This calendar is offered to you by the Erasmus University Diversity Office. We strive to create a distinctive educational and academic environment where everyone has equal opportunities, feels at home and is able to reach their full potential. An inclusive culture contributes to developing critically minded, responsible world citizens. Moreover, a diversity of perspectives stimulates innovative education and research.

We believe diversity and inclusion matter to everybody on our campus. This calendar is a daily reminder of the strength of diversity and the many different holidays that are celebrated by all students and employees at our university. Find out more about our policy and initiatives at www.eur.nl/diversity. There you will also find the full interviews with the students and employees in this calendar!

We wish you a great and successful 2018!
“A special New Year’s Eve for me was in Berlin at the turn of the millennium. Even though it was -10 °C and terribly cold, it was like everyone kept each other warm by being together.”

Read the full interview at [www.eur.nl/diversity](http://www.eur.nl/diversity)
You wear a costume all year, but during Carnival you dress the way you are.”

Brazilian Carnival
Brazilian Carnival is a festival that is held annually, marking the beginning of Lent (40 days before Easter). Large and small parades crowd the streets for the public to watch or participate in. Carnival is the most famous holiday in Brazil.
Erin Chang
Student at Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication

“You are supposed to lean back and enjoy the meal while considering the story and its meaning. In that regard it’s quite a philosophical tradition.”

Read the full interview at www.eur.nl/diversity

March 2018

Pesach
Pesach or Passover (Jewish Easter) is an ancient feast that originated in the history of the people of Israel, commemorating the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt.
King’s Day
King’s Day (Koningsdag) is a national holiday in the Netherlands, marking the birthday of the King. Throughout the entire country people take part in Koningsdag wearing orange or red, white and blue clothing, visiting flea markets (vrijmarkt), concerts and local gatherings.

Welmer de Groot
Student at Erasmus Medical Center

“The wonderful thing about traditions is that they bring people together, make them proud of their community.”

Read the full interview at www.eur.nl/diversity
May 2018

**Vappu**

Vappu is a student festival, celebrated annually on 1 May. It marks the beginning of spring. It is also celebrated as International Labour Day and is one of the biggest festivals of the year in Finland alongside Midsummer’s Day and Christmas.

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Dr. Tim de Mey
Assistant Professor in Theoretical Philosophy, Erasmus School of Philosophy

“Three times a year I return to Finland and one of those times is always May 1st because I don’t want to miss Vappu.”

Read the full interview at [www.eur.nl/diversity](http://www.eur.nl/diversity)
Hafida Sallouf
Student at Erasmus School of Law

“Especially during Ramadan, it’s important to take the time to figure out how you can help people around you.”

Read the full interview at www.eur.nl/diversity

**June 2018**

**Ramadan**
Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting. It lasts about 30 days. From dawn until sunset, Muslims fast and focus on doing good and charitable deeds.

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Prof. dr. Pearl Dykstra
Professor of Empirical Sociology, Erasmus School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

“I wish my Canadian friends ‘Happy Canada Day’. It’s a day for displaying Canadian pride: dress up in red-and-white; wear pins with the Canadian flag; stick on a maple leaf tattoo.”

Read the full interview at www.eur.nl/diversity

Canada Day
Canada Day celebrates the anniversary of the 1 July 1867 enactment of the Constitution Act, which united the three separate colonies into a single Dominion called Canada. With no standard mode of celebration, most communities host organised celebrations like parades, festivals or concerts.

**July 2018**

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Canada Day/Keti Koti (Abolishment of Slavery)

Independence Day (US)

Bastille Day (France)
“On this day, we create a bond with someone saying ‘I am determined to protect you’.”

Raksha Bandhan
Raksha Bandhan is a Hindu festival that is celebrated annually, centered on the tying of a sacred thread around the wrist as a form of protection. Principally, this is done by sisters to brothers. Raksha Bandhan means the bond of protection, love or care.

Read the full interview at www.eur.nl/diversity
Ou Lin
Financial Policy Analyst,
Corporate Planning & Control

“The idea behind the Moon Festival is to celebrate the harvests of that year and to show gratitude, but now family reunion has become a central theme.”

Read the full interview at www.eur.nl/diversity

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Moon Festival
The Moon Festival, or Mid-Autumn Festival, is a harvest festival celebrated by many people in Asia. It is held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar during full moon, when families come together to eat dinner and share Moon cakes.

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**September 2018**

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Donovan Liauw
Student at Rotterdam School of Management; Erasmus Pride board member

“Coming Out Day to me is a day that raises awareness of people in the LGBTQ+ world and the need for them to feel able to be who they are.”

Read the full interview at www.eur.nl/diversity
Day of the Dead

Day of the Dead, or Dia de Muertos in Spanish, is a Mexican holiday that focuses on gathering and praying for and remembering those who have died and support their spiritual journey. It is celebrated by creating altars (ofrenda) for the dead and offering food.

Read the full interview at www.eur.nl/diversity
“On Christmas Eve, we start dinner the moment we see the first star in the sky.”

Read the full interview at www.eur.nl/diversity
Be different, be open, be yourself.
Make it happen.

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