Staff and student guidance on absence for religious holidays

**Guidance for staff**

Placements

We ask staff to be as flexible as possible in accommodating requests for rearranged placement attendance for key religious festivals/holidays. Wherever possible alternative placement hours should be provided, within the scope of the service and staff capacity/availability. If rearrangement is not possible students are expected to attend placements as arranged.

Placements also include scheduled clinical teaching sessions and these sessions are not normally able to be rescheduled. Students must make sure they discuss any planned absence for any reason with the facilitator/supervisor/placement or module lead.

MiP and BM4 GP Teaching sessions

MIP and BM4 GP clinical teaching sessions cannot be rescheduled. Students are advised that they should attend every session as the course is designed for full attendance. Any unexpected reason for absence from these sessions should be reported to the tutor/ module lead and the Placements team.

Assessments

Key religious festival dates are provided in this document and wider information of religious festivals can be found here. Wherever possible, formative and summative assessments should not be scheduled on the identified key religious festival /holiday dates. This includes formative group tasks and coursework submission deadlines. However, it may not be possible to avoid all the specified dates and students will be expected to attend all scheduled assessments.

Campus teaching

Students are expected to make up for any teaching time lost due to attending key religious festivals. Students must discuss any planned absence, for any reason, with the facilitator/tutor ahead of any tutorial or small group sessions.

**Guidance for students**

You are advised to make a note of all assessment dates, provisional exam dates are published at the start of each academic year on the UG handbook and coursework submission dates are published at the start of each module, where relevant.

Placements

You will need to contact your placement facilitator/supervisor/tutor, providing several weeks’ notice, if you would like to request to rearrange your placement attendance to attend religious festivals or holidays. Wherever possible alternative placement hours should be provided, within the scope of the service and staff capacity/availability. If rearrangement is not possible you are expected to attend.

Placements also include scheduled clinical teaching sessions and these sessions are not normally able to be rescheduled. You must make sure you discuss any planned absence for any reason with your facilitator/supervisor/placement or module lead.

MiP and BM4 GP Teaching sessions

MIP and BM4 GP clinical teaching sessions cannot be rescheduled. You are advised that you should attend every session as the course is designed for full attendance. Any unexpected reason for absence from these sessions must be reported to the tutor/ module lead and the Placements team.

Assessments

Wherever it is possible, summative and formative assessments will not be scheduled on the identified key religious festival /holiday dates. This includes formative group tasks and coursework submission deadlines. However, it may not be possible to avoid all these dates and you will be expected to attend all scheduled assessments.

Campus teaching

You will be expected to make up for any teaching time lost due to attending key religious festivals. You must discuss any planned absence, for any reason, with your facilitator/tutor ahead of any tutorial or small group sessions.

Key dates for religious/cultural festivals (**2023** dates)

January 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Sikhism | Lohri | 14th January 2023 |
| Chinese | Chinese New Year | 22nd January 2023 |

March 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Zoroastrian | Nouruz | 20th March 2023\* |

April 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Chinese | Qingming Festival | 5th April 2023 |
| Sikhism | Vaisakhi | 14th April 2023 |
| Islam | Eid al-Fitr | 21st – 22rd April 2023\* |
| Bahai | Ridvan | 21st April 2023 |
|  | Ridvan | 30th April 2023 |

May 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Bahai | Ridvan | 2nd May 2023 |
| Buddhism | Vesak | 5th May 2023 |

June 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Chinese | Duanwu Festival | 22nd June 2023 |
| Islam | Eid al-Adha | 28th – 29th June 2023\* |

September 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Jainism | Paryushan | 11th September 2023 |
| Judaism | Yom Kippur | 25th September 2023\* |
| Islam | Milad un-Nabi | 27th September 2023\* |

October 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Judaism | Shemini Atzeret | 7th October 2023\* |
| Sikhism | Bhandi Chhor Divas (Diwali) | 12th October 2023 |

November 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Hinduism | Deepawali/Diwali | 12th November 2023 |

Christianity: Holy days covered by existing national holidays Judaism: Passover – Covered by Easter break

Islam: Ramadan will be between the 22nd March – 21st April 2023

\*These dates are predicted based on the Moon sighting predictions for each month. The Islamic and Jewish Calendars are based on the lunar cycle. Therefore, the actual day could be +/-1 day of range noted.

Links to calendars:

[2023 Cultural Planner can be downloaded as pdf](https://www.happy.co.uk/media/2789/cultural-planner-2023-v10.pdf)

Key dates for religious/cultural festivals (**2024** dates)

January 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Sikhism | Lohri | 13th January 2024 |

February 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Chinese | Chinese New Year | 10th February 2024 |

March 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Zoroastrian | Nouruz | 20th March 2024 |

April 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Chinese | Qingming Festival | 5th April 2024 |
| Islam | Eid al-Fitr | 9th – 10th April 2024\* |
| Sikhism | Vaisakhi | 13th April 2024 |
| Bahai | Ridvan | 21st April 2024 |
|  | Ridvan | 30th April 2024 |

May 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Bahai | Ridvan | 2nd May 2024 |
| Buddhism | Vesak | 23rd May 2024 |

June 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Chinese | Duanwu Festival | 10th June 2024 |
| Islam | Eid al-Adha | 17th – 18th June 2024\* |

August 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Jainism | Paryushan | 30th – 31st August 2024 |

September 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Islam | Milad un-Nabi | 16th September 2024\* |

October 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Judaism | Yom Kippur | 13th October 2024\* |
| Judaism | Shemini Atzeret | 24th – 25th October 2024\* |
| Hinduism | Deepawali/Diwali | 31st October 2024 |

November 2024

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faith** | **Religious event** | **Dates** |
| Sikhism | Bhandi Chhor Divas (Diwali) | 1st November 2024 |

Christianity: Holy days covered by existing national holidays Judaism: Passover – Covered by Easter break

Islam: Ramadan will be between the 10th March – 9th April 2024\*

**Notes: Exact dates may vary. This calendar only includes key days observant followers may wish to take off. Consequently, if there are corrections/suggestions for additions to this list please contact:**