

2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

JANUARY

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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MARCH

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

APRIL

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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MAY

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JUNE

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JULY

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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AUGUST

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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SEPTEMBER

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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OCTOBER

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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NOVEMBER

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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DECEMBER

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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30	31					

Cultural events

*Orthodox Christmas 𐄇
7 January

*Losar (Tibetan New Year) 𐄇
Lunar New Year 𐄇
10-12 February

*Ash Wednesday – Lent begins †
14 February

*Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras AU
16 February – 3 March

Ramadan 𐄇
9 March – 8 April

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 𐄇
21 March

*Holi 𐄇
25 March

*Eid al-Fitr (or Id al-Fitr or Eid ul-Fitr) 𐄇
9-10 April

Baisakhi, Bengali, Sinhalese, Tamil, Thai and Lao New Year 𐄇
14 April

Passover (Pesach) 𐄇
22-30 April

Vesak 𐄇
23 May

National Reconciliation Week AU
27 May – 3 June

Shavuot 𐄇
11-13 June

*Eid al-Adha 𐄇
16-20 June

Awal Muharram 𐄇
6-7 July

National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week AU
7-14 July

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 𐄇
9 August

*Rosh Hashanah 𐄇
2-4 October

*Yom Kippur 𐄇
11-12 October

Vijayadashami 𐄇
12 October

Sukkot (Tabernacles) Shemini Atzeret Simchat Torah 𐄇
16-25 October

*Diwali (also known as Deepavali) 𐄇
1 November

Hanukkah 𐄇
25 December – 2 January 2025

CULTURAL EVENT KEY

- AU Australian
- 𐄇 Buddhist
- † Christian
- 𐄇 Hindu
- 𐄇 International
- 𐄇 Islamic
- 𐄇 Jewish
- 𐄇 Orthodox Christian

NSW school term dates

Term 1
1 February – 12 April

Term 2
29 April – 5 July

Term 3
22 July – 27 September

Term 4
14 October – 20 December

Public holidays

New Year's Day
1 January 2024

Australia Day
26 January

Good Friday
29 March

Easter Saturday
30 March

Easter Sunday
31 March

Easter Monday
1 April

ANZAC Day
25 April

King's Birthday
10 June

Labour Day
7 October

Christmas Day
25 December

Boxing Day
26 December

Calendar key

- Semester 1
19 February – 15 June
- Semester 2
29 July – 23 November
- 1 Teaching weeks
19 February – 24 May
29 July – 1 November
- Semester census dates
2 April and 2 September
- Examinations
3-15 June
11-23 November
- Public holiday
- Study vacation (STUVAC)
27-31 May
4-8 November
- Mid-semester break
1-5 April
30 September – 4 October
- Welcome program
5-16 February
22 July – 2 August

*Dates when observant staff are most likely to take leave
See reverse for full description of cultural events.
NB: All Jewish holidays begin the evening prior to the date shown.

Dates are subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit sydney.edu.au/key-dates

This calendar aims to raise awareness of key cultural and religious events observed by members of the University community. It also highlights some national and international days of significance that relate to cultural diversity, First Peoples and the LGBTQIA+ community.

While it is not exhaustive, the calendar is intended to support staff to be inclusive when planning and scheduling key events and meetings. In particular, it highlights dates relating to the most commonly practiced religions in Australia (Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism), which may have work restrictions for those who observe them.

Cultural event descriptions

7 January
Orthodox Christmas ✝

Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas Day by the Julian calendar. It is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

10–12 February
Losar (Tibetan New Year) ✨
Lunar New Year 🌕

Celebrated by Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist practitioners. Each Lunar year is associated with an animal sign according to the Lunar zodiac cycle, which features 12 animal signs in the order Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig.

14 February
Ash Wednesday – Lent begins ✝

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar, traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. It begins with Ash Wednesday.

16 February – 3 March
Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras AU

Taking place annually since 1978, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is a month-long festival celebrating the vitality of the LGBTQIA+ community with cultural events held at historically significant sites across Eora Country.

9 March – 8 April
Ramadan 🌙

The holy month of Ramadan begins with the first light of dawn commemorating the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. During Ramadan Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

21 March
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 🌐

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” The day is an opportunity to reflect on our collective responsibility for promoting and protecting this ideal.

25 March
Holi 🙏

A joyous spring Hindu festival that is dedicated to Krishna or Kama. People throw coloured water or coloured powder in celebration.

9–10 April
Eid al-Fitr (or Id al-Fitr or Eid ul-Fitr) 🌙

An important religious holiday that celebrates the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Also known as the festival of the ‘Breaking of the Fast.’

13–15 April
Baisakhi, Bengali, Sinhalese, Tamil, Thai and Lao New Year 🙏 ✨

Baisakhi is an ancient harvest festival which marks the beginning of a new solar year and harvest season. Pohela Boisakh marks the first day of the Bangla Calendar. This festival is known as Puthandu among Tamil and Aluth Avurudda among Sinhalese. Songkran is the Thai and Lao New Year and Water Festival, from 13 April– 15 April in 2023.

22–30 April
Passover (Pesach) ✨

Celebrates the redemption of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. Many Jews refrain from work during the whole festival, or at least for the first two days.

23 May
Vesak ✨

Vesak, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima and Buddha Day, commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha in Theravada, Tibetan Buddhism and Navayana.

27 May – 3 June
National Reconciliation Week AU

National Reconciliation Week celebrates and builds on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

11–13 June
Shavuot ✨

Shavuot is a Jewish celebration of Moses’ descent from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments. It is the second of the Jewish pilgrim festivals.

16–20 June
Eid al-Adha 🌙

The celebration concluding the Hajj. The Feast of Sacrifice commemorates the ordeal of Ibrahim (Abraham) who was asked to sacrifice his only son to prove his faith.

6–7 July
Awal Muharram 🌙

New Islamic Lunar Year.

7–14 July
National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week AU

NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.

9 August
International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 🌐

The United Nations’ annual International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples encourages people to spread the UN’s message on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous peoples.

2–4 October
Rosh Hashanah ✨

The Jewish New Year festival.

11–12 October
Yom Kippur ✨

This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with fasting and intensive prayer. Many Jews will refrain from work and attend synagogue services.

12 October
Vijayadashami 🙏

Vijayadashami, also known as Dussehra or Dashain, is a major Hindu festival celebrated at the end of Navaratri every year.

16–23 October
Sukkot (Tabernacles)

23–25 October
Shemini Atzeret

24–25 October
Simchat Torah ✨

Sukkot, the Feast of Booths, is an eight-day Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. Many Jews refrain from work for at least the first two days. Shemini Atzeret includes a memorial service for the dead and features prayers for rain in Israel. Simchat Torah marks the completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah.

1 November
Diwali (also known as Deepavali) 🙏

This festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

25 December – 2 January 2025
Hanukkah ✨

The Jewish festival of rededication, is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar.

- CULTURAL EVENT KEY
- AU Australian
 - ✨ Buddhist
 - ✝ Christian
 - 🙏 Hindu
 - 🌐 International
 - 🌙 Islamic
 - ✨ Jewish
 - ✝ Orthodox Christian

NB: All Jewish holidays begin the evening prior to the date shown.