

2025



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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AUGUST

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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Cultural events

<p>*Orthodox Christmas 7 January</p> <p>*Chūn Jié (Chinese New Year) Begins 29 Jan</p> <p>*Seollal (Korean New Year) Begins 29 Jan</p> <p>*Tết (Vietnamese New Year) Begins 29 Jan</p> <p>*Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras 14 February – 2 March</p> <p>*Losar (Tibetan New Year) 28 February – 2 March</p> <p>Ramadan 28 February – 29 March</p> <p>*Tsagaan Sar (Mongolian New Year) 1 March</p> <p>*Ash Wednesday – Lent begins 5 March</p> <p>*Holi 14 March</p>	<p>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21 March</p> <p>*Eid al-Fitr 31 March – 2 April</p> <p>Passover (Pesach) 12–20 April</p> <p>*Songkran (Thai New Year) 13–15 April</p> <p>*Boun Pi Mai (Lao New Year) 13–16 April</p> <p>*Baisakhi, Bengali, Sinhalese and Tamil New Year 14 April</p> <p>Vesak 12 May</p> <p>National Reconciliation Week 27 May – 3 June</p> <p>Shavuot 1–3 June</p> <p>*Eid al-Adha 6–10 June</p>	<p>Awal Muharram 26–27 June</p> <p>National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week 7–14 July</p> <p>International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 9 August</p> <p>*Rosh Hashanah 22–24 September</p> <p>*Yom Kippur 1–2 October</p> <p>Vijayadashami 2 October</p> <p>Sukkot (Tabernacles) 6–13 October</p> <p>Shemini Atzeret 13–15 October</p> <p>Simchat Torah 14–15 October</p> <p>*Diwali (also known as Deepavali) 21 October</p> <p>Hanukkah 25 December – 2 January 2026</p>
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NSW school term dates

Term 1 1 February – 12 April
Term 2 30 April – 5 July
Term 3 23 July – 27 September
Term 4 14 October – 18 December

Public holidays

New Year's Day 1 January
Australia Day 27 January
Good Friday 18 April
Easter Saturday 19 April
Easter Sunday 20 April
Easter Monday 21 April
ANZAC Day 25 April
King's Birthday 9 June
Labour Day 6 October
Christmas Day 25 December
Boxing Day 26 December

Calendar key

 Semester 1 24 February – 21 June
 Semester 2 4 August – 29 November
1 Teaching weeks 24 February – 1 June 4 August – 9 November
 Semester census dates 31 March 1 September
 Examinations 10–21 June 17–29 November
 Public holiday
 Study vacation (STUVAC) 2–8 June 10–16 November
 Mid-semester break 21–25 April 29 September – 3 October
 Welcome program 10–21 February 21 July – 1 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/students/key-dates.html

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.

Please note that some cultural dates can change as they are dependent on the lunar calendar and should be confirmed closer to date.

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.

Begins 29 January

Chūn Jié, Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year)

Chūn Jié, the Chinese Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, marks the beginning of the lunar calendar year. This festival is a time of renewal, reflection, and fostering relationships, embodying hopes for health, happiness, and success in the coming year.

Begins 29 January

Seollal (Korean New Year)

Seollal, the Korean Lunar New Year, marks the first day of the Korean lunar calendar and is a time for family reunions, ancestral rites, and various cultural activities.

Begins 29 January

Tet (Vietnamese New Year)

Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, marks the arrival of spring and is a time for family reunions, honoring ancestors, and welcoming the new year with hopes for prosperity and good fortune.

14 February – 2 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 vitality of the LGBTQIA+ community with cultural events held at historically significant sites across Eora Country.

28 February – 2 March

Losar (Tibetan New Year)

Losar, the Tibetan New Year, marks the start of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar. It is a time for spiritual renewal, family gatherings, and celebration of Tibetan heritage.

28 February – 29 March

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.

1 March

Tsagaan Sar (Mongolian) New Year

Tsagaan Sar, the Mongolian Lunar New Year, celebrates renewal and unity. Families gather for traditional feasts and offer blessings for health, prosperity, and peace. This festival honors ancestral spirits and is marked by sharing special foods, customs, and respect for elders.

5 March

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.

14 March

Holi

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

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.

31 March – 2 April

Eid al-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.’

12–20 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.

13–15 April

Songkran (Thai New Year)

Songkran marks the Thai New Year and is known as the Water Festival. Traditionally, people pour water on each other as a way to wash away bad luck and usher in a fresh start, celebrating with joy, family gatherings, and spiritual activities.

13–16 April

Boun Pi Mai (Lao New Year)

Boun Pi Mai, the Lao New Year, occurs from April 13 to 15 and celebrates renewal and purification. Observed with water-splashing, processions, and temple visits, the festival brings families together and marks a new beginning with traditional music, dance, and blessings.

14 April

Baisakhi, Bengali, Sinhalese, Tamil New Year

Baisakhi is an ancient harvest festival symbolizing a new solar year. Bengali New Year (Pohela Boishakh), Tamil New Year (Puthandu), and Sinhalese New Year (Aluth Avurudda) also occur, each marking the start of their respective regional calendars with festivities of music, food, and cultural customs.

12 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

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

1–3 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.

6–10 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.

26–27 June

Awal Muharram

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.

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.

22–24 September

Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year festival.

1–2 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.

2 October

Vijayadashami

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

6–13 October

Sukkot (Tabernacles)

Sukkot, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, is a Jewish holiday celebrated for seven days, beginning on the 15th day of the month of Tishrei. It is one of the Three Pilgrimage Festivals.

13–15 October

Shemini Atzeret

Shemini Atzeret is a Jewish holiday celebrated on the 22nd day of Tishrei. It is a holy day devoted to the spiritual aspects of the festival of Sukkot.

14–15 October

Simchat Torah

Simchat Torah is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of the public Torah readings, and the beginning of a new cycle.

21 October

Diwali (also known as Deepavali)

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

25 December 2025 – 2 January 2026

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.