

# 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
			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			

## MARCH

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

## APRIL

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					

## MAY

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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		

## JUNE

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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

## JULY

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				

## AUGUST

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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	

## SEPTEMBER

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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						

## OCTOBER

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			

## NOVEMBER

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	

## DECEMBER

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					

### Cultural events

- \*Orthodox Christmas †**  
7 January
- \*Losar (Tibetan New Year) ✨**  
Lunar New Year 🌙  
10-12 February
- \*Ash Wednesday - Lent begins †**  
14 February
- \*Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras AU**  
16 February - 3 March
- Ramadan ☾**  
9 March - 8 April
- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 🌐**  
21 March
- \*Holi 🌀**  
25 March
- \*Eid al-Fitr (or Id al-Fitr or Eid ul-Fitr) 🌙**  
9-10 April
- Baisakhi, Bengali, Sinhalese, Tamil, Thai and Lao New Year 🌀 ✨**  
14 April
- Passover (Pesach) ✨**  
22-30 April
- Vesak ✨**  
23 May
- National Reconciliation Week AU**  
27 May - 3 June
- Shavuot ✨**  
11-13 June
- \*Eid al-Adha ☾**  
16-20 June
- Awal Muharram ☾**  
6-7 July
- National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week AU**  
7-14 July
- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 🌐**  
9 August
- \*Rosh Hashanah ✨**  
2-4 October
- \*Yom Kippur ✨**  
11-12 October
- Vijayadashami 🌀**  
12 October
- Sukkot (Tabernacles) Shemini Atzeret Simchat Torah ✨**  
16-25 October
- \*Diwali (also known as Deepavali) 🌀**  
1 November
- Hanukkah ✨**  
25 December - 2 January 2025

#### CULTURAL EVENT KEY

- AU** Australian
- ✨** Buddhist
- †** Christian
- 🌀** Hindu
- 🌐** International
- ☾** Islamic
- ✨** Jewish
- †** 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
- 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  
15 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](https://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