



University of Nottingham, UK
Tuesday 25th to Friday 28th August 2026



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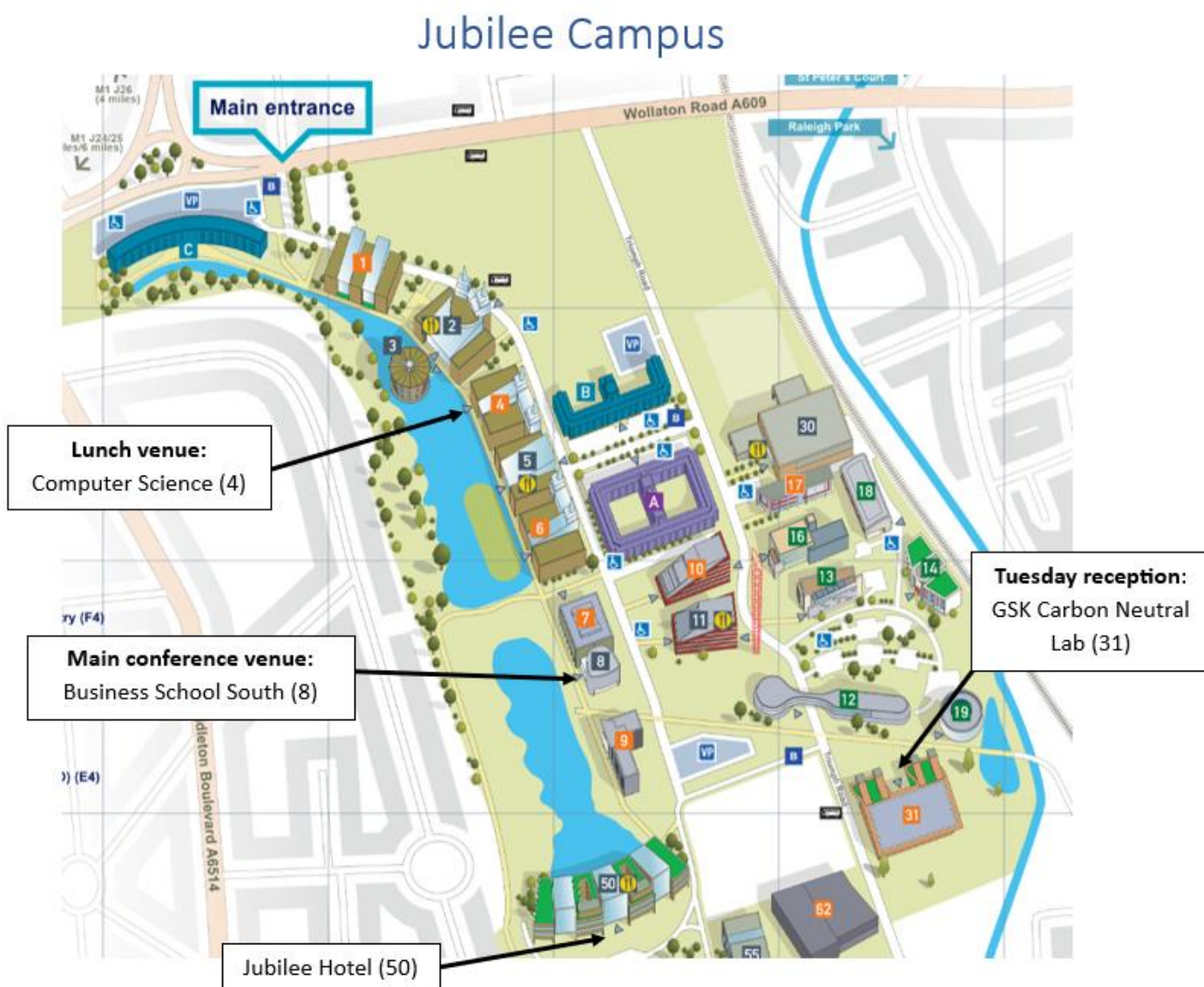
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Conference venue locations and map

Registration and Tuesday reception will be held in the **GSK Carbon Neutral Laboratory for Sustainable Chemistry (building 31)**: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/4NckbENutk3Dp55F6>

The main conference venue is the **Business School South Building (Auditorium Entrance - building 8)**. All the talks and plenary sessions, as well as the registration on Wednesday morning and all the coffee breaks, will be held here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/hg5RYav9P5c2AccQ7>

Lunches on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will be served in the **Computer Science Building (building 4)**, room A07 on the ground floor: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Tj1mCpnKCqoag3BJ9>



Social events



Wednesday dinner will be served in **Fothergills Restaurant** in the city centre (5-7 Castle Rd, Nottingham NG1 6AA): <https://maps.app.goo.gl/BWYcBzzwhRnZUJTv19>. There will be a coach from the conference venue to Fothergills Restaurant, leaving at 18:45 from the Business School South Building, but **no return travel arrangements to the conference venue will be provided**.

The Thursday banquet will be held at **Wollaton Hall** (Nottingham NG8 2AE): <https://maps.app.goo.gl/dMYcFy9tm2HBKbZ9A>. There will be a coach from the conference venue to Wollaton Hall, leaving at 18:00 from the Business School South Building. There **will be transport provided from Wollaton Hall back to the conference venue at 22:00**, with a stop provided in the city centre ([Theatre Royal & Royal Concert Hall](#)) for those staying at hotels in Nottingham.

Friday walking tour will start outside the Nottingham Contemporary Museum: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/vbkcx29mQKv92i549>. There will be a coach from the conference venue to the tour starting location, leaving the Business School South Building at 15:00.

Optional Saturday social trip to Stratford-upon-Avon (registration required)



For those who registered, there will be an additional social trip to Stratford-upon-Avon on Saturday 29 August. Stratford-upon-Avon is a picturesque market town famous for being the birthplace of William Shakespeare. The trip includes a coach to Stratford-upon-Avon, a guided tour, a visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace, a river cruise, lunch and a coach back to Nottingham.

The coach will **leave the Business School South building at 9:30am on Saturday**, returning at approximately 16:30.

Plenary talks

Wednesday 26th August, 09:15, Room A25 Business School South

Hana Rudová, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic



Hana Rudová is an associate professor at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, where she works on scheduling and routing problems and serves as the head of the Department of Machine Learning and Data Processing. Her work is inspired by real-life problems arising from practice, and she concentrates on approaches that enable the solution of practical problems, such as course timetabling in the UniTime system, vehicle routing with Wereldo company, warehouse planning with Notino company, or computer job scheduling in the CERIT national infrastructure. She is the associate editor of the Journal of Scheduling, a member of the SoCS Council, and a member of the PATAT Steering Committee. She co-chaired the Symposium on Combinatorial Search 2025 and the PATAT 2006 conference in her hometown, as well as several Application tracks at the ICAPS conference. She co-organized the International Timetabling Competition (ITC 2019) with almost 700 registered users from 80 countries, preparing benchmarks from ten universities on five continents.

Title: Elegance of Simplicity: Designing Metaheuristics for Real-World Applications

Abstract: Metaheuristics serve as the primary building blocks for modern industrial solvers and complex optimization engines. While their flexibility allows for rapid integration into both academic frameworks and practical software, the pursuit of performance often leads to their over-engineered designs. Beyond that, we emphasize the idea of simplicity and simplification in algorithm design as the keys to generality and robustness. Drawing on a wide range of successful applications, we show how distilling algorithms to their core principles leads to better outcomes. We present case studies across several optimization challenges: implementing slack induction by string removals in vehicle routing, utilizing iterative forward search in course timetabling, and applying local search in grid scheduling and warehouse planning. Furthermore, we discuss how cross-domain hyper-heuristics benefit from this philosophy. With a focus on robust performance across diverse and complex domains, designing simple(r) algorithms can advance the current state of the art.

Thursday 27th August, 09:15, Room A25 Business School South

Kevin Tierney, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria



Kevin Tierney is currently Professor of Production and Logistics at the University of Vienna in Austria. He was previously Professor of Decision and Operation Technologies at Bielefeld University in Germany and Assistant Professor of Decision Support Systems and Operations Research at Paderborn University in Germany. His PhD is from the IT University of Copenhagen in Denmark where he wrote his thesis on optimizing liner shipping fleet repositioning. His work focuses on the intersection of machine learning and optimization, specifically how to make optimization solvers faster and data-driven through the integration of modern machine learning techniques. His work has won best paper awards at GECCO, ECAI and from the EURO for best review paper at EJOR. He has won multiple competitions with his work, including both tracks at the IJCAI AI4TSP competition and multiple awards at the MaxSAT Evaluation 2016. He is currently the coordinator of the MSCA Doctoral Network "Confident Data-Driven Decision Support (CoRDS)."

Title: Automated Heuristic Discovery: from Deep Reinforcement Learning to Large Language Models

Abstract: Designing high-performance heuristics is a complex task that requires both intuition and deep domain knowledge. Recent advances in deep reinforcement learning (DRL) and large language models (LLMs) have led to new ways of creating heuristics that rival the performance of state-of-the-art human-designed approaches. In this talk, I introduce these new mechanisms for heuristic design and describe their advantages and limitations, with a focus on routing and scheduling problems. The talk will include two methods: Neural Deconstruction Search, an approach harnessing DRL to learn policies for constructing routing and scheduling solutions, and VRPAgent, an evolutionary approach to generate novel routing heuristics.

Thursday 27th August, 13:15, Room A25 Business School South

David Pisinger, Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark



David Pisinger is professor in operations research at DTU Management. David graduated in mathematics and computer science in 1990, and finished his PhD at University of Copenhagen in 1995. His main research topics include; metaheuristics, transportation problems, machine learning in optimization, and offshore wind farm design. He has written more than 100 papers in leading journals, and a monograph on Knapsack Problems. David Pisinger received the PhD prize of the Danish Academy of Natural Sciences in 1995 for his thesis on Knapsack Problems. Moreover he received the Hedorfs Fonds prize for Transport Research 2013; award of teaching excellence Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Copenhagen 2000; and the Teaching Prize at DTU Management in 2016, 2024. He received the Glover-Klingman prize in 2018, and in 2019 he was one of the finalists for the Franz Edelman Award. In 2022 he received an ERC advanced grant for the project "DECIDE". David has supervised more than 30 PhD students, many of which have received awards and distinctions. He is Area editor of

Transportation Science, and Associate editor of TR-C and FLEX. Having a background in Knapsack Problems, David can be recognized on always wearing a knapsack.

Title: Stochastic ALNS for Two-Stage Stochastic Routing and Scheduling Problems

Abstract: We present a general local search framework for scenario-based two-stage combinatorial stochastic programming problems. The framework is based on Adaptive Large Neighborhood Search (ALNS), where an upper-level local search method operates on the first-stage decision variables, while a number of lower-level local search methods optimize the individual scenarios. As a demonstration of the Stochastic ALNS algorithm, the framework is tested on the two-stage stochastic Prize-collecting Vehicle Routing Problem, and stochastic Team Orienteering Problem. In all problems, the customers, demands and travel times can be stochastic as long as they can be represented by a number of scenarios. Computational experiments show that the algorithm scales well with the number of scenarios, making it possible to solve instances with up to 1000 customers in short time.

Friday 28th August, 09:15, Room A25 Business School South

Jeroen Mulder, Air France-KLM, France



Jeroen Mulder is Innovation Lead at KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, working within the Technical Innovation department. He holds a PhD in algebraic geometry and has more than 25 years of experience as an operations research analyst and data scientist. Throughout his career at Air France–KLM, he has developed simulation, optimization, and statistical models for multiple business domains, including the Operations Control Centre, Hub Control Centre, Engineering & Maintenance, and Revenue Management. Jeroen spent five years in Paris as part of the French Operations Research team, where he contributed to the development of forecasting and optimization models for the joint Air France–KLM Revenue Management system. In his current role, he focuses on accelerating innovation across Air France–KLM by exploring emerging technologies and carefully balancing their potential benefits and risks. His work includes initiatives in Generative AI and quantum technologies, often in collaboration with academic and industry partners. Alongside his professional activities, Jeroen conducts personal research at the intersection of physics and mathematics.

His work explores the deep connections between thermodynamics and mathematical optimization, as well as between quantum physics and statistics, aiming to better understand how physical principles can inform decision-making and algorithm design.

Title: Toward Resilient Airline Planning: From Fleet Planning to Operations Control

Abstract: Airlines make thousands of interconnected decisions across different planning horizons, ranging from long-term fleet and network planning to real-time operational control. While each planning process has traditionally been optimized in isolation, increasing operational complexity and uncertainty call for a more integrated perspective on resilience. Drawing on insights from an ongoing research collaboration, initiated through the Kickstart.AI program, between Air France-KLM, Utrecht University, and the University of Twente, this presentation places a series of research projects within the broader context of the airline planning process. Through practical case studies, it highlights three recurring themes: accounting for interdependencies across planning processes, explicitly incorporating uncertainty into planning models, and developing customized optimization methods tailored to the unique characteristics of airline planning.

Conference schedule

Key:	Room A25	Room A24
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Tuesday 25th August

18:00-21:00	Conference registration and Welcome Reception at GSK Carbon Neutral Laboratory for Sustainable Chemistry
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Wednesday 26th August

08:30-09:00	Conference registration (Business School South Building foyer)	
09:00-09:15	Conference opening - Room A25	
09:15-10:15	Plenary talk: Hana Rudová <i>Elegance of Simplicity: Designing Metaheuristics for Real-World Applications</i>	
10:15-10:45	Coffee break	
10:45-12:00	University Timetabling I Chair: Andrea Schaerf 10:45 514 : Extending the Minimal Perturbation Problem with Disruptiveness Weighting for Dynamic University Timetabling <i>Helen Kirby-Hawkins</i> 11:10 1306 : Integrative Hybrid Local Search with a Restart Strategy for University Course Timetabling with Student Sectioning <i>Mingxuan Li, Thomas Weise, Sina Abdipoor, Jourdan D'Orville, Say Leng Goh, Razali Yaakob and Salwani Abdullah</i> 11:35 5196 : New Insights into Local Search for Curriculum-Based Course Timetabling <i>Sara Ceschia, Francesca Da Ros, Luca Di Gaspero and Andrea Schaerf</i>	Healthcare Scheduling I Chair: Greet Vanden Berghe 10:45 1625 : Synthetic Instance Generation for the Radiotherapy Scheduling Problem <i>Chiara Camilla Rambaldi Migliore, Nysret Musliu, Giovanni Iacca and Marco Roveri</i> 11:10 9267 : The Integrated Healthcare Timetabling Competition 2024: Insights, Benchmarking and Algorithmic Trends <i>Sara Ceschia, Roberto Maria Rosati, Andrea Schaerf, Pieter Smet, Greet Vanden Berghe and Eugenia Zanzotto</i> 11:35 2057 : Modular Constraint Injection from Natural Language for CP-Based Scheduling <i>Florian Strohm, Patrick Wagner, Jannik Schwab and Marco Huber</i>
	12:00-13:15 Lunch (Computer Science, A07)	
	University Timetabling II Chair: Ahmed Kheiri 13:15 2144 : Educational Timetabling with Unconstrained Demand Forecasting <i>Olivia Phillips, Dima Nazzal and Joel Sokol</i> 13:40 3803 : MounouZinc: A MiniZinc-Based University Timetabling Tool Integrating AI Optimization and Web Automation <i>Tony Rouhayem, Youssef Bakouny, Laurent Drapeau and Melhem El Helou</i>	Healthcare Scheduling II Chair: Pieter Smet 13:15 4089 : Assignment and Routing in the Home Health Care Problem <i>Shihhung Su and Chiu-Yuan Chen</i> 13:40 3116 : A Hybrid Adaptive Metaheuristic-based Q-Learning Approach for the Home Healthcare Routing and Scheduling Problem <i>Yun-Chia Liang, Angela Hsiang-Ling Chen, Sebastian Gunawan, Vanny Minanda</i>

	14:05 7072 : Mathematical Techniques for Evaluating University Timetabling Policies <i>Matthew Davison, Ahmed Kheiri and Konstantinos G. Zografos</i>	14:05 1722 : Evaluating Predict-then-Optimize methods for surgical case planning <i>Pieter Smet and David Kirpekar-Sauer</i>
14:30-14:50	Coffee break	
14:50-16:05	University Timetabling III Chair: Tomas Muller 14:50 2307 : Reasoning about University Study Regulations Module-based Student Constraints and Preferences in Answer Set Programming <i>Henry Otunuya and Sebastian Schellhorn</i> 15:15 4431 : Untis Course Optimization for Finnish High Schools <i>Lukas Wolf</i> 15:40 4620 : Instructor Scheduling in UniTime <i>Tomas Muller</i>	Transport Optimisation I Chair: Nysret Musliu 14:50 58 : Automated Verification of Pruning Rules for Runway Sequencing <i>Toby Clark, Jason Atkin and Geert De Maere</i> 15:15 3061 : Case Study: An Integrated Airport Security Planning Approach Using Simulated Annealing and Minimum Cost Flow <i>Hicham Kamhi and Lotte Berghman</i> 15:40 1761 : Decomposition Techniques for the Aircraft Maintenance Routing Problem <i>Ida Gjergji, Lucas Kletzander, Hendrik Bierlee, Nysret Musliu and Peter J. Stuckey</i>
16:05-16:25	Coffee break	
16:25-18:05	Sports Scheduling Chair: Dries Goossens 16:25 6210 : The Incomplete Traveling Tournament Problem <i>David Van Bulck, Karel Devriesere and Dries Goossens</i> 16:50 2912 : Novel neighborhood structures for incomplete round robin tournaments <i>Karel Devriesere, David Van Bulck and Dries Goossens</i> 17:15 5811 : Fairness-aware opponent assignment in sports timetabling with fixed home dates <i>Ali Hassanzadeh</i>	Transport Optimisation II Chair: Thomas Stidsen 16:25 6987 : Data-Driven Merge Point Selection in Dynamic Aircraft Arrival Routes Optimization <i>Roghayeh Hajizadeh, Maksym Moroz, Tatiana Polishchuk, Elina Rönnberg and Christiane Schmidt</i> 16:50 447 : An Iterative Model Reduction Method and a Constraint Programming Formulation for the Train Dispatching Problem <i>László Kálmán Trautsch and Bence Kovari</i> 17:15 2941 : Configuration Support for Lexicographic Multi-Objective Scheduling: A Framework Applied to Electric Vehicle Charging <i>Laurenz Tomandl, Günther Raidl, Tobias Rodemann and Steffen Limmer</i>

	17:40 3354 : Branch-Price-and-Cut and Symmetry Reductions for Sports Tournament Scheduling <i>Jasper van Doornmalen and David Van Bulck</i>	17:40 9232 : Mathematical Optimization of the Rail Infrastructure Planning Timetable <i>Alexander Heide Madsen, Victor Alexander Brandsen and Thomas Stidsen</i>
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19:00-20:30	Pub social activity (Fothergills Restaurant – 5-7 Castle Rd, Nottingham NG1 6AA ; coach from Business School South at 18:45)
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Thursday 27th August

09:00-09:15	Announcements - Room A25	
09:15-10:15	Plenary talk: Kevin Tierney <i>Automated Heuristic Discovery: from Deep Reinforcement Learning to Large Language Models</i>	
10:15-10:45	Coffee break	
10:45-12:00	Personnel Scheduling Chair: Lucas Kletzander 10:45 1235 : Personnel Rostering in a Public Library: A Case Study <i>Bruno Chinaglia, Douglas Nascimento, Greet Vanden Berghe and Franklina Toledo</i> 11:10 7675 : Including Human Centered Objectives into Train Crew Rostering Algorithms <i>Veerle van den Hurk, Erwin Abbink, Marjan van den Akker and Egon L. van den Broek</i> 11:35 3663 : Multi-Contract Integrated Shift Design and Rostering <i>Lucas Kletzander</i>	Routing & Logistics Chair: Daniel Torres Ruiz 10:45 141 : Iterated Local Search for the Trigger Arc Travelling Salesman Problem <i>Admir Kadriu and Kadri Sylejmani</i> 11:10 5076 : A Bandit-Based Reinforcement Learning Simulated Annealing for the Omnichannel Last-Mile Distribution <i>Vincent F. Yu, Renan S. Maglasang, Aldy Gunawan, Ching-Hsuan Lin, Kuan-Fu Chen and Shih-Wei Lin</i> 11:35 6705 : Online Outperforms Offline: Reinforcement Learning Hyper-Heuristics for Vehicle Routing <i>Daniel Torres Ruiz, Daniel Karapetyan, Ender Ozcan and Rong Qu</i>
12:00-13:15	Lunch (Computer Science, A07)	
13:15-14:15	Plenary talk: David Pisinger <i>Stochastic ALNS for Two-Stage Stochastic Routing and Scheduling Problems</i>	
14:15-14:35	Coffee break	
14:35-15:50	General Scheduling I Chair: Kadri Sylejmani 14:35 4880 : Scheduling with No-Wait Decisions in Heavily Loaded TSN Networks <i>Jesper Vines, Hannes Uppman, Mikaela Lindberg and Elina Rönnberg</i> 15:00	Schools & Educational Planning I Chair: Alfred Nchimbi 14:35 4503 : Instance Space Analysis for Modular High School Timetabling <i>Andreas Krystallidis, Rubén Ruiz-Torrubiano and Nysret Musliu</i> 15:00

	6597: Weighted Spearman Phenotypic Characterization for Surrogate-Assisted Genetic Programming in Dynamic Vehicle Scheduling <i>Leshan Tan, Chenwei Jin, Xinan Chen, Rong Qu and Ruibin Bai</i> 15:25 9963: An Iterated Local Search Approach for One-Sided Crossing Minimization <i>Labeat Arbnesi and Kadri Sylejmani</i>	8268: A Three-Phase Framework for Course Planning and Timetabling in Upper Secondary Schools with Self-Directed Learning <i>Michael Hölscher</i> 15:25 4766: Establishing a National Academic Timetabling Coordination Framework: The Case of the Forum for Tanzania Academic Timetable Coordinators (FTATC) in Tanzania <i>Neema Kumburu, Alfred Nchimbi and Victoria Kessy</i>
15:50-16:10	Coffee break	
16:10-17:25	General Scheduling II Chair: Gerhard Post 16:10 8479: Smart TV Scheduling in Public Venues: A New Combinatorial Problem and Optimization Approaches <i>Shefket Bylygbashi, Fisnik Hazrolli, Endrita Vllasaliu, Eljon Shala, Yll Berisha, Kaltrina Krasniqi, Kadri Sylejmani, Labeat Arbnesi and Uran Lajqi</i> 16:35 6687: Constraint Learning and Schedule Proposal via Transformers for the Nurse Scheduling Problem <i>Walid Abdelaïdoun, Mohamed A. Madani, Larbi Boubchir and Boubaker Daachi</i> 17:00 7630: From the Field between Theory and Practice in Scheduling <i>Gerhard Post</i>	Schools & Educational Planning II Chair: Nilgun Sengoz 16:10 4951: A Demonstration of an Integrated Project Management and Demo Scheduling Platform <i>Neel Gaglani and Ender Özcan</i> 16:35 8723: Improved bounds and solutions for the invigilator assignment problem <i>Reinout Annaert</i> 17:00 3802: Large Language Model-Based Explainable Hyper-heuristics for Examination Timetabling <i>Nilgun Sengoz, Ender Ozcan and Jeremie Clos</i>
18:00-18:15	Coach from Business School South to Wollaton Hall	
18:30-22:00	Conference banquet (Wollaton Hall – Nottingham NG8 2AE)	
dep. 22:00	Coach from Wollaton Car Park to the Business School South and Nottingham city centre (Theatre Royal & Royal Concert Hall)	

Friday 28th August

09:00-09:15	Announcements - Room A25	
09:15-10:15	Plenary talk: Jeroen Mulder <i>Toward Resilient Airline Planning: From Fleet Planning to Operations Control</i>	
10:15-10:45	Coffee break	
10:45-12:00	Nurse Rostering I Chair: Jeffrey Kingston 10:45 3837 : Fast roster generation for single-nurse rostering problems <i>Robin Tourlamain, Pieter Smet and Greet Vanden Berghe</i> 11:10 6079 : Fair allocation of over- and understaffed shifts in nurse rostering <i>Lisa Garcia Tercero, Pieter Smet, Dries Goossens and Greet Vanden Berghe</i> 11:35 2000 : KHE26: Progress towards an Efficient, Practical Nurse Rostering Solver <i>Jeffrey Kingston</i>	Production & Manufacturing Scheduling I Chair: Felix Winter 10:45 1336 : A Genetic Algorithm with Surrogate-Assisted Dynamic Programming for Maintenance Constrained Parallel Machine Scheduling <i>Fatima Iken, Abdenmour Azerine, Mahmoud Golabi and Lhassane Idoumghar</i> 11:10 5546 : A Hyperbolic Multi-Strategy Search Framework for Flexible Job Shop Scheduling <i>Wirawati Dewi Ahmad, Azuraliza Abu Bakar and Mohd Nor Akmal Khalid</i> 11:35 4088 : Large Neighborhood Search for Generalized Parallel Machine Scheduling <i>Lukas Frühwirth, Nysret Musliu and Felix Winter</i>
12:00-13:15	Lunch (Computer Science, A07)	
13:15-14:05	Nurse Rostering II Chair: Wei Wu 13:15 6337 : Refining self-scheduled rosters with limited changes and blocks <i>Qing Chuan Ye</i> 13:40 7789 : Simultaneous Optimization of Two-Shift and Three-Shift Nurse Rosters with Infection-Risk-Based Transition <i>Mio Hourai, Wei Wu and Mutsunori Yagiura</i>	Production & Manufacturing Scheduling II Chair: Tal Grinshpoun 13:15 5708 : Explaining Infeasibility in the Test Laboratory Scheduling Problem <i>Aida Aliu, Florian Mischek and Nysret Musliu</i> 13:40 7346 : Reentrant Permutation Flow Shop Problems with the Total Completion Time Objective <i>Itamar Segal, Tal Grinshpoun, Hagai Ilani and Elad Shufan</i>
14:05-14:20	Conference closing - Room A25	
14:20-15:00	Coffee break	
15:30-17:30	Guided walking tour of Nottingham (starting outside the Nottingham Contemporary Museum ; coach from Business School South at 15:00)	

Saturday 29th August (optional trip - registration required)

09:30-11:00	Coach from the Business School South Building
11:00-12:20	Guided walking tour in Stratford-upon-Avon
12:20-13:00	Visit William Shakespeare's Birthplace Museum
13:00-14:00	Lunch and free time
14:00-14:45	River cruise
14:45-15:00	Walking back to the coach stop
15:00-16:30	Coach back to the Business School South Building

Instructions for presenters and chairs

All presentations will take place in Room A24 and A25 of the Business School South Building. You will find all parallel sessions and talks in the detailed programme.

- **Plenary talks:** 45 minutes + 15 minutes for Q&A.
- **Parallel sessions:** 20 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&A.

Each session has a chair, who is part of the last presentation. We kindly ask the Chair to collect all presentations onto one laptop **before the session begins**. Please **locate and present yourself to your session chair**.

Please double check the timeslot of your presentation, since minor changes are still possible.