Calendar for students

2024

**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
- 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
- Semester census dates
  - 2 April and 2 September
- Examinations
  - 3-15 June
  - 11-23 November
- Mid-semester break
  - 1-5 April
  - 30 September – 4 October
- ANZAC Day
  - 25 April
- King’s Birthday
  - 10 June
- Labour Day
  - 7 October
- Christmas Day
  - 25 December
- Boxing Day
  - 26 December
- National Reconciliation Week
  - 27 May - 3 June
- Shavuot
  - 11-13 June
- Eid al-Adha
  - 16-20 June
- Ramadhan
  - 9 March – 8 April
- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
  - 21 March
- Rosh Hashanah
  - 2-4 October
- Yom Kippur
  - 11-12 October
- Diwali
  - 1 November
- Hanukkah
  - 25 December – 2 January 2025
- 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

**Cultural events**
- *Orthodox Christmas
  - 7 January
- *Losar (Tibetan New Year)
  - 10-12 February
- *Ash Wednesday
  - Lent begins
  - 14 February
- *Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
  - 16 February – 3 March
- Ramadan
  - 9 March – 8 April
- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
  - 21 March
- *Holi
  - 25 March
- *Eid al-Adha or Id al-Fitr or Eid ul-Fitr
  - 9-10 April

*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.

**9-10 April**
Eid al-Adha (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.’

**10-12 February**
Losar (Tibetan 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
- Taking place annually since 1978, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is a month-long festival celebrating the diversity 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.

**25 April**
ANZAC Day
- Australian military forces give thanks for the dead and remember the fallen. **ANZAC** stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

**27 May – 3 June**
National Reconciliation Week
- National Reconciliation Week celebrates and builds on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

**11-15 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 own son to prove his faith.

**6-7 July**
Awal Muhiyir
- New Islamic Lunar Year.

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

**16-25 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.

---

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