

Welcome to ASA2025 Birmingham - here's the what, when and how

Dear ASA2025 Conference delegate,

With a few weeks till the start of the conference, this email aims to help you reach the university reception desk, and navigate the conference week:

Advice on recent EU traveller rules change

From 2 April 2025 EU TRAVELLERS who did not previously need additional documents to enter the UK will require an ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation). At the time of writing these cost £10 (but are due to increase in price by April) cover multiple visits to the UK and last for 2 years or until the holder's passport expires, whichever is sooner. Please check the latest information on ETAs to ensure you are prepared for your visit: [ETA Information March 2025](#). This link also has information on how to apply for an ETA.

The conference venue


The Reception desk is at the main conference venue [UoB Teaching and Learning Building](#), Birmingham B15 2SB. Coordinates: 52.45238836763988, -1.9311384999999994. You'll find it easily if you walk from the train station and just past the library. Here you can check-in to the conference and pick up your badge. Reception closes at 17:00 on the first day, but if you miss this you are still welcome to attend the Opening and welcome reception.

The conference will be using another two buildings on campus: [UoB Aston Webb Great Hall](#), Aston Webb – B Block (ground floor), R25, 142 Edgbaston Park Rd, Birmingham B15 2TS, for catering and exhibitors, and the [UoB Arts Building](#), Birmingham B15 2TS.

The University of Birmingham is in south Birmingham, Edgbaston. This is a 7 minute train ride from Birmingham New Street, or bus from elsewhere in the centre. The train station is called University (Birmingham).

From the University (Birmingham) train station, it is an approximately 7 minute walk to the Teaching and Learning Building.

 [University of Birmingham Campus Map](#)

 Accessibility info:

- [Great Hall](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Building](#)
- [Aston Webb Great Hall](#) (The direct entrance is not wheelchair accessible. But there is an accessible route via the [Bramall Music Building](#) which is just next to the Great Hall).

Arrival - where to go and when?

Depending on your arrival time, you might want to go to your accommodation first.

We have a [dedicated travel information page](#) to guide you to the conference and around Birmingham, with a [dedicated information page from the West Midlands Convention Bureau Team](#).

The first day has two panel sessions and the Buddying at ASA2025 meeting before the conference opening, make sure you know where to go by checking [the conference timetable](#).

What to bring (or procure on the spot)

1. Those not from the UK should bring an adaptor for European standard electrical sockets to be able to charge their devices (three-pronged).
2. Bring a USB or another portable device to transfer your presentation files on the day. You cannot use your own laptop to present!
3. Have some cash on you (GBP), but most cards are accepted in most places.
4. A water bottle, a hat and an umbrella (midlands weather is very unpredictable, it could be sunny one day and pouring the next!)
5. Your dancing shoes for the conference party on Thursday!

Publishers

Please go to buy books and meet the publishers in the Great Hall where the catering will be: Manchester University Press, CAP, Berghahn Books and UCL Press will be in attendance, at time of writing.

Parent and child room, quiet room, working room

- Parent and Child Space – there is a baby changing/feeding room on floor M2 of the Teaching and Learning Building
- Quiet Room – on the Upper Ground floor of the T&L building, there are 2 study spaces, which are sat behind a glass door.
- Work Space - within the Teaching and Learning Building, there are lots of seating and desks in the central foyer areas of the building, on all levels which would suit as working spaces.
- If you need a room for another reason or the same reasons as above but they're busy, please come see us in LG03 and we can find you one!

WiFi

Eduroam wireless internet is available at UoB. If you do not have Eduroam you can use the free guest WiFi network, UoBGuestWiFi. Guests will need to register before using the service. Once registered, a guest account is valid for up to 30 days.

Printing

Printing can be done on campus at the Rymans shop also marked on the conference map, down the street from the library:

[Rymans Birmingham Uni](#)

University Centre University of Birmingham

Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT

Tel: (+44) 01212 708 568

Opening times: 09:00-17:00 on weekdays.

ASA2025 Reception desk and conference office (NomadIT) opening hours

The Reception desks are located in the Lower Ground Floor foyer of the Teaching and Learning Building (TLB). When checking-in, a team of helpful volunteers in conference t-shirts will verify your registration and, if all is in order, give you:

- your badge (with party ticket if you've bought one - printed on as a dance icon 🕺)
- (STRICTLY OPTIONAL) a printed summary of the main events, panel titles and maps

Reception desk opening hours

Tue: 11:00-17:00, Wed: 08:00-16:00, Thu: 08:00-16:00, Fri: 08:00-12:30

The conference (NomadIT) office opening hours

Tue: 11:00-17:00, Wed: 08:00-16:00, Thu: 08:00-16:00, Fri: 08:00-12:30

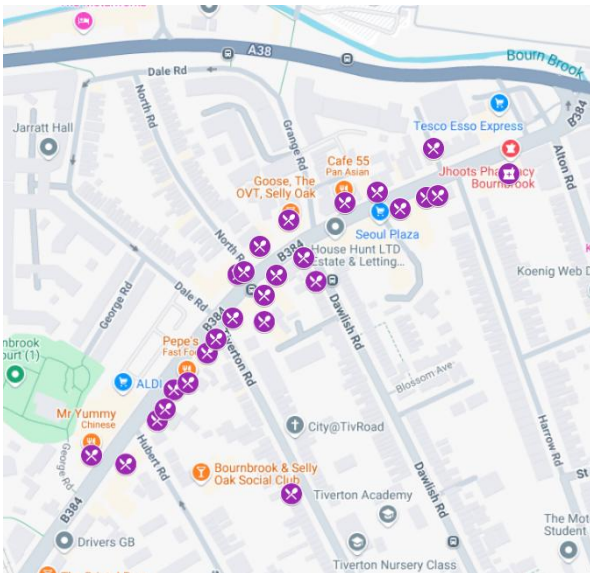
Please do not try to check in at the Reception desk before it opens or after it has closed.

If you are yet to settle the fees: PLEASE, pretty please - try to do that prior to 4 April by card or inform us as soon as possible of the special circumstances why you need to pay at the conference. *We can't guarantee that bank transfers made from this point will be resolved on time for the conference, so we advise against them at this stage.*

Those needing to settle their conference fees will need to come to the **Conference organisers' (NomadIT) office called LG03** (also on the lower ground floor, near reception), they can receive their pamphlet and badge from the Reception desk only after the debt is settled. The office is small and full of stressed Nomads, so for the sake of public health, safety and hygiene I implore that you all settle the fees before the event...

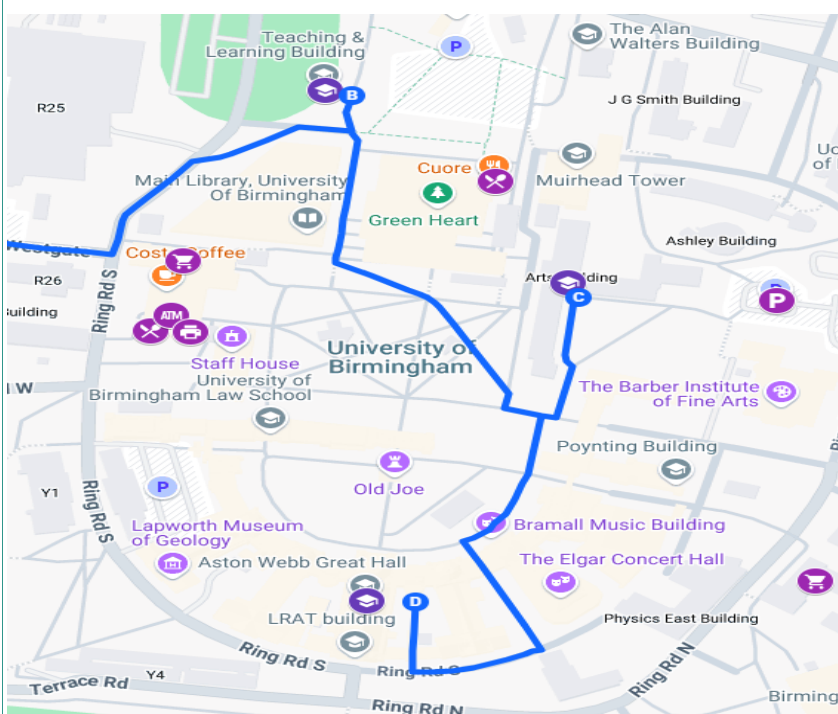
catering

On Tuesday there is no lunch, but coffee and nibbles will be served in the Teaching and Learning Building between sessions, along with finger food and wine at the opening reception in the evening. We do recommend you have a look in nearby [Harborne and Selly Oak for restaurants](#) if you're hungry at lunch time: there are plenty and they are designed for student budgets!



Lunch and coffee from Wednesday, along with the Book Exhibit, will take place at the Aston Webb Great Hall, across the university green from the TLB and Arts Building. [It takes approximately 7 minutes to walk there.](#)

[You can find this map on the travel page](#): point B is the Teaching and Learning Building, C the Arts Building, and point D is the Aston Webb Great Hall. The campus is fully wheelchair accessible and the walk is across a green space. There will be volunteers who can help you find the Great Hall.



The Programme

Those presenting

Please have any files you wish to present on your portable device (or USB) and bring to your panel room 15 minutes before the session, to upload and check. **You cannot present from your own computer as the hybrid equipment is set to work only with the room's main computer.** A Zoom session will be running (for your panel) on the room's computer, so when you wish to show your files you will need to use the Zoom share-screen function, so that both those in the room and online will be able to see your files and you. Please remember that the audience is both in the room and in Zoom. There will be a student volunteer team member present to assist - all will be well.

Those convening/chairing

Please arrive 15 mins early for your panel to meet the conference volunteer who will start the panel's Zoom on the room's computer and just go over the hybrid aspect. Presenters will arrive early to upload their presentations to the presentation computer, and remote presenters will want to also do a quick tech check. Please ensure you've read [these guidelines](#) and do your best to treat all participants (online as well as f2f) fairly.

Strict time-keeping is crucial to a good conference and is one of your responsibilities as convenor or chair: please ensure that each presenter gets their fair share of the time and do not run over into the breaks.

Online access to panels

F2f delegates can also access online, so if you have to miss a day or session for any reason, you can join online! Unless panels opt out on the day, most will also be recorded, so you can revisit these recordings whenever you like.

Ensure you are logged in on the congress website as links to virtual rooms will then be visible on the day of the panel/event within timetable items and on panel pages (beneath the abstract). A button will appear saying Enter Session.

We are sending detailed guidance on this to everyone next week, so bear with us a little longer; in the meanwhile we have a [great instruction page on the conference info page!](#)

Labs

ASA2025 conference once again includes a great array of Laboratories. As Labs often involve a limited number of participants/attendees, we recommend [booking your place with the lab convenors and reading up on the planned activities.](#)

Some are in panel sessions and others are the lunch break: make sure you have a good look at the timetable to not miss out on interesting content!

At the event: please don't feel discouraged from trying to attend a lab during the conference even if you didn't pre-register as sometimes pre-registered colleagues do not turn up, but be aware that this format has some restrictions and do not be upset if there's no place.

Film programme

The ASA2025 film call had a very high number of submissions this year and we are pleased to have a packed programme each lunch time, and on Thursday evening. [Please peruse the list of films on the programme and note the times to make the most of your conference participation.](#)

Conference Party

The conference party will take place on Thursday evening, at Joe's Bar, which is also on campus! Joe's Bar is a vibrant student bar hired out for the purposes of the party, [it is located at the Guild of Students building](#), behind the Arts Building across a little bridge. **Tickets are purchasable with conference registration, if you've already registered and would like to add a ticket, please email us, we have tickets available!**

The evening will feature musical curation inspired by Birmingham's migrant history as well as the Levantine focus of the catering. After the meal, the music will intensify into a dance party for the rest of the night. The catering is supplied by Damascena, Taking its name from the 'Damascus Rose', Damascena offers an authentic Middle Eastern taste: the menu will feature a variety of mezze, flatbreads and salads.

Useful info

Emergency contact details

- Conference email: conference@theasa.org (yes, we check this constantly 😊)
- Conference phone number: +44 07984 664 741.
- Emergency services in the UK number: 999.
- For minor health concerns or questions you can call 111 and they will advise if you should see a pharmacist or a doctor, and even book a doctor for you!
- The nearest pharmacy is Jhoots Pharmacy Bournbrook, Unit 2, 480 Bristol Rd, Bournbrook, Birmingham B29 6BD

Making use of your portable device

- Given that the programme inevitably changes after we go to press, we suggest using your portable device to check the [conference website](#). You can click on the star next to programme items to keep track of things you want to see, building a little schedule for yourself.
- Conference news will be posted from ASA Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/theasainfo/>) and X (@theasainfo) accounts - so make sure you like/follow those.
- The conference hashtag is #ASA2025

Travel safely!

Yours,

Carlotta – with Triinu & the NomadIT team