

University of Leeds hosts largest academic conference in Europe



The University of Leeds' conference and events team, MeetInLeeds is preparing to host the largest academic conference of its kind in Europe – the International Medieval Congress.

Around 2,000 delegates from around the world will descend on the University for the Congress, which runs from June 30 to July 4, with more than half of them staying on the main campus in University accommodation.

MeetInLeeds' event manager, Anthony Lowe said: "This has been three years in the planning as it is the largest conference we have hosted on the campus. It's been great working with all the different departments to create a medieval campus, with special exhibitions in the University art gallery, library and academic meeting rooms as well as themed menus and medieval street food. The University Union will be selling a specially-brewed Congress ale.

"We'll be serving around 3,000 meals a day with the refectory turned into a dining room. And there'll also be fine dining available within University House so that delegates and University staff have the opportunity to host special meals and events throughout the Congress."

With more than 1500 different talks and events taking place during the Congress, including some open to the general public, MeetInLeeds will be not only be busy ensuring that everyone has enough to eat and drink but also making sure that all the different meeting rooms and lecture theatres, as well as the outdoor spaces and large communal areas including the iconic Parkinson Building, are fully resourced so that delegates have a seamless Congress.

“It’s going to be incredibly busy but we’re extremely well-prepared for it and will be working hard to ensure that everyone has a fabulous experience and remembers their medieval experience for many years to come. Leeds is a very attractive campus and we are looking forward to showing it at its very best. ”

Many of the delegates attending the conference will stay at the recently opened Storm Jameson Court built to an extremely high, world-class hotel-style specification with a 24 hour reception service, spacious lounge area and 460 stylish bedrooms (23 of which are accessible rooms) with floor-to-ceiling windows, data access, room safes and an IPTV facility.

Ends

Note to editors:

Our photograph shows University of Leeds’ events manager, Anthony Lowe (left) with designer for the University’s print services, Alexander Santos inspecting the first banner.

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