

EUROPEAN EFFYE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

*Learning Gained through Staff and Student
partnerships*



Birmingham, UK

Wednesday 28th June – Friday 30th June 2017

Welcome

As I write this, the sun is shining and I am hopeful that it will also be shining on you as you participate in this year's conference. I very much look forward to the annual opportunity to connect with colleagues from Europe and beyond, and in my mind the sun is always shining on us!

For some of you this will be your first EFYE event, and you are particularly welcome - this is always a busy, interesting, and friendly event. New friends are always welcome and bring with them fresh ideas and energy. I hope you enjoy this new adventure as a 'first year' yourself. For others, EFYE events will be a familiar annual pleasure and a chance to reconnect with some colleagues and hear about new initiatives and research, and I appreciate seeing familiar faces and hope to hear from some of you about where you are now.

This year we are coming together in a vibrant city full of youthful energy, and I expect this will rub off on us all and make for a stimulating few days. A key focus for this year's event is partnerships with students and a number of delegates and presenters are students. The mix of participants in terms of role (e.g. researchers, lecturers, support staff, educational developers, students, senior leaders) as well as country is one of the real strengths of EFYE conferences: the many voices coming together to develop our understanding and support for first year experiences across Europe enriches all of our thinking and work.

EFYE Conferences do have some common characteristics, but each year the hosts bring their own flavour to the event. It is also important that we continue to learn and develop. This year I and a colleague Emily McIntosh are hosting a short session at the end of day 2 looking at what we can do to build on the conference, to enhance it in future years, but also to explore what other activities or resources we might develop to support you in your work with first year students, wherever you are based. If you have interesting ideas, and can't make our session, do feel free to leave a note at the registration desk for myself or Emily to pick up.

I hope to chat with many of you. Do feel free to grab a member of the Committee for a conversation if you would like to know more about EFYE:

Pieterjan Bonne

Will Carey

Ed Foster

Erkki Harkonen

Ellen Jansen

Luke Millard (EFYE2017 Host)

Harald Age Saethre

Simone Schut-Voortman

Herman van de Mosselaer

I am extremely happy to welcome you all to EFYE2017 here in Birmingham on behalf of the EFYE Annual Conference Organising Committee. Enjoy the conference!

Diane Nutt (Chair of the EFYE Annual Conference Organising Committee)

Introduction from Luke Millard

On Behalf of Birmingham City University and the European First Year Experience Conference 2017 organising committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our delegates.

This year's theme, learning gained through staff and student partnership will provide an interesting outlook into the first year experience and I am very much looking forward to hearing delegates share their best practices.



With around 22,500 students from 80 countries, Birmingham City University, a publicly funded Higher Education Institution, is a large, diverse and popular place to study. The University provides a wide range of taught undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, Masters and Doctoral level research, and also delivers many Knowledge Transfer, Community Engagement and Professional Development initiatives. The University has particular strengths in interdisciplinary working and the practical application of knowledge, underpinning a deep commitment to professional relevance and employability. The University puts £270 million into the regional economy and is actively involved in a diverse range of collaborative programmes with local, UK and EU partners, including industry, commerce and public bodies. All the activities of the organisation embody its core values of excellence, focus on people, working in partnership, fairness and integrity.

Birmingham is England's second largest city after London and is a vibrant place with a strong industrial heritage. In recent decades, it has undergone huge redevelopment and regeneration continues, with much of its old industrial areas being transformed for new purposes. Birmingham City University's main City Centre Campus where EFYE2017 will be held is just a short walk from the main railway stations of New Street and Moor Street as well as the heart of the retail and leisure facilities that the City has to offer.

I hope you enjoy your experience in Birmingham, Europe's youngest city whilst recognising the cities rich and diverse culture.

Please do enjoy the conference and don't hesitate to contact any of the organising

committee or Student ambassadors during the conference as we are all more than happy to help.

We very much look forward to meeting you all.

Luke Millard, EFYE 2017 Organising Chair

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MEET THE HOSTS

EFYE – European First Year Experience

We are a group of academics and support staff from across Europe who are interested in improving the experience of students as

they enter higher education. In 2006 our inaugural conference was hosted at Teesside University and since then we have met across the continent. The EFYE Conference Planning Team includes a team of volunteers working in universities across Europe.



The conference primarily uses English for workshops and communications, but one of the great pleasures of the event is hearing a variety of languages being used during the breaks and at the social events. Each year, we have between 100 and 200 delegates attending from countries across Europe and beyond. The network is very practice-focused. Clearly, we discuss theory, but this is a great conference to take away ideas that you can use back at your university.

Birmingham City University

With around 22,500 students from 80 countries, Birmingham City University is a large, diverse and popular place to study. We put students at the heart of everything we do, giving them the best opportunities for future success. The University has an enviable reputation for providing quality, student-focused education in a professional and friendly environment. Our superb courses, state of- the-art facilities, first-rate staff, and focus on practical skills and professional relevance is producing some of the country's most employable graduates.



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

As the second largest city in the UK and Europe's youngest city, Birmingham is the perfect setting for a university. It's incredible shopping, nightlife and social scene easily rivals that of London, minus the cost! Rich in history, heritage and cultural diversity, a vibrant arts sector boasts a multitude of theatres, galleries, live music venues, design

studios, public art spaces and cinemas. It has the largest concentration of professional and financial services outside London.



It also boasts a thriving restaurant scene, with no less than four Michelin Star restaurants and plenty of others, offering a range of cuisines. With the new £188 million Library of Birmingham, a £600 million transformation of New Street train station and millions of pounds towards city centre transport, Birmingham has big plans

for the future. And with air, road and rail connections providing access to 400 million people across Europe, there's no sign of this city standing still.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue

The conference will be hosted by Birmingham City University.

Birmingham City University is located in the centre of Birmingham. The Curzon Building, where the main business of the conference will be held, opened in June 2015 and occupies an enviable position overlooking one of Britain's newest city parks and adjoining the City's ground-breaking science museum, 'Thinktank'. Curzon Building is one of four new or refurbished buildings that together form the City Centre Campus.



The Curzon Building (**post code B4 7BD**), is easy to reach, being located about 15 minutes' walk from the city's central station, Birmingham New Street, which itself is right in the heart of the City. For visitors coming by plane, Birmingham International Airport is very well connected and transfers can be made to most European hubs. From the airport to Birmingham City Centre, it is 10 minutes by train, or 20 by taxi. Birmingham is one of the hubs of UK's rail network so it is easily accessible by train. It is also easily

accessible by car – and, for the more adventurous, by canal boat!

Venue Address

The Curzon Building

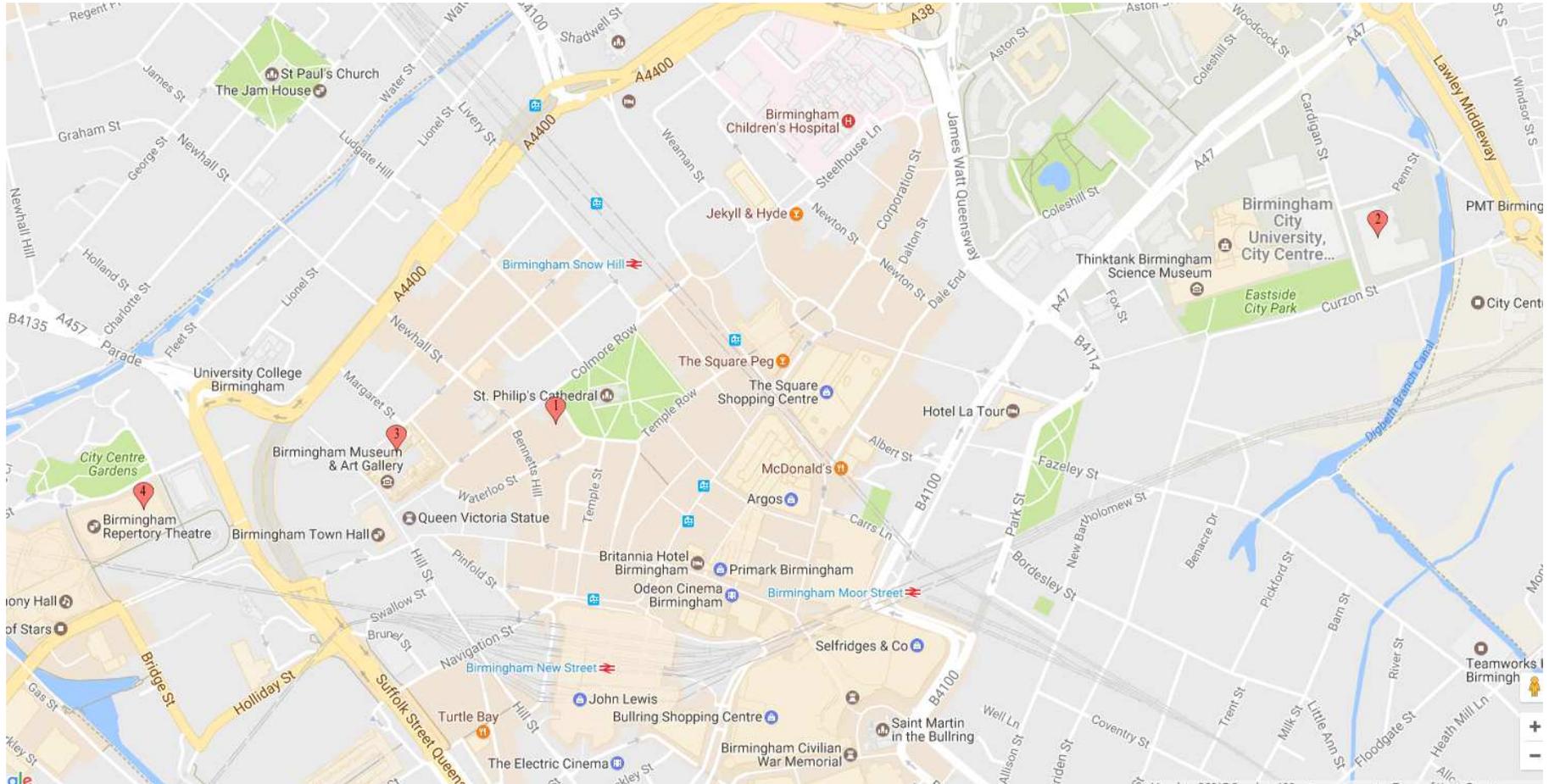
4 Cardigan Street

Birmingham

B4 7BD

United Kingdom

Location of Events



1 Informal Networking Event
4 Temple Row W, Birmingham B2 5NY, UK

2 Birmingham City University
4 Cardigan St, Birmingham B4 7BD, UK

3 Conference Drinks Reception
Council House, Birmingham B1 1BD, UK

4 Conference Dinner
Centenary Square, Broad St, Birmingham B1 2ND, UK

Evening activities

Old Joint Stock – On Tuesday 27th June before the conference commences, delegates are invited to join us for an informal networking event at the Old Joint Stock in Birmingham' city Centre.

Welcome Reception – On Wednesday 28th June, delegates are invited to join us at the Birmingham council house for a welcome reception to Birmingham and the conference with the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and the Dean of Learning and Students at Birmingham City University.

Conference Dinner – On Thursday 29th June, for those delegates who have booked the conference dinner this will be held at the Library of Birmingham.

Registration Desk

Location: Curzon Foyer – Curzon Building, Ground Floor

For registration, information on practical issues concerning the conference or local information you can contact the Forum Information and Registration Desk. The Desk will be open at the following times:

- Wednesday 28th June (09:00 - 17:00)
- Thursday 29th June (09:00 - 17:00)
- Friday 30th June (09:00 - 12:00)

Social Media

Get involved in the conversation online use the #EFYE2017 and Follow @efye2017

Badge and Security

Please note you will need to wear and show your name badge at all times in order to gain access to the conference venue, all sessions, the pre-conference workshops, the lunches and the social events such as the conference Dinner and the welcome reception.

You are therefore kindly requested to wear it visibly throughout the conference at all times.

Lunches and Refreshments

All lunches during the Forum are included in the registration fee. It is served in **Large Foyer Area**, Ground Floor of Curzon building.

Coffee and Tea breaks are served in the Curzon Large Foyer Area.

Internet & I.T

A wireless network connection will be available for all delegates during the conference. Delegates will be provided with individual Wi-Fi username and password at registration.

Facilities

All the rooms at the venue and the route between parallel sessions and lecture hall are wheelchair accessible. If you need any assistance please also contact the university assistants.

In case you need to store your luggage between hotel check-out and departure, please consult the registration desk or a member of the organising committee.

Toilets

Toilets are located in the Curzon Library on the ground floor.

PRACTICAL LOCAL INFORMATION

Taxi Phone Numbers/ Charges

BCU have an account with TOA. Please ask at the main reception in Curzon Building and a taxi can be ordered for you.

- Curzon Building to La-tour, Hyatt, Staybridge and Holiday £6.70 to £7.10
- From and to Airport to Curzon £23.10
- From and to New Street £7.10

Birmingham also has Uber taxis that delegates can use if they wish.

Money

A cash dispenser (ATM) is located on the ground floor on the Curzon Building. Banks in Birmingham are located around the City Centre.

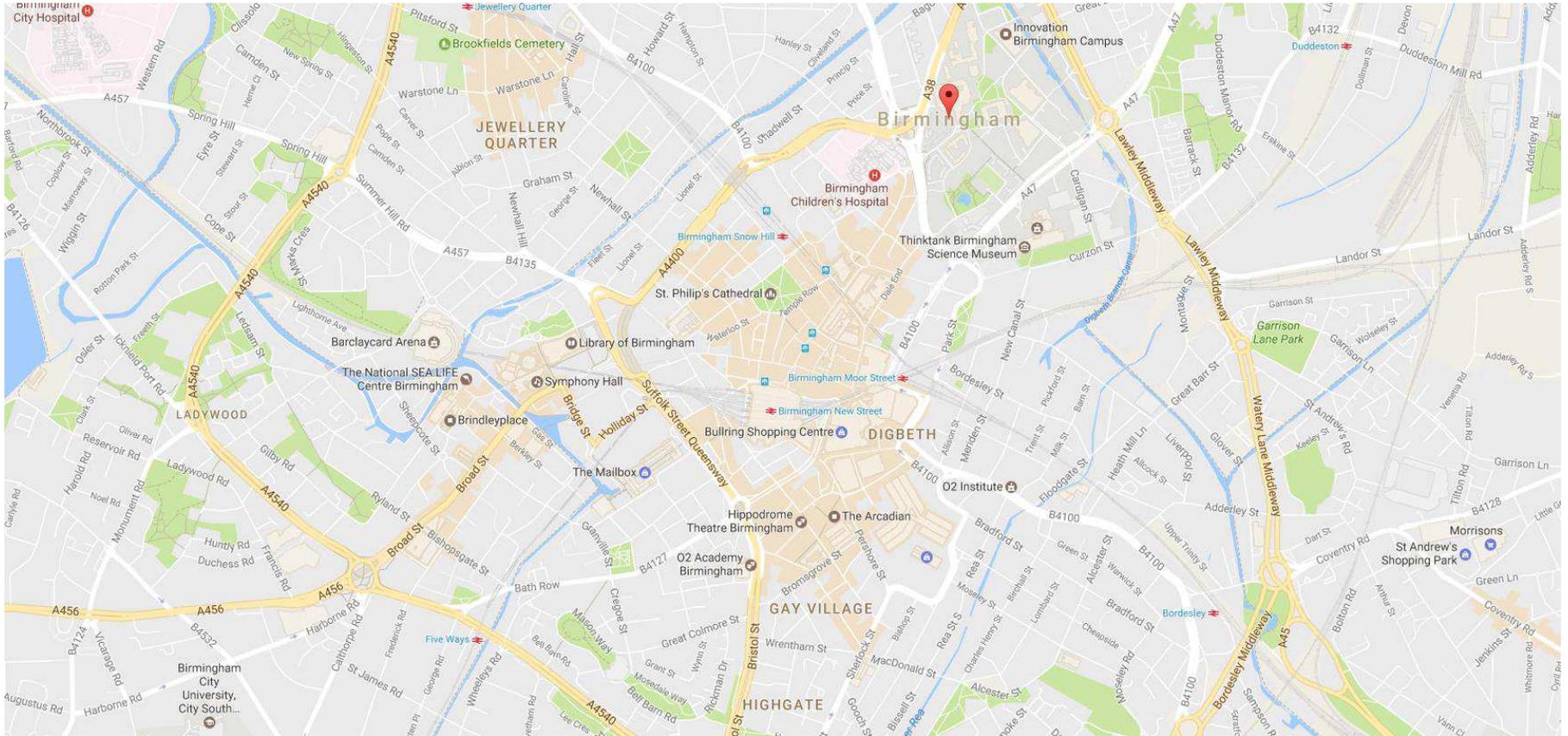
Emergencies

Call 999 for any emergencies.

Liability

Neither EFYE nor Birmingham City University are liable for any losses, theft, accidents and/or damages to persons/ materials regardless of the causes. Delegates are attending the events at their own risks and responsibilities. You are advised to undertake travel insurance.

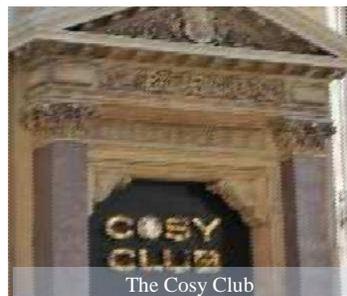
Map of Birmingham



Pub Guide

There are a number of excellent pubs in the city Centre for you to explore. In particular we recommend:

- The Old Joint Stock - 4 Temple Row W, Birmingham B2 5NY
- The Cosy Club - Bennett's Hill, Birmingham B2 5RE
- The Lost and Found - 8 Bennett's Hill, Birmingham B2 5RS
- The Wellington - 37 Bennett's Hill, Birmingham B2 5SN



Tipping

In the UK some restaurants may include a service charge with their bills. It is not compulsory to tip but 10% is common if you are happy with the service. For taxis it is common to let the driver keep the change but this is not expected.



@efye2017
#efye2017



/efye2017