# IDU

07 NOVEMBER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNIVERSITIES

# ONE DAY FOR EVERY UNIVERSITY.

7 November, every year.

IDU.news

**Next: found the day at FC27 · Antalya, Türkiye · 26 to 29 January 2027**

WUF

WORLD UNIVERSITIES FOUNDATION

**Prof. Bassem Khafagy**, Founder and Secretary General
World Universities Foundation

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

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNIVERSITIES IN ONE PAGE.

IDU
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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNIVERSITIES

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 universities themselves, and most of the world's 35,000+ universities are rarely seen. |
| **WHEN** | 7 November, every year. Announced on 7 November 2026; to be founded at FC27, the WUF Founders' Council, Antalya, Türkiye, 26 to 29 January 2027; to be adopted by university leaders at WSU27 on 7 November 2027; to be 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, proclaimed by the United Nations, that makes the whole university world visible, close to its societies and proud of its people. |
| **ASK** | Take part at IDU.news/take-part or write to connect@idu.news: found the day at FC27, endorse it, join the team, send a comment or share it. One person can take more than one role. |

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A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

# WHY I ASKED THE WORLD FOR ONE DAY.

Dear colleagues and friends,

On 7 November 2019, I sent a request into the academic world: set aside one day each year for universities. I have spent most of my life inside universities, as a student, as a professor, as an adviser, and as a leader. I know what they give, and I know how rarely anyone stops to say so.

Every year, the world celebrates causes, professions and ideas, each on its own day. The university is never among them. Yet the doctor who treats our children, the engineer who builds our bridges and the teacher who opens a young mind were all formed in one. More than 35,000 universities serve their cities quietly, and most of them are never seen beyond their own walls.

I do not ask for applause. I ask for one day, the same day everywhere: a day when a small college and a famous university stand as equals, when students thank a professor in public, and when families walk through the gates and see what happens inside.

That day is 7 November. The World Universities Foundation now carries the call, and we are taking it further. Starting now, WUF is taking every step needed to inform the United Nations of the International Day of Universities and to ask that it be proclaimed an international day, as soon as possible.

I invite you to take part. Found the day with us at FC27, 26 to 29 January 2027, in Antalya, Türkiye, endorse it now, join the global team, send us your ideas, or simply tell others. Write to me at connect@idu.news.

With warm regards,



Bassem Khafagy

**Prof. Bassem Khafagy**
Founder and Secretary General, World Universities Foundation
Founder of the International Day of Universities

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 universities themselves. The institution that educates the leaders, professionals and researchers of every nation has no international 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

IDU
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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 five ways to take part, and in time 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 logo 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, carried by the IDU logo and by IDU.news. On 7 November 2026, WUF announced it to the world, and IDU.news became the home of the day.

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. That is why WUF is also taking the call to the United Nations, to ask that 7 November be proclaimed the International Day of Universities.

The next step is close. From 26 to 29 January 2027, at FC27, the WUF Founders' Council in Antalya, Türkiye, the day will receive its Initiative Founders and its Founding Board. They will carry it through the year to its adoption on 7 November 2027.



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**

- The day founded at FC27, January 2027
- Universities endorse it and name an IDU contact
- First celebrations 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 shape 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, AND A STRONGER FUTURE.

## 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, alumni, professors and staff, active and retired, are thanked in public and see that their work matters.

## 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 celebrate 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, from the Founders' Council in January to the day itself, so that universities always know what comes next.

1

## IN JANUARY

The WUF Founders' Council meets in Antalya, Türkiye. The IDU Founding Board reports and sets the year, beginning with FC27, 26 to 29 January 2027.

2

## 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.

3

## ON 7 NOVEMBER

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

4

## 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, FOUND, ADOPT, CELEBRATE.

The International Day of Universities moves in four steps. Three fall on 7 November, so that the date itself carries the story. Between them, FC27 in January will give the day its Initiative Founders.

1

### ANNOUNCE · 7 NOVEMBER 2026

WUF announced the worldwide call for the International Day of Universities and invited every university, organization and person to take part on IDU.news.

2

### FOUND · 26 TO 29 JANUARY 2027

At FC27, the WUF Founders' Council in Antalya, Türkiye, the IDU Founding Board and its Initiative Founding Members will found the day: at most two from each country. Join the Founding Members by 30 November 2026, and reserve your seat.

3

### ADOPT · 7 NOVEMBER 2027

University leaders from every region will adopt the day at the World Summit on Universities (WSU27), Antalya, Türkiye, on the date itself, with the endorsing universities behind them.

4

### CELEBRATE · 7 NOVEMBER 2028

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

Alongside these four steps, WUF asks the United Nations to proclaim the day an international day. The General Assembly proclaims such days, usually on a proposal from member states; WUF began this work in November 2026 and seeks that support, so that the day is recognized as soon as possible.

**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 logo, carries the call each year and opens the toolkit. The universities of the world own the day: each one decides how it celebrates. Its Founding Board, formed at FC27 in January 2027, carries the work each year. The World Summit on Universities (WSU) is its strategic partner, and WUF is asking the United Nations to proclaim the day.

## INSTITUTIONAL HOME

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

## ITS OWN HOME ONLINE

IDU.news: the call and the five ways to take part, then the toolkit, the map of celebrations, stories and news.

## FREE FOR EVERY UNIVERSITY

The logo, 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, a Founding Board formed at FC27 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 |
|---|---|
| **The day needs leaders to carry it** | FC27, 26 to 29 January 2027, forms its Founding Board and its Initiative Founding Members, two from each country, before the year's work begins. |
| **Universities may not hear of the day** | The call is renewed every year on 7 November, carried by WUF, its members and the Initiative Founders of FC27, 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 logo, 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. |
| **The day may lack official standing** | WUF asks the United Nations to proclaim the day, and every endorsement strengthens the request. |

11. NEXT STEPS AND CALL TO ACTION

# FIVE WAYS TO TAKE PART. TAKE ONE, OR SEVERAL.

1

### FOUND · A FOUNDING POSITION

At FC27, the WUF Founders' Council, Antalya, Türkiye, 26 to 29 January 2027. At most two Initiative Founding Members per country. Join the Founding Members by 30 November 2026, and reserve your seat.

2

### ENDORSE · A LEADING POSITION

Endorse the day as an individual, or on behalf of a university, an association, an NGO, a company or a public body.

3

### JOIN · A TEAM POSITION

Translate the call, be the IDU contact at your university or in your city, help with media and design, or plan a celebration.

4

### COMMENT · AN ADVISING POSITION

Send a note, an idea or an observation. The IDU team reads every one.

5

### SHARE · AN ENGAGEMENT POSITION

Tell others about the day and ask your university to endorse it. All five start at IDU.news/take-part.

WUF's own next step: starting now, WUF informs the United Nations of the International Day of Universities and asks that it be proclaimed an international day, as soon as possible.

The next meeting point is FC27, 26 to 29 January 2027: request your seat at W-U-F.org/FC27-Join. Questions, ideas and endorsements: connect@idu.news.

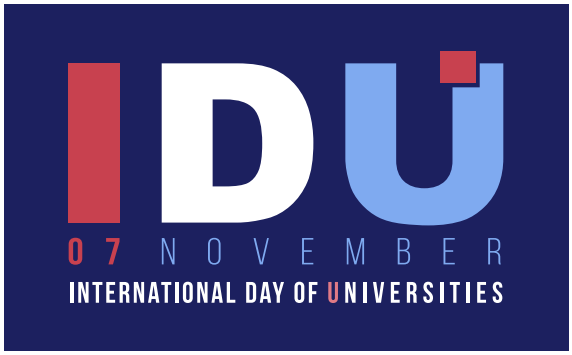
APPENDIX A

# THE LOGO OF THE DAY.

The International Day of Universities has one logo, 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 logo and its guidelines are available at IDU.news/the-logo or from connect@idu.news.




ON LIGHT BACKGROUNDS




ON DARK BACKGROUNDS







## USING THE LOGO

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 logo.

# IDU

07 NOVEMBER

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNIVERSITIES

## ONE DAY FOR EVERY UNIVERSITY.

7 November, every year

**IDU.news**

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WUF
WORLD UNIVERSITIES FOUNDATION

An initiative of the
World Universities Foundation · W-U-F.org