IDU

07 NOVEMBER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNIVERSITIES

ONE DAY FOR EVERY UNIVERSITY.

7 November, every year, in every university of the world.

IDU.news

WUF

WORLD UNIVERSITIES FOUNDATION

Prof. Bassem Khafagy, Founder and Secretary General
World Universities Foundation · Founded 2018

San Diego, California · Antalya, Türkiye
W-U-F.org · IDU.news

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNIVERSITIES IN ONE PAGE.

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The International Day of Universities, IDU, is one day each year, on 7 November, when universities everywhere celebrate what they give to humanity, thank the people who make them, and invite the world inside. It is an initiative of the World Universities Foundation, WUF.

WHAT	A yearly international day for the university: for every institution, its people and everyone around it.
WHY	Universities form every profession and serve every society, yet no international day is given to them, and most of the world's 35,000+ universities are rarely seen.
WHEN	7 November, every year. The call is announced on 7 November 2026, the day is adopted by university leaders on 7 November 2027, and it is celebrated for the first time on 7 November 2028.
WHO	Every university, of every type, in every region, with its students, professors, staff, alumni and leaders, and the families, cities, companies and public bodies around it.
HOW	Each university celebrates in its own way: an open campus, public lectures, student showcases, thanks to professors and staff, alumni coming home, service to the community, links across borders.
OUTCOME	A lasting tradition that makes the whole university world visible, close to its societies and proud of its people.
ASK	Endorse the call on IDU.news, name an IDU contact, plan your first 7 November and bring another university with you.

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2. THE CHALLENGE AND CONTEXT

UNIVERSITIES SHAPE THE WORLD, YET THEY ARE SELDOM CELEBRATED.

International days exist for many causes, professions and ideas. None is given to the university. The institution that educates the leaders, professionals and researchers of every nation has no day of its own.

THEY SHAPE EVERY PROFESSION

The people who heal, build, teach, govern and invent are formed in universities. Their work reaches every home.

THEY KEEP AND CREATE KNOWLEDGE

Universities preserve what humanity knows, extend it through research and pass it on to each new generation.

MOST OF THEM ARE UNSEEN

Attention goes to a few famous names. Thousands of universities serve their cities and countries quietly, without notice.

THEY RARELY SPEAK TOGETHER

Each university speaks for itself. There is no moment when all of them are seen and heard at the same time.

The result is a gap between what universities give and what the world sees. A shared day closes that gap.

2. THE CHALLENGE AND CONTEXT

A COMMUNITY LARGER THAN MOST NATIONS.

The university world is vast, and most of it has no seat at the global table. These are the people and institutions the International Day of Universities is for.

35,000+
universities

200+
countries

260+ MILLION
students

15+ MILLION
academics

20+ MILLION
administrative staff

1+ MILLION
executives and leaders

MORE THAN 80 PERCENT

of the world's universities have no seat at the global table. On 7 November, each of them has the same day, the same voice and the same place in the celebration as the most famous university in the world.

3. THE INITIATIVE: WHAT IT IS

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VISION

A WORLD THAT CELEBRATES ITS UNIVERSITIES, EVERY YEAR, ON THE SAME DAY.

The core idea is simple. One day each year, 7 November, belongs to the university. On that day, universities everywhere open their doors, share their work and invite their cities in. Students, professors, staff and alumni celebrate together, and the world around them joins in. For one day, the university is seen for what it is: one of the great gifts of humanity to itself.

ONE FIXED DATE

7 November, every year, in every country, so that every university and every calendar can carry it.

EVERY UNIVERSITY, ITS OWN WAY

No single program. Each university chooses how to celebrate, from one lecture to a whole open day.

A HOME FOR THE DAY

IDU.news: the call, the list of endorsing universities, a free toolkit and a map of celebrations.



3. THE INITIATIVE: WHAT IT IS

ONE DATE, THE SAME EVERYWHERE, EVERY YEAR.

A day can only become a tradition if everyone knows when it is. IDU has one fixed date, so that every university can plan for it and every year builds on the last.

A DATE ALREADY KNOWN

7 November has carried the call for a day of universities for years. Universities that heard the call already know the date.

THE SAME DAY IN EVERY COUNTRY

One date for the whole world means that a small college and a great university celebrate at the same moment, as equals.

A DATE THAT NEVER MOVES

From 2028 on, 7 November is the International Day of Universities, every year, without exception.

A DATE IN THE NAME

The mark of the day carries the date in it: 07 November, International Day of Universities.



4. WHY NOW

A CALL THAT HAS WAITED FOR ITS HOME.

The International Day of Universities was first proposed by Prof. Bassem Khafagy on 7 November 2019, as a worldwide call to set aside one day each year to celebrate the roles and achievements of universities. The call has been renewed since, and the IDU mark and IDU.news have carried it.

Now the day has a home large enough to carry it. The World Universities Foundation brings the voice of all universities together, so the call can become a decision, and the decision a tradition. Universities face rapid change in technology, funding and public trust. A day that shows their value to society is needed now, not later.



5. STAKEHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES

EVERY UNIVERSITY, EVERY REGION, EVERYONE AROUND THEM.

The International Day of Universities follows the same principle as everything WUF does: full representation. No university is too small, too new or too far away to take part, and no stakeholder is left outside.

PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES

- Universities of every type
- Students
- Professors and researchers
- Administrative staff
- Leaders and executives
- Alumni
- Retired faculty and staff

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Families and neighbors
- Schools and young people
- Cities and public bodies
- Ministries and councils
- Companies and innovators
- Associations and networks
- Media and storytellers

EVERY REGION

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- The Middle East
- North America
- Oceania and the small island states

Every region of the world takes part on the same day, and every type of university stands as an equal.

5. STAKEHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES

WHAT EACH GROUP GIVES, AND WHAT IT GAINS.

WHO	ROLE ON 7 NOVEMBER	WHAT THEY GAIN
University leaders	Endorse the day, open the campus, speak publicly	A university seen and valued by its society
Professors and researchers	Give public lectures, open laboratories	Public recognition of their work
Administrative staff	Make the day possible	Thanks in public for unseen work
Students	Present projects, lead tours, organize events	A stage for their talent and ideas
Alumni	Come home and tell their stories	A renewed bond with their university
Public bodies	Recognize the day, visit universities	Closer ties with their universities
Associations and networks	Invite members, link regions	A shared moment across their membership
Companies and innovators	Join celebrations, meet students	Partners and future talent
Families, schools and media	Visit, listen, share stories	Open doors to higher education

6. VALUE PROPOSITION AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

ONE DAY THAT GIVES BACK ALL YEAR.

VALUE PROPOSITION

FOR VERY LITTLE COST, ONE DAY A YEAR MAKES EVERY UNIVERSITY VISIBLE, CLOSER TO ITS SOCIETY AND PROUDER OF ITS PEOPLE, AND MAKES THE WHOLE UNIVERSITY WORLD VISIBLE TOGETHER.

SHORT TERM

2026 to 2028

- Universities endorse the call
- Each names an IDU contact
- First celebrations planned and held on 7 November 2028

MEDIUM TERM

From 2028

- More universities each year, in every region
- A yearly theme shared worldwide
- A growing map of celebrations on IDU.news

LONG TERM

For generations

- 7 November kept in calendars and public life
- The many, not only the famous, seen and valued
- Young people drawn to universities from an early age

The value of the day grows with every year it is kept. Each 7 November adds universities, stories and partners, so that the second celebration is richer than the first, and the tenth richer than the second.

> Every university seen, every year, on the same day.

6. VALUE PROPOSITION AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

A DAY TO SAY THANK YOU.

A university is its people. Some leave a mark on every student they teach, and many work for years without public thanks.

The International Day of Universities makes room for gratitude. Students thank the professors who changed their lives. Universities honor the staff who keep them running and the researchers whose work reached far beyond the campus. Graduates remember where they began. A day of thanks costs little, and it is remembered for a lifetime.

> Thank you, professor. Three words that every university should hear once a year.



6. VALUE PROPOSITION AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

WHAT UNIVERSITIES GAIN: CLOSER TO THEIR SOCIETIES.

SEEN BY ITS SOCIETY

Families, cities and public bodies see what the university does for them, in person, on the same day as the whole world.

CLOSER TO ITS CITY

Neighbors, schools and companies walk through the doors and leave as friends of the university.

PRIDE FOR ITS PEOPLE

Students, professors and staff are thanked in public, and see that their work matters.



6. VALUE PROPOSITION AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

WHAT UNIVERSITIES GAIN: A STRONGER FUTURE.

FUTURE STUDENTS

Young visitors meet the university early, and many will remember the day they first walked its campus.

ALUMNI WHO RETURN

Graduates come home, reconnect and bring their experience, their networks and their support.

PARTNERS ACROSS THE WORLD

A shared day opens conversations with universities in other regions, and with WUF and its members.



7. HOW IT WORKS

EVERY UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES IN ITS OWN WAY.

There is no single program for IDU. A large research university and a small community college will mark the day differently, and both are right.

What every celebration shares is one purpose: to show what the university gives to its people and to its society, and to invite the world inside. Some universities open their campuses for the whole day. Others hold one public lecture, one ceremony of thanks, or one conversation with a partner university on another continent. Every one of them counts.



7. HOW IT WORKS

WAYS TO CELEBRATE 7 NOVEMBER: OPEN THE DOORS.

OPEN THE CAMPUS

Welcome families, schools and neighbors to walk the campus, visit laboratories, libraries and studios, and meet the people who work there.

GIVE PUBLIC LECTURES

Invite the city to hear professors speak about their work, in plain words, on questions that matter to everyone.

SHOW STUDENT WORK

Let students present their projects, research and inventions to visitors, partners and the press.

SAY THANK YOU

Honor professors, staff and students whose work often goes unseen, in the department, the college and the university.



7. HOW IT WORKS

WAYS TO CELEBRATE 7 NOVEMBER: REACH OUT.

WELCOME ALUMNI HOME

Invite graduates back to share where the university has taken them and what they owe to it.

SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Offer a day of service: clinics, legal advice, tutoring and advice from the people of the university.

TALK ACROSS BORDERS

Join a partner university in another region for a shared conversation, lecture or class, online or in person.

TELL YOUR STORY

Share the history of your university, its founders and its milestones, through exhibits, archives and pictures.



7. HOW IT WORKS

ONE DAY, PREPARED ALL YEAR.

The International Day of Universities lasts one day, but it lives all year. Each year follows the same simple rhythm, so that universities always know what comes next.

1

BEFORE THE DAY

The theme of the year is shared, the toolkit is opened on IDU.news, and universities register their plans and invite their partners.

2

ON 7 NOVEMBER

Universities around the world open their doors, hold their celebrations and share them as they happen.

3

AFTER THE DAY

Stories, pictures and lessons are gathered on IDU.news, so that each celebration inspires the next, and the next year begins.



8. ROADMAP AND TIMELINE

ANNOUNCE, ADOPT, CELEBRATE.

The International Day of Universities moves in three steps, each on 7 November, so that the date itself carries the story.

1

ANNOUNCE · 7 NOVEMBER 2026

WUF renews the worldwide call for the International Day of Universities and opens the invitation to every university to endorse it on IDU.news.

2

ADOPT · 7 NOVEMBER 2027

University leaders from every region adopt the day together, on the date itself, with the endorsing universities behind them.

3

CELEBRATE · 7 NOVEMBER 2028

The first International Day of Universities is celebrated on campuses around the world, and every year after that.

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7 NOVEMBER · EVERY YEAR · IN EVERY UNIVERSITY OF THE WORLD

9. HOME, GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

WUF KEEPS THE DAY. THE UNIVERSITIES OWN IT.

The International Day of Universities is an initiative of the World Universities Foundation. WUF keeps the date, the name and the mark, carries the call each year and opens the toolkit. The universities of the world own the day: each one decides how it celebrates.

INSTITUTIONAL HOME

The World Universities Foundation, the global voice for all universities, in every region.

ITS OWN HOME ONLINE

IDU.news: the call, the list of endorsing universities, the toolkit, the map of celebrations, stories and news.

FREE FOR EVERY UNIVERSITY

The mark, posters, guides and the theme of the year are free to use, print and translate, in any language.

BUILT TO LAST

One fixed date, one yearly rhythm and members of the World University Family who lead by example keep the day alive.

10. RISKS, ASSUMPTIONS AND MITIGATIONS

WHAT COULD HOLD THE DAY BACK, AND HOW IT IS MET.

RISK OR ASSUMPTION	HOW IT IS MET
Universities may not hear of the day	The call is renewed every year on 7 November, carried by WUF and its members, and every endorsing university brings another.
Some regions may join more slowly	Full representation is built in: materials in any language, no cost, and small celebrations count as much as large ones.
7 November may fall in a busy week	One lecture or one ceremony of thanks is enough. Each university chooses the size of its celebration.
Small universities may lack resources	The toolkit is free, the activities need little or no budget, and partner universities can celebrate together.
The day may be confused with others	One name, one date and one mark, the same everywhere and every year.
Momentum may fade after the first year	A yearly theme, a yearly rhythm and a growing map of celebrations give every year a reason to return.

11. NEXT STEPS AND CALL TO ACTION

FOUR STEPS FOR EVERY UNIVERSITY, STARTING TODAY.

1 ENDORSE THE DAY

Add your university to the call on IDU.news. Every endorsement brings the day closer to adoption in November 2027.

2 NAME YOUR IDU CONTACT

Choose one person at your university to receive the toolkit, share news and plan your celebration.

3 PLAN YOUR FIRST 7 NOVEMBER

Choose the activities that suit your university and prepare your first celebration for 7 November 2028.

4 BRING ANOTHER UNIVERSITY

Invite a partner university, ideally in another region, to endorse the day and celebrate with you.

Prof. Bassem Khafagy
Founder and Secretary General
World Universities Foundation

Founder of the International Day of Universities

Founded 2018 · San Diego, California · Antalya, Türkiye
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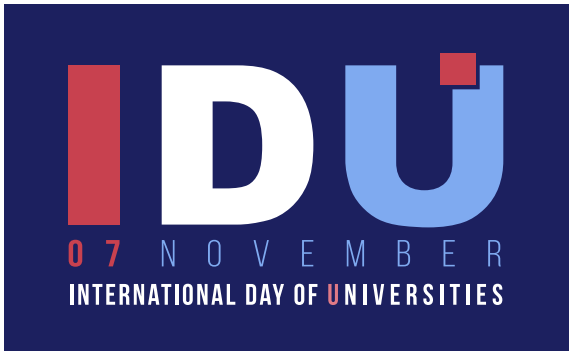
APPENDIX A

THE MARK OF THE DAY.

The International Day of Universities has one mark, with the date in its name. It is free for every university to use on 7 November and in everything that celebrates the day. The mark and its guidelines are available on IDU.news.



ON LIGHT BACKGROUNDS



ON DARK BACKGROUNDS





USING THE MARK

Use it as it is: no new colors, no stretching, no changes to the letters. Keep clear space around it equal to the height of the square. On dark backgrounds, use the reverse mark.

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