

FACTOR

Summer School 2025

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1. Welcome

FACTOR Summer School 2025 will run from Mon 28th Jul to Wed 30th Jul 2025, and it will be held at [Lancaster University](#). This is located in the scenic [North West of England](#), a short 10-minute drive or 15-minute bus journey of about 5km (3m) south of the historic [city of Lancaster](#). This provides convenient access to city amenities and the benefit of a peaceful and spacious university campus environment. The university's [578-acre parkland campus](#) is set against the backdrop of the picturesque Lancashire countryside, within easy distance of the city, the sea, and the Lake District.



On-campus accommodation options include [guest bedrooms](#) for those looking to economise, and the [Lancaster House Hotel](#) for visitors with a more flexible budget. For attendees interested in the surrounding area, there are a wealth of cultural and historic attractions to enjoy whilst you are here. These include [Lancaster Castle](#), [Williamson Park](#), and [multiple museums](#). We are also within a short drive of the [Lake District National Park](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the UK's most breathtaking natural landscapes that has inspired creatives from Beatrix Potter to William Wordsworth. You can find out more about our on-campus facilities and the many off-campus attractions, ranging from the culture and history of the city to the wilderness and beauty of the Lakes and the sea, in §3 below.

2. Travel

We're aware that our Summer School visitors travel in from near and far, so the following sections are intended to give some very brief guidance on how to get to us.

2.1. Getting to the UK

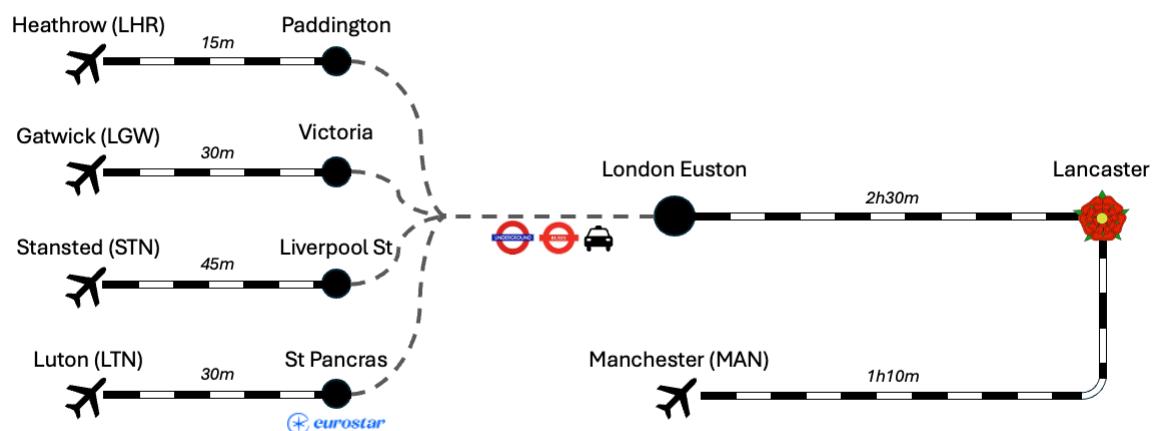
Overseas visitors should check to establish the requirements for their own particular circumstances. Typically, overseas guests wishing to attend the Summer School would apply for a [Standard Visitor Visa](#). At the time of writing, this allows entry for up to six months. The application process is [available online](#), it typically costs around £115, and an application can be submitted up to

three months in advance. Visitors from countries such as the US, Canada, and those in the EU may not need a visa for short stays, but again, each visitor should check.

2.2. Getting to Lancaster

If you are flying into the UK, your travel to Lancaster will be determined by the airport you land at. You also have the option to travel to the UK by rail on Eurostar services. The following sub-sections give brief overviews of the major arrival destinations and how to travel from them to Lancaster.

[Major London airports](#) [Central London connections](#)



2.2.1. From Manchester International Airport (MAN)

Manchester Airport is one of the UK's largest and most well-connected airports, offering numerous flights to and from major travel destinations. It is approximately 100km (62m) from Lancaster, and you can travel from Manchester Airport to Lancaster by either train or car.

Train: Direct services run from Manchester Airport to Lancaster Railway Station. The travel time takes around 1h 10m, trains depart frequently, and the departing station is located within the airport itself, making the connection highly convenient for you. (See §2.3.1 for more about travelling from Lancaster Railway Station to Lancaster University.)

Car: Depending on the time and route of travel, Manchester Airport is around a 1h 30m drive from Lancaster. Taxis and car hire services are available at the airport, and major motorway routes such as the M6 provide a direct link to Lancaster.

2.2.2. From London airports

London is served by several major airports, located between 370km (230m) and 450km (280m) from Lancaster. These include:

- London Heathrow Airport (LHR): the busiest and largest of the UK airports, with flights arriving from over 180 destinations worldwide;
- London Gatwick Airport (LGW): the second busiest airport in the UK, serving numerous European and international destinations;
- London Stansted Airport (STN): a destination for many low-cost European and international flights; and
- London Luton Airport (LTN): primarily serving budget airlines with many European connections.

You can travel from each of these airports to Lancaster by either train or car. Train services connect each airport to a central London station, where you can then transfer to London Euston Station via the London Underground or taxi (see §2.2.4 for travel from London Euston Station to Lancaster Railway Station, and §2.3.1 for travel from Lancaster Railway Station to Lancaster University.)

Car hire services are available at the airports. Notably, the train is usually more convenient due to traffic in and around London, and the long distances involved. Connecting services and journey times are summarised in Table 1 below.

Airport	Fastest connections to central London	Connecting station	Train time from London Euston to Lancaster	Approx. car journey time to Lancaster
Heathrow	15m (Heathrow Express)	Paddington	2h 30m	4h
Gatwick	30m (Gatwick Express)	Victoria		4-5h
Stansted	45m (Stansted Express)	Liverpool Street		4-5h
Luton	30m (East Midlands Railway/Thameslink)	St Pancras		4h

2.2.3. Via Eurostar

If you are travelling or connecting from continental Europe, Eurostar offers frequent rail connections from Paris, Brussels, Lille, Rotterdam and Amsterdam directly to central London. Services arrive at London St Pancras Station, where you can then transfer to the nearby London Euston via taxi or the London Underground (see §2.2.4).

2.2.4. From London Euston Station

London Euston is one of the major railway hubs in the city, with frequent services to the north of England. You can reach Euston from central London via the London Underground, by taxi, or by transfer from other major London train stations (e.g., London Paddington, Kings Cross). If you are arriving at any of the London airports, the best travel route to Lancaster is by train from London Euston Station. Depending on the precise time of travel, direct trains to Lancaster run typically every

30-60 minutes throughout the day, and take around 2h 30m to arrive. At the time of writing, this service is operated by Avanti West Coast. For train times, visit [National Rail Enquiries](#).

2.3. Getting to Lancaster University

There are multiple ways of travelling within the UK to campus.

2.3.1. From Lancaster Railway Station

If you want to arrive via Lancaster Railway Station, you can then get to Lancaster University by bus or car. Lancaster Railway Station is also a five-minute walk from the city centre, where additional bus services are available (see §2.3.2), or for those who prefer off-campus accommodation.

Bus: The 4 and 4X bus services operate between Lancaster Railway Station (Platform 3 exit) and Lancaster University every 30 minutes Monday to Friday daytime. On Saturdays and during university vacation periods the 4 and 4X services operate hourly. There is also a limited service on Sunday evenings in term time (4X) to meet popular trains from the south. The journey time is around 25 minutes, and the university offers further [detailed information about bus services to and round Lancaster](#).

Car: Taxis are readily available outside the front of the station and depending on traffic, they can take you directly to campus in around 10-15 minutes.

2.3.2. From Lancaster city centre

If you wish to arrive via Lancaster city centre, you can get to Lancaster University by bus or car.

Bus: Lancaster Bus Station is situated on Damside Street in the city centre and most bus services also stop at Common Garden Street. Service 1/1A provides a direct connection to the University every 10 minutes, Services 100, 4, 4X, 40, 41 and 42 also serve the University giving a total of 14 buses per hour from Monday to Saturday until 1900. A less frequent service then runs daily until around midnight. The university site offers [detailed information about bus services to and round Lancaster](#).

Car: Taxis are readily available at multiple taxi ranks throughout the city centre. Depending on traffic, they can take you directly to campus in around 10-15 minutes.

2.3.3. From other UK locations

If you are travelling from other locations within the UK, Lancaster University is easily accessible by various means.

Train: Lancaster is on the West Coast Main Line, with frequent direct services from London, Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. (See §2.3.1 for travel from Lancaster Railway Station to Lancaster University.)

Car: The university is close to the M6 motorway, providing easy access by car. The campus also provides multiple Electric Vehicle Charging Points, and a range of [visitor parking options](#).

Bus: There are regular bus services from both Lancaster city centre and the train station to the university campus, running approximately every 10 minutes during peak times. The university site offers [detailed information about bus services to and round Lancaster](#).

2.4. Getting around campus

There are a range of facilities to help visitors navigate the campus and buildings easily, with an emphasis on accessibility. Whilst summary information dealing with campus mobility is given below, far more detailed information on specific buildings, facilities, and types of assistance can be found both on the [Lancaster University website](#) and on [AccessAble](#).

2.4.1. Signage, maps, and information

Clear signage: The university has a well-organised system of directional signs placed throughout the campus. Signage is designed with visibility and clarity in mind, and there are accessible routes clearly marked for individuals with mobility impairments. Signs are strategically located near main entrances, roads, and pathways to help guide visitors to key buildings, lecture halls, and other facilities.

Room numbers and directional markings: Inside buildings, room numbers are clearly marked, and there are directional signs pointing to lecture halls, conference rooms, and other facilities. Accessible entry points are also marked.

Printed maps: We will provide printed copies of maps in your welcome pack.

Digital and interactive maps: Lancaster University provides [a standard PDF map](#), as well as an [interactive online map](#) that is widely accessible via a range of internet-enabled devices. This interactive map includes search functions and assists visitors in travelling to, between, and within buildings and facilities.

2.4.2. Physical accessibility

Physical accessibility, and accessibility for visually impaired, deaf and hard-of-hearing guests is built into all aspects of our campus infrastructure and systems. This section should therefore not be seen as exhaustive, but as a reiteration that Lancaster University is committed to being a welcoming and inclusive environment for all visitors. The below lists just some of the physical provisions intended to make the campus accessible and accommodating by design. Other provisions are noted both above and throughout.

Wheelchair access: All key venues at Lancaster University are equipped with wheelchair access. This includes lecture theatres, meeting rooms, seminar rooms, and social spaces, ensuring that you can fully participate in the conference.

Entrances and exits: All conference venues are step-free, and where necessary, they are equipped with ramps, elevators, and automatic doors at key entry points.

Accessible pathways: Most of the pathways between buildings are designed to accommodate individuals with a range of mobility needs, including wheelchair users, people with pushchairs, and cyclists. Accessible routes and ramps are clearly marked with physical signage and on the [campus map](#).

Proximity and geography: Lancaster University campus is compact, pedestrian-friendly, and set within a pleasant parkland environment. As a natural consequence of its layout, the transport options, catering facilities, on-campus accommodation choices, and conference venues are all located within a conveniently short distance of each other, and in some cases, within directly adjoining buildings.

Parking: All major parking zones around campus provide accessible parking spaces close to building access points. Accessible parking spaces are marked on the [campus map](#).

Restrooms: Accessible restrooms are available in all buildings. There is also a [Changing Places toilet](#) located in the LEC building, which is specially designed to accommodate the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, or with physical disabilities including muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis.

2.5. Leaving campus

Those wishing to depart campus for the city centre, Lancaster Railway Station, and beyond will find a range of choices, including buses, coaches, and a taxi services.

Bus: The primary on-campus drop-off and departure point is situated underneath Alexandra Square in the centre of campus, and all buses (except services 40 or 41) drop off and collect passengers at [Lancaster University Bus Station](#). The hourly 40 or 41 journey calls at the bus stops on the A6 outside the campus. Additionally, services 100 and 42, along with certain 4, 40 and 41 journeys serve the southern perimeter road and South West Campus. There are also bus stops directly outside the Sports Centre on the main drive. All the buses which serve the Lancaster University Bus Station also stop here. All the above buses serve the stops on the A6 outside the entrance road to the Health Innovation Campus. Services from campus will take guests to [a range of locations](#) including the city centre, Morecambe, Heysham, Overton, Carnforth, Silverdale, Halton, Galgate, and Forton.

Coaches: There are daily scheduled coach services from Lancaster University Bus Station to destinations across the UK. These are operated by [Megabus](#) and [Flixbus](#).

Taxis: There is a taxi rank situated outside of University House at the centre of campus. If no taxis are present, University House Reception Desk will be happy to call one.

3. Accommodation and facilities

Lancaster University offers an exceptionally wide array of facilities, including places to stay, venues to socialise, quiet spaces to work, opportunities to expend energy, and peaceful retreats where you can relax and unwind.

3.1. Where to stay

The campus and the city centre provide a flexible range of accommodation choices to suit different budgets and travel preferences.

3.1.1. On-campus

Guest bedrooms: Lancaster University offers comfortable [guest bedrooms](#) typically priced between £50-£80 per night. During vacation, there up to 1,000 rooms available. Each room includes a desk, wardrobe, iron, ironing board, hair dryer, towels, linen, tea and coffee-making facilities, and free wifi available across the campus. Guests can also choose the Bed & Breakfast option, which includes a full English buffet-style and/or continental breakfast served each morning at The Marketplace and Barkers, just a two-minute walk away.

Hotel accommodation: For those with a more flexible budget, [Lancaster House Hotel](#) is located on the edge of campus. Rooms are typically around £90-£130 per night, depending on type and availability. Lancaster House Hotel provides a range of additional amenities, including dining, leisure, and spa facilities, making it a suitable option for those seeking a more luxurious experience.

3.1.2. Off-campus

There are numerous hotels, inns, Airbnbs, and standard B&Bs to choose from in and around Lancaster city centre catering to a variety of budgets and tastes. These include, e.g. [Premier Inn](#), [Holiday Inn](#), [The Borough](#), [The Royal Hotel & Bar](#), [The Sun Hotel & Bar](#), and many more besides:

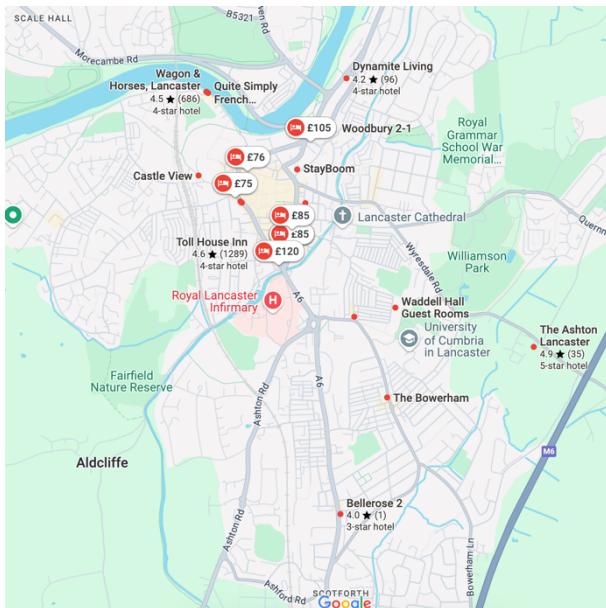


Figure 1: Hotels and inns in and around Lancaster city centre

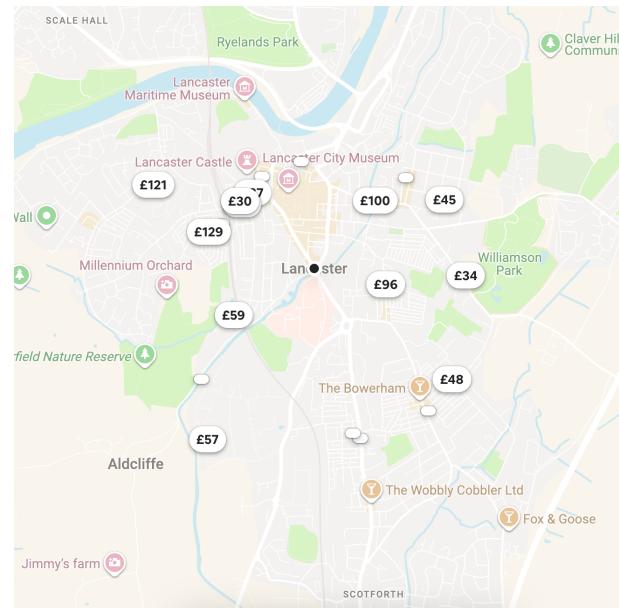


Figure 2: Airbnbs in and around Lancaster city centre

The above maps identify further options within and around the city centre, but note that prices and availability will change between the time of writing this document and the Summer School. Depending on precise location and the time of day, these choices are generally around a 15-minute drive or a 20-25-minute bus ride from the university.

3.2. On-campus care and comfort

Lancaster University provides a range of facilities that will allow IAFPAL 2027 to be inclusive and accessible for you with a range of mobility, wellbeing, and childcare needs. The campus provides a well-rounded environment for you to relax, recharge, and explore during their conference downtime. The following sub-sections outline specific features of our campus that will accommodate you with different needs.

3.2.1. General amenities

Wifi: Lancaster University is part of the [Eduroam network](#). For non-Eduroam guests, free high-speed wifi access is available across campus for all campus visitors. Connecting via this route simply requires registering and agreeing to standard terms of access around fair and prohibited use.

Food, drink, and socialising: During the Summer School we will provide coffee breaks in the morning and afternoon, and lunch on the middle day. However, if you'd prefer to curate your own culinary experience, there is [an array](#) of cafés, bars, dining halls, takeouts, and social spaces on-campus that cater to a range of dietary needs, appetites, and budgets. The university provides [a full list of these, including opening times and menus](#).

Local conveniences: You can find ATMs, stores, a post office, a [pharmacy](#), and a [health centre](#) at various locations around campus.

Library and study: For those seeking a quieter environment, the university library offers a serene atmosphere for reading or studying. There are also study spaces and lounges.

3.2.2. Health and wellbeing

Spiritual and religious facilities: [The Chaplaincy](#) is centrally located on campus for use by people of all faiths and none. Different faith groups regularly host events (e.g., Catholic Mass, Jewish Shabbat, and Juma'ah prayer) at the Chaplaincy throughout the year.

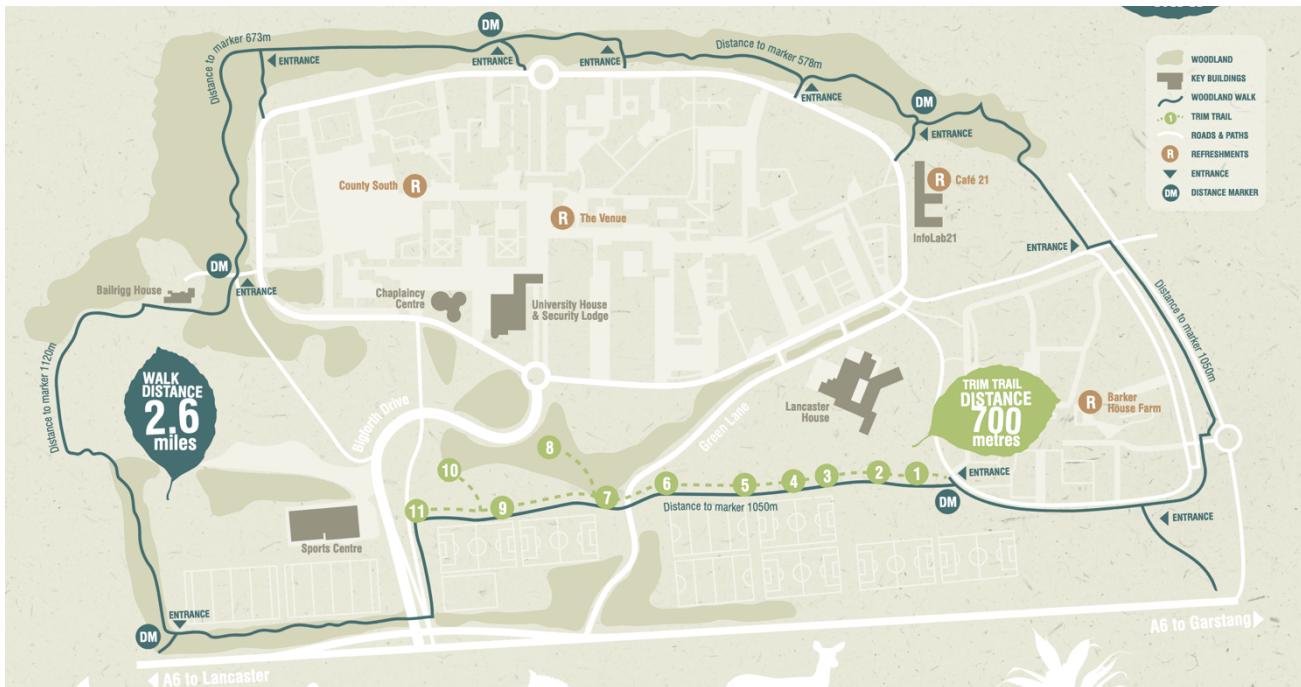
Inclusivity: The university actively celebrates diversity and inclusion through its [LGBTQIA+ calendar of events](#), which features a variety of workshops, talks, and community-building activities. These events run throughout the year and aim to create safe spaces for discussion, education, and celebration of LGBTQIA+ identities. Further, to ensure that all guests feel comfortable, Lancaster University offers [gender-neutral toilets](#) across campus.

Sports: The campus features a state-of-the-art [Sports Centre](#), which includes a [swimming pool](#), [fitness suite](#), and a range of [sports facilities](#). "Pay as you play" prices are available for you to take advantage of these amenities, so they can stay active or unwind after a busy day.

Cycling: Lancaster and its surrounding areas offer excellent opportunities for cycling enthusiasts, with well-maintained paths and connections to the National Cycle Network (NCN). The university campus itself is [cyclist-friendly](#), featuring dedicated [bike lanes and ample parking facilities](#). For those looking to explore further, several notable NCN routes are easily accessible:

- [NCN Route 6](#): This extensive route runs from London to the Lake District, passing through Lancaster.
- [NCN Route 69](#): Connecting Morecambe to Grimsby, Route 69 passes through Lancaster and offers scenic views along canals and viaducts. It's a great choice for those interested in longer rides through diverse terrains.
- [NCN Route 70](#): The "Walney to Wear" route stretches from Walney Island to Sunderland. While it doesn't pass directly through Lancaster, it intersects with other routes near the area, providing options for extended exploration.
- [NCN Route 700 \(Bay Cycle Way\)](#): This 80-mile route around Morecambe Bay is perfect for those seeking coastal views. It starts near Lancaster and is mostly signposted as Route 700, with sections on Routes 70, 6, and 69.

Green spaces: The university boasts beautiful green spaces, including surrounding gardens, and the scenic Lake Carter which has recently become home to a pair of wild otters. These areas, including a Woodland Walk and the Trim Trail around the campus perimeter (see map above), are perfect for a scenic run, a relaxing stroll, or a peaceful break.



3.2.3. Parent and child facilities

Whilst the Summer School itself is only suitable for those aged 18 and above, some guests may wish to bring their families with them. From playing in fountains to otter-spotting and running round the playing fields, we are home to a [wide array of family-friendly facilities and opportunities](#). A few are summarised here, but more can be found on the [university's webpages](#).

Dining: Most of our eateries have highchairs and serve meals suitable for children.

Playground: A play park with swings, climbing equipment, and benches is located at south campus.

Story-time: Our library contains a dedicated family-friendly area and books for children of all ages. It also has a [family study space](#), where users can go with their children to study.

Preschool: If you wish to bring preschool children, it is occasionally possible for our [Pre-school Centre](#) to accommodate children who will only stay for short periods, particularly during summer. You will need to contact the preschool in advance to make their own arrangements.

Baby care facilities: Accessible baby changing facilities for parents of all genders are provided across campus. The university is entirely breastfeeding friendly, with no restrictions on bottle or breastfeeding on-campus. A dedicated baby care and breastfeeding room can be found in Bowland North (room B078).

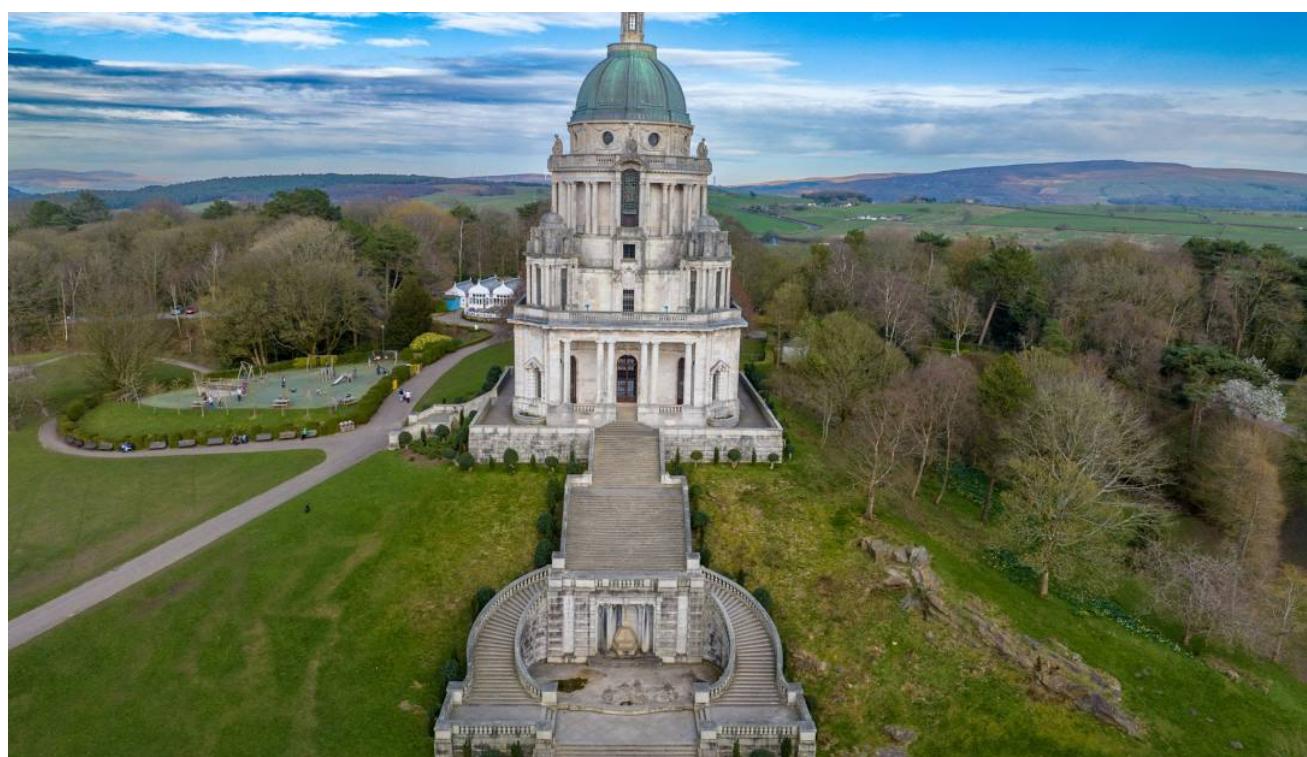
Parking: There are parent and child parking spaces at some of our facilities, including the Sports Centre. There is also accessible public transport throughout the campus.

3.3. Off-campus attractions and activities

Lancaster and Morecambe offer a wealth of attractions from historical castles to modern installations. Below are just a selection of opportunities for you to enjoy, taken from a continually updating calendar of [events](#), [activities](#), [eateries](#), and [suggested itineraries](#).

3.3.1. Lancaster city centre

Lancaster city is a short 10-minute drive or 15-minute from campus. The city centre offers a range of attractions, including historic sites, shopping areas, and charming cafés and restaurants for you to enjoy outside the conference.



Williamson Park: This beautiful 54-acre parkland is crowned by the Ashton Memorial and its panoramic views of the Fylde Coast, Morecambe Bay, and the Lake District fells and mountains. The lush gardens and walking trails make it a great spot for relaxation and outdoor activities.

The Storey: A cultural hub and arts venue located in a historic building. It hosts various exhibitions, performances, and events that showcase local talent and creativity.

Lancaster City Museum: This museum provides fascinating insights into the local history and heritage of Lancaster, with exhibits ranging from ancient artifacts to contemporary displays.

Lancaster Maritime Museum: Located by the River Lune, this museum offers exhibits on Lancaster's maritime history and connections to the sea.

The Dukes' Theatre: A renowned venue offering a diverse programme of live theatre, film screenings, and other cultural events.



Lancaster Castle: A historic fortress with stunning architecture and panoramic views of the city. The castle offers guided tours that delve into its rich history and intriguing past.

3.3.2. Surrounding areas

Morecambe: A charming seaside town just a short drive away from Lancaster. It offers a lovely promenade, sandy beaches, and a variety of seaside attractions including the Morecambe Winter Gardens and the Eric Morecambe Statue.

Lake District National Park: A bit further afield, the Lake District is renowned for its stunning natural beauty. Its scenic lakes, mountains, and picturesque villages make it an ideal destination for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers. Adventurers may wish to [explore the Lakes by bus](#).

Kendal: A historic market town known for its beautiful architecture, shops, and the Kendal Museum. It's a pleasant place to explore and enjoy some local culture and cuisine.

Silverdale and Arnside: These nearby areas offer scenic coastal walks and nature reserves. They are perfect for those looking to experience the tranquil beauty of the Lancashire coast and countryside.