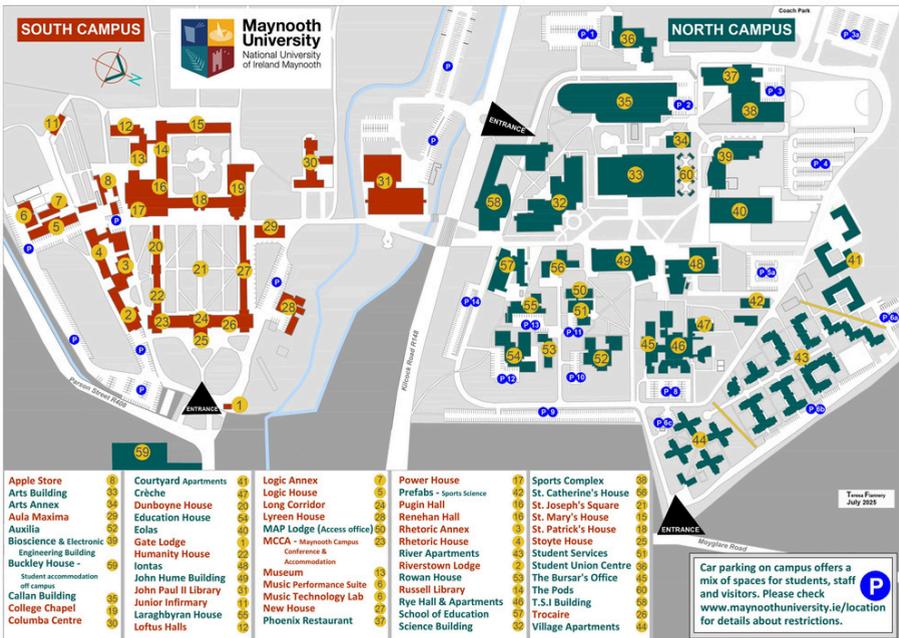
[Link](#)

Dublin City

Dublin City Centre is under a one-hour commute by rail or bus. There, you will find a wide range of accommodation options to suit all types of visitors. Please refer to our ['Getting to Maynooth University'](#) section for transport options.

Location

Maynooth University Campus



The Maynooth University campus is laid out in its own extensive grounds in rural surroundings. It is divided between the South Campus which has an older complex of fine nineteenth century buildings and the North campus which has a modern complex of teaching, research, accommodation, and support facilities.

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)



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.

Cartoon House State

- An 18th-century manor house on 1,100-acre grounds which now acts as an upscale golf and spa resort. It is a short walk from Maynooth University, and the grounds provide a lovely retreat for an afternoon stroll.

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 could be quizzes, comedy gigs, or live music.

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** – C3/C4/115 to Heuston Station, walk 15 minutes

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.

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

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.

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.





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



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.



Picaderos
Argentine, Spanish tapas



Delhi Darbar
Indian cuisine



Donatello's
Italian restaurant



Roost
Lively bar and restaurant



O'Neill's
Pub



Bradys (Clockhouse)
Pub



McMahon's Bar & Lounge
Pub

Contacts

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