

INCLUDED

2025 – 2026 Calendar



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“ LET’S CELEBRATE THAT AT RUAS YOU CAN BE YOU AND YOU CAN FEEL AT HOME HERE.”

Take a look at the annual INCLUDED calendar chock full of important holidays, commemorations **and space to add you and your colleagues’ birthdays.**

The variety of festive moments symbolises the diversity in your classroom. Chances are that, every day, people from all walks of life sit side by side. Think of this calendar as an invitation to reflect occasionally on what makes us unique and what unites us.

Use the calendar as a useful tool to help you achieve inclusion. And it doesn’t have to be difficult.

Being seen comes down to the little things.

You don’t need to be a diversity and inclusion expert to address these themes. It’s OK to make mistakes.

If you approach the conversation with an open mind and good intentions, your students will sense that. Is there a day missing from this calendar? Please let us know via included@hr.nl.

**What about my birthday? 🎂 🎉
Please add it!**



Some ideas:

- ✓ Wish your students a good Pride day / Divali / Eid / etc. When relevant.
- ✓ Start your class with: “Today is Coming Out Day / World Mental Health Day / Lunar New Year. Thoughts anyone?”
- ✓ Allow students to share experiences of important traditions or holidays.
- ✓ Maybe link to the content of the lesson?

INCLUDED – YOUR VOICE IS OUR STRENGTH

At RUAS we celebrate days such as Divali, Lunar New Year, Iftar, Black History Month and Día de los Muertos. The INCLUDED team prefers to create with others. These celebrations are organised by students, staff and teachers who want to celebrate their traditions at school. We are proud to support such initiatives.

Have you got an idea for an event? We would love to hear from you via included@hr.nl.

Through INCLUDED, we are working together to create a more inclusive Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences. It is a community for and by students, where underrepresented perspectives are valued and everyone is given the space to be themselves. By sharing experiences and knowledge, we can talk about racism, discrimination and inclusion. This creates awareness, connects people and ensures that everyone can feel at home here.

Holidays and days off

	Start date	End date
Autumn break	18-10-2025	26-10-2025
Christmas	20-12-2025	04-01-2026
Spring break	14-02-2026	22-02-2026
Good Friday and Easter	03-04-2026	06-04-2026
King's Day	27-04-2026	
May break	25-04-2026	03-05-2026
Liberation Day	05-05-2026	
Ascension	14-05-2026	
Pentecost	24-05-2026	25-05-2026
Summer holiday	18-07-2026	30-08-2026

27 September: Pride Walk

Pride Walk

With rainbows, glitter and a healthy dose of solidarity, the Pride Walk is an annual celebration. As Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, we are joining the colourful parade to show that everyone should be free to be who they are. By doing so, we contribute to creating an inclusive school where differences are not only accepted, but celebrated.

23 September: International Day of Sign Languages

Did you know that more than 72 million people worldwide use sign language and that there are over 300 types? 23 September is a day to celebrate diversity. It is also a day to think about sign language in our own country. It's a good reminder that language is about more than words.



One flag for everyone

The image to the right shows the Pride Progress Flag. The extra colours highlight the struggles and lack of visibility experienced by transgender people and people of colour in the LGBTQIA+ community, and symbolise inclusion and equality.

SEPTEMBER 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
39	22	23 Day of Sign language Day of Bisexuality	24	25	26	27 Register! Pride Walk	28
40	29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Holidays

INCLUDED-event

6 October: Mid-autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a traditional East Asian celebration during which families gather to admire the full moon, eat moon-cakes, and celebrate the harvest.

7 October: Diversity Day

Diversity Day is the perfect opportunity to celebrate our differences. At Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, we learn from and with each other. There are so many different backgrounds, stories and perspectives. In education, we strive every day to create an environment where everyone feels welcome and where students learn to contribute to a diverse society.

20 October: Diwali

Diwali brings light, colour and togetherness, and we love to celebrate it. It is an important Hindu festival full of symbolism, joy and togetherness. Diwali is a wonderful moment for us to reflect on what connects us and to discover together how valuable cultural diversity is.

Due to autumn break, we are celebrating it on 13 October. Are you joining us?

26 October: Intersex Awareness Day

On Intersex Awareness Day, we reflect on the experiences of intersex people — individuals who are born with physical characteristics that do not clearly define them as either male or female. This day provides an opportunity for recognition and solidarity, and allows us to draw attention to visibility, equal rights, and the need to break persistent taboos.



OCTOBER 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
40	29	30	1 Yom Kippur	2	3	4	5 Day of the Teacher
41	6 Mid-autumn Day World Dyslexia Day	7 Diversity Day	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day	11 Coming Out Day	12
Access Ability Week							
42	13 Are you joining us?! Diwali at RUAS. Due to autumn break, we are celebrating on 13 October.	14	15	16	17	18	19 International Day of Pronouns
43	20 Diwali	21	22	23	24	25	26 Intersex Awareness Day
44	27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Holidays

INCLUDED-event

1 en 2 November: Día de los Muertos

Día de los Muertos is a colourful Mexican festival when we honour our loved ones and celebrate life. It is a time for memories, symbolism and connection. At RUAS, it encourages us to consider cultural traditions and to discuss the significance of commemoration, family and rituals.

At RUAS we are celebrating Día de Los Muertos on Monday 3 November. Will you join us?

11 November: Saint Martin's Day

Saint Martin's Day, also known as the Day of the Unity Flag, is an official public holiday on the island of Saint Martin. Each year, people celebrate this day by reflecting on the island's history and culture, which is named after Saint Martin of Tours.

25 November: Srefidensi (Surinam Independence Day)

25 November is Srefidensi, or Surinamese Independence Day. To celebrate their independence in 1975, Surinamese people hold music events, parades and gatherings on this day.

Día de los Muertos



NOVEMBER 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28	29	30	31	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

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45

Register!

Día de los Muertos (celebration at RUAS)

Día de los Muertos

46

Saint Martin's Day

47

International Transgender Day

48

Srefidensi (Independence Day Surinam)

Holidays INCLUDED-event

December:
Winter around the world — Register! → 

Winter around the world

Winter Around the World is an event that brings students and colleagues together during the festive season. With delicious food, great music and a fun atmosphere, it makes the school feel extra welcoming and cosy. It is the perfect opportunity, for those who are not celebrating at home, to get together and meet new people.

12 December: Purple Friday


Dig out your purple jumper, because it's Purple Friday! What began as an initiative by secondary school pupils has evolved into a nationwide day of solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community. Wearing purple shows that everyone can be themselves, whether at school or at work. It's also a great opportunity to discuss the importance of identity in class and to create an inclusive learning environment for all students.

14 - 22 December: Hanukkah

During Hanukkah Jewish families light candles on the menorah for eight days every evening. They celebrate together with games, food and honor traditions.



DECEMBER 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
49	1	2	3 International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)	4	5	6	7
50	8 Bodhi Day	9	10 Day of Human Rights	11	12  Register! Purple Friday	13	14 Hanukkah
51	15	16	17	18 International Day of Migrants	19	20	21
Hanukkah							
52	22 Hanukkah	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Christmas			
1	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1	2	3	4

Holidays INCLUDED-event

4 January: World Braille Day

Did you know that today marks the 217th anniversary of Louis Braille's birth? This is why 4 January is World Braille Day, a day that highlights the importance of accessible communication for blind and visually impaired people. Braille makes a real difference when it comes to reading, learning and participating in society.

24 January: Day of Education

Although everyone has the right to education, 244 million children and young people do not attend school, and 771 million adults are illiterate. 24 January is a day on which we reflect on the importance of education in creating equal opportunities, breaking the cycle of poverty, and contributing to a peaceful society.

Day of Education



JANUARY 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 World Braille Day
2	5	6 Three Kings' Day	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19 Blue Monday	20	21	22	23	24 Day of Education	25
5	26	27 International Holocaust Remembrance	28	29	30	31	1

Holidays

INCLUDED-event

February: Black History Month

Register! →



Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect on the history, struggles and contributions of people from the African diaspora. This is important in the Netherlands, where the history of slavery is often overlooked despite its ongoing impact. During Black History Month, we celebrate the strength, pride, and influence of many generations. For RUAS, stories about this history, struggle and contribution are an indispensable part of our education and community.

17 February: Lunar New Year

The Lunar New Year marks the start of the new year according to the traditional lunar calendar, which is primarily used in East Asian cultures. The festival is all about renewal, family, and celebrating life. In Rotterdam, it is celebrated on a grand scale, particularly within the city's diverse Asian communities.

18 February - 19 March: Ramadan

(dates may vary slightly)

Register! →



In 2026, Ramadan will partly fall in February and partly in March. During this period, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Iftar marks the time when they break their fast, often with family, friends or the wider community. This period is all about reflection, connection and solidarity. At RUAS, we regularly organise a communal iftar. It brings students, lecturers and staff together to help them get to know each other better and share traditions. Would you like to join us?

21 February: International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day is a day when people celebrate their own language and culture. One way to start a conversation in class is to ask who was raised bilingually or who speaks multiple languages.



Lunar New Year

FEBRUARI 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science	12	13	14	15
8	16	17 Lunar New Year Register!	18 Ash Wednesday Beginning of Ramadan	19	20 International Day of Social Justice	21 International Day of the Mother Language	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	1

Holidays

INCLUDED-event

4 March: Holi Phagwa *(dates may vary)*

Holi Phagwa is a vibrant Hindu festival celebrating colours, joy and new beginnings, and the victory of good over evil. It also marks the arrival of spring.

20 March: Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan. It is celebrated with prayer, gatherings, and festive meals.

21 March: Nowruz

Nowruz, an ancient Persian spring festival, is celebrated by over three hundred million people as the start of the new year. It falls on the first day of spring, symbolising a new beginning.

31 March 2026: International Transgender Day of Visibility

Transgender people around the world often face prejudice, discrimination and violence. This day is dedicated to raising awareness of this issue and sharing their stories.

Eid al-Fitr



MARCH 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
10	2 Purim	3	4 Holi Phagwa	5	6	7 Week of Giftedness	8 International Day of Women
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Week of Giftedness						
12	16	17	18 National Holiday of Aruba	19 End of Ramadan	20 Eid al-Fitr	21 Nowruz	22 Int. Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
	Chaitra Navratri (Spring Hindu celebration)						
13	23	24	25 International Day of Remembrance of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade	26	27	28	29
	Chaitra Navratri (Spring Hindu celebration)						
14	30	31 International Transgender Day of Visibility	1	2	3	4	5

Holidays INCLUDED-event

2 April: World Autism Day

In 2007, the United Nations urged all member states to recognise autism. Since then, World Autism Awareness Day has been held on 2 April each year to raise awareness, share knowledge, and promote inclusion. Activities are taking place all over the world to raise awareness of autism and bring people together.

5 April: Qingming Festival

(Dates may vary)

During the Qingming Festival people of the Chinese community honour their ancestors by visiting their graves and sharing memories.

6 April: International Asexuality Day

Asexuality is defined as feeling little to no sexual attraction. It is important to emphasise that asexuality exists on a spectrum, with different experiences of it per person. Asexuality Day raises awareness of asexual people and aims to promote greater understanding, visibility and inclusion of asexuality.

World Autism Day



APRIL 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
14	30	31	1	2 World Autism Day	3 Good Friday	4	5 Qingming Festival Easter
	Pesach (Jewish celebration)						
15	6 International Day of Asexuality Easter	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Pesach (Jewish celebration)						
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Day against Bullying
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26 International Lesbian Visibility Day
18	27 King's Day	28	29	30	1	2	3

Holidays

INCLUDED-event

May: Mental Health Awareness Month — Register! —>



IDAHOBIT

Mental Health Awareness Month shines a spotlight on mental health and breaks down the taboos surrounding psychological differences. For the INCLUDED team, this month is all about neurodiversity in education because no two brains are the same! While this can present challenges, it also offers valuable perspectives. This month, we are discussing neurodiversity and celebrating the strengths of different minds.

17 May: International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex phobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)

Did you know that we celebrate IDAHOBIT every year on 17 May? On this day in 1990, homosexuality was officially removed from the list of diseases. It's a chance for people all over the world to speak out against homophobia, biphobia, intersex phobia and transphobia, and to demand respect, equality and the freedom to be yourself. Here in the Netherlands, the LGBTQI+ community is often referred to as the rainbow community. That stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex. The plus sign represents other genders and sexual orientations, like asexuality and non-binary identities. We're adding more concepts to help people understand and express their identities. So, what we're saying is that everyone should be respected for who they are.

26 May: Eid al-Adha (Islamic Celebration))

Eid al-Adha is an important Islamic festival during which Muslims reflect on the story of the Prophet Ibrahim, who was prepared to sacrifice his son for God. They gather for prayer, share meals with family and neighbours, and donate to charity.



MAY 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
18	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
19	4 Remembrance Day	5 Liberation Day	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14 Ascension	15	16	17 International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex phobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)
21	18 Birthday INCLUDED	19	20	21	22	23	24 Pentecost Buddha Day
22	25 Pentecost	26 Eid al-Adha Celebration	27	28	29	30	31

Holidays

INCLUDED-event

16 June: Neuro Diversity Pride Day

So many people, so many brains! And that is exactly what we celebrate on 16 June: that every brain works differently. On Neuro Diversity Pride Day, we show that these differences are special and that everyone belongs with their own way of thinking and feeling. It is a day full of recognition, respect and pride in neurodiversity.

20 June: World Refugee Day

Everyone deserves a safe place to call home. On World Refugee Day on 20 June, we recognise the strength and courage of those who flee their homeland. It is a day to listen to their stories, support them, and work together to create a world where everyone feels welcome and secure.


30 June and 1 July: Ketikoti

Ketikoti, which means 'broken chains', commemorates the abolition of slavery in Suriname and the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. It is a time for reflection and celebration, looking back and looking ahead. At RUAS, we reflect on this important history because recognition and awareness form the basis of a just and inclusive society. Every year on 30 June, the Rotterdam commemoration takes place at the Slavery Monument on the Lloydkade, close to our Rotterdam Mainport Institute (RMI) location. During the commemoration, our Chair of the Executive Board and a student representative from Rotterdam UAS lay a wreath.

World Refugee Day



JUNE 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16 Neurodiversity Pride Day	17	18	19	20 World Refugee Day	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30  Register! Ketikoti	1	2	3	4	5

Holidays

INCLUDED-event

1 July: Keti Koti

On 1 July, Rotterdam celebrates Keti Koti, commemorating the abolition of slavery in Suriname and the Caribbean in 1863. The day celebrates resilience and freedom, and focuses on solidarity within the Afro-Surinamese and Caribbean communities. The day begins with the Bigi Spikri parade, a vibrant celebration of cultural pride, tradition and community. Starting at Oostervant, the parade moves to Wijkpark Het Oude Westen, where the Keti Koti Festival comes to life with music, dance, children's activities and much more.

5 July: Cape Verdi Independence Day


On 5 July, Cape Verdeans around the world celebrate their country's independence. It is a day full of pride, music, dance and stories!

14 July: International Day of the Non Binary Persons

This day is dedicated to visibility, awareness and support for people who do not (fully) identify as male or female. Since 2012, it has grown to become an important moment of solidarity and recognition.



JULY 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	29	30	1  Register! Keti Koti	2 Dia di Bandera (Flag Day Curaçao)	3	4	5 Cape Verdi Independence Day
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14 Internationale Dag van Non-Binaire Personen	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25 Summer Carnival Rotterdam	26
31	27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Holidays

INCLUDED-event

15 August: Commemoration of World War II in the former Dutch East Indies

Commemorations of the Second World War in the former Netherlands East Indies focus on the region's victims and the war's impact. Ultimately, the war's end led to Indonesia's independence. Indonesia declared its independence on 17 August 1945, and this day has been celebrated annually as Hari Proklamasi Kemerdekaan ever since. However, the Netherlands did not officially recognise Indonesia's independence until 27 December 1949, following a violent war of decolonisation. In 2023, the Netherlands recognised 17 August 1945 as Indonesia's independence date.

17 August: Día di Tula

This day commemorates the courageous uprising of thousands of enslaved people in Curaçao, led by the resistance hero Tula, on 17 August 1795. It is a celebration of freedom, and resistance against injustice.

27 August: Chung Yuan feast (China)

Zhong Yuan Festival, also known as the Hungry Ghost Festival is an important Chinese festival when deceased ancestors are honoured both in Taoist and Buddhist beliefs. It is a time for remembrance and respect, and for families to come together and share love and gratitude.

Commemoration end of Second World War in former Dutch East Indies



15
AUGUST
1945

AUGUST 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
32	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33	10	11	12	13	14	15 Commemoration of the end of the Second World War in former Dutch East Indies	16
34	17 Independence day Indonesia Día di Tula	18	19	20	21	22	23
35	24	25	26	27 Chung Yuan party (China)	28	29	30
36	31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Holidays

INCLUDED-event

 **INCLUDED**