

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**

Wednesday, 8 July (Annual Conference Day 1)

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

07:30–09:30	Registration <i>TSI Ground Floor</i>	
08:00–09:30	Networking breakfast <i>TSI Foyer</i>	
09:30–10:15	Opening Ceremony <i>President Eeva Leinonen, Maynooth University. Dorothy Kelly, Alliance Coordinator.</i>	
10:15–11:30	Plenary session I – Journeys of Change: Personal Stories from the Heart of Europe <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>	
11:30–11:45	Coffee break (<i>TSI Foyer</i>)	
11:45–13:00	Plenary session II – Redefining the University: Institutional Transformation Through European Alliances <i>Moderator: Rector Eva Inés Oberghell (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>	
13:00–14:30	Lunch with Campus or Cultural Tours (<i>TSI Foyer + Campus</i>)	
14:30–15:45	Plenary session III – Universities as Policy Shapers: Driving Change Through European Alliances <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>	
15:45–16:10	Coffee break (<i>TSI Foyer</i>)	
16:10–17:30	Education Board meeting	Societal engagement Board meeting
	Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Council with co-leads of transversal Working Groups	Research & Innovation Board meeting
	Meeting of Rectors' Council with the International Advisory Board	Other internal meetings
19:00	Vivaldi – Gloria. Arqus Choir Performance. <i>College Chapel, South Campus [link to location].</i>	
19:30	Gala dinner <i>Venue: Pugin Hall, South Campus [link to location].</i>	

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

Venue for plenary sessions: LT2 in the TSI building

08:00–09:15 **Executive Council meeting**

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**

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**

14:00–16:00 **Workshop for students: How Do We Make Arqus More Inclusive?**

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.