

2026 Arqus Annual Conference

“Voices of impact: Weaving stories across Europe”

7-9 July 2026

Maynooth University

Expected arrival day:

- 6 July for the Student Council, the Comms Team, and any group planning to meet on 7 July.
- 7 July for the rest.

Expected departure day: 10 July.

Main 2026 Arqus Annual Conference days:

- **Wednesday, 8 July:** Day 1 - full day
- **Thursday, 9 July:** Day 2 - full day

Tuesday, 7 July (*Annual Conference Day 0*)

Retreats and Delegation Arrival Day

*Student Council Retreat | Comms Team meeting
Delegations arrival*

09:00–18:00 **WG internal meetings**

16:00–18:30 ExC plenary meeting

19:30 *Dinner Executive Council and International Advisory Board*

Wednesday, 8 July (*Annual Conference Day 1*)

08:00–09:30 **Registration and networking breakfast**

09:30–10:15 **Opening Ceremony**

*Eeva Leinonen, rector of Maynooth University.
Dorothy Kelly, Alliance Coordinator.*

10:15–11:30 **Plenary session I – Journeys of Change: Personal Stories from the Heart of Europe**

Speakers: Erivelton Nepomuceno (Maynooth University, Arqus), Sharon Ferguson (Atlantic Technological University), Elena Diana Radoi (Arqus).

11:30–11:45 Coffee break

11:45–13:00 **Plenary session II – Redefining the University: Institutional Transformation Through European Alliances**

Speakers: Martha Brandes (Maynooth University, Arqus), Fernando Galán (EU-CONEXUS), Adriana Miele (Univ. of Lyon 1, Arqus)

13:00–14:30 Lunch with Campus or Cultural Tours,

14:30–15:45 **Plenary session III – Universities as Policy Shapers: Driving Change Through European Alliances**

Speakers: Susanne Conze (European Commission), Josep Maria Garrell (EUA), David Itier (French Ministry), Lana Par (ESU)

15:45–16:10 Coffee break

16:10–17:30 **Education Board meeting**

Societal engagement Board meeting

Chair and Vice-Chair of the ExC with co-leads of transversal Working Groups

R&I Board meeting

RC & IAB meeting

Other meetings

19:00 Vivaldi - Gloria

19:30 Gala dinner

Location: Pugin Hall

Thursday, 9 July *(Annual Conference Day 2)*

- 08:00–08:45** **Networking breakfast**
- 08:45–09:00** **Opening and recap**
- 09:00–10:15** **Plenary session IV – *Beyond Borders: European Universities and Their Societal Footprint***
- Speakers: Piotr Kepski (NAWA), Officer of Municipality of Guimarães*
- 10:15–11:15** **Arqus Awards ceremony**
Teaching Excellence Awards, Open Science Awards, Innovators Award (video):
Intervention of the winners
- 11:15–11:30** Group picture
- 11:30–11:45** Coffee break
- 11:30–16:00** **Rector’s Council meeting**
- 11:45–13:00** **Cultural activities**
- Irish Sport Demonstration
 - Irish Céilí Dancing Demonstration
- 13:00–14:00** Lunch
- 14:00–16:00** **Internal meetings and/or Working Group meetings**
- 16:00–16:15** Growing together: Arqus Alliance tree planting
- 16:15–17:00?** **Closing session**
Member of the Arqus Student Council.
IAB member
Announcement next AAC
Dorothy Kelly, current Alliance Coordinator.
Guadalupe Soriano, Alliance Coordinator from 1 October 2026
Eva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University.
- Self-organised dinners*