

Cultural Holidays

Celebrating Differences in 2017

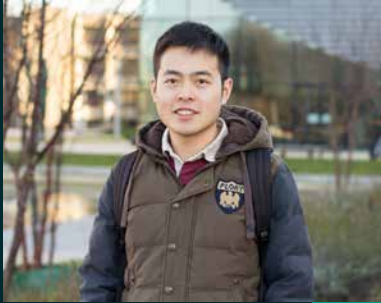
This calendar is offered to you by the Diversity Office of Erasmus University. Our university is convinced that education and research benefit from diversity among students and employees. We therefore strive to create a distinctive educational and academic environment, in which everyone has equal

opportunities, feels at home and is able to develop his or her talents to the fullest. This calendar is a daily reminder of the power of diversity and the many different holidays that are celebrated by students and employees at our university. Find out more about our policy and initiatives at www.eur.nl/diversity.

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Make it happen.

Erasmus





Shangwei Wu

PhD Candidate at Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication

“Back home in China, my mother cooks a nice meal on New Year’s Eve. We then eat together in front of the television so we can watch the Spring Festival Gala.”

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

January 2017

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is celebrated at the turn of the traditional Chinese calendar. Celebrations typically start on the evening preceding the first day and end with the Lantern Festival around 15 days later. Family reunion is a major part of Chinese New Year.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
52							1 New Year's Day
1	2	3	4	5	6 Armenian Christmas	7	8
2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
4	23	24	25	26	27	28 Chinese New Year	29
5	30	31					



René Verwijmeren
Manager Back Office University Library

“For me, Carnaval means dropping everything for a little while and simply having fun with my friends and family.”

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

February 2017

Dutch Carnaval

The Dutch version of Carnaval is mainly celebrated in the south of the Netherlands, the traditionally Catholic region. Here, normal daily life grinds to a halt for about three to five days as the streets are filled with float parades, festivities and lots of people wearing costumes.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
5			1	2	3	4	5
6	6	7	8	9	10	11 Lantern Festival (Chinese Festival)	12
7	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8	20 Maslenitsa (Russian Sun Festival)	21	22	23	24	25	26 Dutch Carnaval
9	27	28 Mardi Gras (Carnival)					



Irina Kurochkina
Student at Erasmus School of Economics

“On International Women’s Day, men in Russia give presents to the important women in their lives.”

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

March 2017

International Women’s Day

International Women’s Day is a civil awareness day on which the extraordinary acts of women worldwide are honoured. The focus of the celebrations differs from region to region, with women being celebrated out of respect and love, but also for their economic, political and social achievements.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
9			1 Ash Wednesday (First day of the Lenten fast)	2	3	4	5
10	6	7	8 International Women’s Day	9	10	11	12
11	13 Holi (Hindu Festival for the arrival of spring)	14	15	16	17 Saint Patrick’s Day (Roman Catholic feast day)	18	19
12	20	21 Nowruz (Persian New Year)	22	23	24	25	26
13	27	28 Navratri (Hindu Festival)	29	30	31		



Prof. dr. Dianne Bevelander
Professor of Management Education at
Rotterdam School of Management

“Freedom Day demonstrated to me how profound change for the better can take place under a climate of peace and surprising tolerance.”

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

April 2017

African Freedom Day

Freedom Day is a national public holiday in South Africa. It commemorates the first post-apartheid elections held on 27 April 1994. It thus marks the end of segregation and the beginning of a new democratic state subject to a new constitution.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
13						1	2
14	3	4 Ching Ming Festival (Tomb Sweeping Day)	5	6	7	8	9
15	10	11 Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu Festival)	12	13 White Thursday (Christian Holiday)	14 Good Friday (Christian Holiday)	15	16 Easter (Christian Holiday)
16	17 Easter Monday (Christian Holiday)	18	19	20	21	22	23
17	24	25	26	27 African Freedom Day/ Dutch Kingsday	28	29	30



Clemens Festen
Coordinator Research Integrity at
Academic Affairs

“Ascension Day means having the day off from work, and it is without a doubt a special day. In the morning I go to church to attend the mass.”

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

May 2017

Ascension Day

Ascension Day falls on a Thursday, exactly 40 days after Easter. It commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven and is one of the universally celebrated Christian feasts. Government offices, schools, banks and many businesses are usually closed in countries where Ascension Day is a public holiday.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
18	1 Labour Day (Public holiday in 80 countries)	2	3	4 Dutch Remembrance Day	5 Dutch Liberation Day	6	7
19	8	9	10 Day of Vesak (Buddha Day)	11	12	13	14 Mother's Day
20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 World Day for Cultural Diversity
21	22	23	24	25 Ascension Day (Christian Holiday)	26	27 First day of Ramadan (Fasting begins)	28
22	29 Memorial Day (US)	30 Shavuot (Jewish Holiday)	31				



Prof. dr. Semiha Denktas

Head of Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences and Leadership Programme
Coordinator at Erasmus University College

“For me, showing that we treat our elders with respect is one of the most important aspects of Eid al-Fitr.”

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

June 2017

Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr, or the Festival of breaking the fast, is a major religious holiday celebrated by Muslims around the world. It marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting, and is a time of family and social gatherings, traditional sweet dishes, feasting and gift giving.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
22				1 Last Day of Shavuot (Jewish Holiday)	2	3	4 White Sunday (Christian Holiday)
23	5 White Monday (Christian Holiday)	6	7	8	9	10	11
24	12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Father's Day
25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Eid al-Fitr (Celebration end of Ramadan)
26	26	27	28	29	30		



Timothy Chin-See-Chong
Student at Erasmus Medical Center

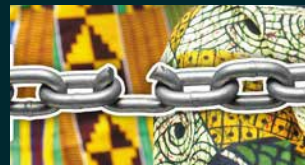
“All humans should have the right and opportunity to stand up for themselves.”

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

July 2017

Keti Koti

Keti Koti, which is Sranantongo for 'broken chains', is Emancipation Day in Suriname. It marks the end of slavery in the country on 1 July 1863. It is celebrated by all people throughout Suriname and by many in the Netherlands. The festivities include a colourful parade called Bigi Spikri.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
26						1 Keti Koti (Emancipation Day Suriname)	2
27	3	4 Fourth of July (Independence Day US)	5	6	7	8	9
28	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
29	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	31						



Vicky Ariyanti

PhD candidate at the Faculty of Social Sciences

“Independence Day would not be the same without what we call the ‘silly games’, for example eating krupuk attached to a string or playing football dressed in sarongs.”

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

August 2017

Indonesian Independence Day

Indonesia's Independence Day marks Indonesia's declaration of independence from the Netherlands in 1945. This national holiday is celebrated throughout Indonesia. Traditions include eating Indonesian crackers (known as 'krupuk') and climbing a Pinang tree to reach for a prize.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31		1	2	3	4	5	6
32	7 Raksha Bandhan (Hindu Festival for Brotherhood and Love)	8	9	10	11	12	13
33	14	15	16	17 Indonesian Independence Day	18	19	20
34	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
35	28	29	30 First day of Hajj (Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca)	31			



Charlotte Ornstein
Student at Rotterdam School of Management

“We should not focus on the differences between people, but on the similarities instead. Yom Kippur for me is a special day, I see it as the great day of reconciliation.”

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

September 2017

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year in Judaism and celebrated around the world. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. The holiday is observed by fasting for roughly two days and intensive prayer.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
35					1 Eid al-Adha (Islamic Sacrifice Feast)	2	3
36	4 Labour Day (US & Canada)	5	6	7	8	9	10
37	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
38	18	19	20	21 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)	22	23	24
39	25	26	27	28	29	30 Yom Kippur (Yewish Day of Atonement)	



Sharmini Bisessar-Setrarajah
 Research Programme Administrator at the
 International Institute of Social Studies

“Diwali is a time for bonding and
 unity, a time to start each new
 year with a clean slate.”

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

October 2017

Diwali

Diwali or Deepavali is the Hindu festival of lights, and is known as one of Hinduism’s major festivals. It spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Its celebration includes home decorations, performing religious rituals, fireworks and gift giving.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
39							1
40	2	3	4 Sukkot (Jewish thanksgiving for the fruit harvest)	5	6	7	8
41	9	10	11 National Coming Out Day	12	13	14	15
42	16	17	18	19 Diwali (Hindu festival of lights)	20	21	22
43	23	24	25	26	27	28 Chung Yeung Festival (Day of ancestor memorials)	29
44	30	31 Halloween					



Joey Johansen
Sustainability Coordinator at
Rotterdam School of Management

“On Thanksgiving we invite everyone to bring their favorite dish, all dairy and meat-free. We inspire our guests to learn new recipes and to join us in this new vegan tradition.”

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

November 2017

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a public holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November throughout the United States. It originated as a day of thanksgiving for the blessing of harvest and all the good things that happened during the preceding year.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
44			1 All Saint's Day (Christian Festival)	2 All Soul's Day (Honouring the dead)	3	4	5
45	6	7	8	9	10	11 St. Martin's Day (Feast of St. Martin)	12
46	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
47	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25 Suriname Independence Day	26
48	27	28	29	30			



Dr. Markus Klimek
Anesthesiologist and Student Coordinator at
Erasmus Medical Center

“Celebrating Christmas for me has changed over the years, except for one thing: I always visit the Cologne Christmas Market.”

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

December 2017

Christmas

Christmas is an annual festival which commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. Originally a religious holiday, it has become a cultural holiday for many, with Christmas being celebrated by billions of people around the world.



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
48					1	2	3
49	4	5 Dutch Saint Nicholas	6	7	8	9	10
50	11	12 Hannukkah (Jewish Festival of Lights)	13	14	15	16	17
51	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
52	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day / Beginning of Kwanzaa (Afr. American Holiday)	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

Be different, be open, be yourself.

Make it happen.

Colophon

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