

# 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 others.

Expected departure day: 10 July, except for those participating in the IVth EUI Forum.

Main 2026 Arqus Annual Conference days:

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

Venue for plenary sessions: LT2 in the TSI building [[link to location](#)].

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

#### Retreats and Delegation Arrival Day

**09:00–18:00** **WG internal meetings**

*TSI Building:*

*WG06: Room 30*

*WG11: Room 28*

*WG09: Room 38*

*WG15: Room 35*

*WG10: Room 36*

**19:30**

*Executive Council and International Advisory Board Dinner: Stone Haven Restaurant.*

*Rectors’ Council Dinner: Barberstown Castle Hotel.*

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

Venue for plenary sessions: LT2 in the TSI building [[location](#)]

<b>07:30–09:30</b>	<b>Registration</b> <i>TSI Ground Floor</i>	
<b>08:00–09:30</b>	<b>Networking breakfast</b> <i>TSI Foyer</i>	
<b>09:30–10:15</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> <i>President Eeva Leinonen, Maynooth University. Dorothy Kelly, Alliance Coordinator.</i>	
<b>10:15–11:30</b>	<b>Plenary session I – Journeys of Change: Personal Stories from the Heart of Europe</b> <i>Moderator: Rector Pedro Arezes (University of Minho, Arqus). Speakers: Erivelton Nepomuceno (Maynooth University, Arqus), Sharon Ferguson (EU Green Alliance, Atlantic Technological University), Elena Diana Radoi (Graduate Arqus Master in European Studies). Rapporteur: Vanessa Alves (University of Minho, Arqus).</i>	
<b>11:30–11:45</b>	Coffee break ( <i>TSI Foyer</i> )	
<b>11:45–13:00</b>	<b>Plenary session II – Redefining the University: Institutional Transformation Through European Alliances</b> <i>Moderator: Rector Eva Inés Oberfell (Leipzig University, Arqus). Speakers: Martha Brandes (Maynooth University, Arqus), Fernando Galán (EU-CONEXUS), Adriana Miele (University of Lyon 1, Arqus). Rapporteur: Ninon Böhme (Leipzig University, Arqus).</i>	
<b>13:00–14:30</b>	Lunch with Campus or Cultural Tours ( <i>TSI Foyer + Campus</i> )	
<b>14:30–15:45</b>	<b>Plenary session III – Universities as Policy Shapers: Driving Change Through European Alliances</b> <i>Moderator: President Bruno Lina (University of Lyon 1, Arqus). Speakers: Susanne Conze (European Commission), Josep Maria Garrell (European University Association), Caroline Censier-Calmus (French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space), Lana Par (European Students' Union). Rapporteur: Dana-Maria Daia (University of Lyon 1, Arqus).</i>	
<b>15:45–16:10</b>	Coffee break ( <i>TSI Foyer</i> )	
<b>16:10–17:30</b>	<b>Education Board meeting</b> <i>Room 125</i> <b>Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Council with co-leads of transversal Working Groups</b> <i>Room 241</i> <b>Meeting of Rectors' Council with the International Advisory Board</b> <i>TSI Boardroom, Room 238</i>	<b>Societal engagement Board meeting</b> <i>John Hume Boardroom (John Hume Building)</i> <b>Research &amp; Innovation Board meeting</b> <i>Room 128</i> <b>Other internal meetings</b> <i>WG15: Room 35</i>
<b>19:00</b>	Vivaldi – Gloria. Arqus Choir Performance. <i>College Chapel, South Campus [<a href="#">link to location</a>].</i>	
<b>19:30</b>	Gala dinner <i>Venue: Pugin Hall, South Campus [<a href="#">link to location</a>].</i>	

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

Venue for plenary sessions: LT2 in the TSI building

- 08:00–09:15**     **Executive Council meeting**  
*TSI Boardroom*
- 08:30–09:15**     **Networking breakfast**  
*TSI Foyer*
- 09:15–09:30**     **Opening and recap**
- 09:30–10:45**     **Plenary session IV – Beyond Borders: European Universities and Their Societal Footprint**  
*Moderator: Rector Rimvydas Petrauskas (Vilnius University, Arqus).*  
*Speakers: Ricardo Araújo (Mayor of Guimarães), Piotr Kepski (Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, NAWA), Michael Hanley (Maynooth University, Arqus), Bernhard Weber (UNICORN – Start-up & Innovation Hub, University of Graz, Arqus).*  
*Rapporteur: Julija Savickė (Vilnius University, Arqus).*
- 10:45–11:15**     **Arqus Awards ceremony**
- 11:15–11:30**     Group photo (*Outside TSI*)
- 11:30–11:45**     Coffee break (*TSI Foyer*)
- 11:30–16:00**     **Rector’s Council meeting**  
*Room 210 (TSI Building)*
- 11:45–13:00**     **Cultural activities (Campus)**
- Irish Sport Demonstration
  - Irish Céilí Dancing Demonstration
- 13:00–14:00**     Lunch (*TSI Foyer*)
- 14:00–16:00**     **Internal meetings and/or Working Group meetings**
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| <p><i>WG02: Room 35 (TSI Building)</i></p> <p><i>WG03: Room 241 (TSI Building)</i></p> <p><i>WG04: Room 240 (TSI Building)</i></p> <p><i>WG05: Room 128 (TSI Building)</i></p> <p><i>WG06: Room E (Library)</i></p> <p><i>WG09: Room B (Library)</i></p> | <p><i>WG11: Room 125 (TSI Building)</i></p> <p><i>WG12: Room 227 (TSI Building)</i></p> <p><i>WG13: Room D (Library)</i></p> <p><i>WG14 + IAB: Room 36 (TSI Building)</i></p> <p><i>WG15: John Hume Boardroom (John Hume Building)</i></p> |
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- 14:00–16:00**     **Workshop for Students: How Do We Make Arqus More Inclusive?**  
*Social Learning Room (Library)*
- 16:00–17:00**     **Closing session**  
*MC Patrick McCole (Vice President International, Maynooth University, Arqus).*  
*Eeva Leinonen (President of Maynooth University).*  
*Lucas de Uña (President of the Arqus Student Council).*  
*Eva Egron-Polak (in representation of the International Advisory Board).*  
*Dorothy Kelly (current Alliance Coordinator).*  
*Guadalupe Soriano (Alliance Coordinator from 1 October 2026).*  
*Invitation to the 2027 Arqus Annual Conference in Lyon by President Bruno Lina.*  
*Maynooth University Cultural Performance.*  
*Patrick McCole closes the session.*

*Self-organised dinners (see next page for more information)*

**Self-organised dinners:**

Working Group	Restaurant	Time
WG 01	Roost	18:00
WG 02	Brady's Clockhouse *	18:00
WG 03	Picaderos	18:00
WG 04	McMahon's Gastrobar	18:00
WG 05	O'Neill's Bar & Steakhouse	18:00
WG 06	O'Neill's Bar & Steakhouse	18:00
WG 07	Donatello's	18:00
WG 08	Stone Haven	18:30
WG 09	Picaderos	18:00
WG 10	Bistro 53	18:00
WG 11	Bistro 53	18:00
WG 12	Falo	18:00
WG 13	McMahon's Gastrobar	18:00
WG 14	Roost	18:00
WG 15	Stone Haven	18:30

\*Can be no later than 30 minutes after booking or tables will be given away