

UWL Faith Service: Interfaith Awareness Calendar 2024-2025

This calendar identifies major religious festivals from communities represented at UWL. It highlights important dates that are expected to impact staff and students, such as holidays that require fasting or prohibit work. By developing this calendar, we aim to encourage UWL's community to be mindful and inclusive with timetabling and scheduling. This calendar is *not* an exhaustive list of religious festivals but rather focuses on those most likely to impact learning, teaching and work.

Please note: If we've missed a significant date or if any inaccuracies exist, please notify the Interfaith Adviser (faith@uwl.ac.uk). Be aware that within communities there can be a wide range of interpretation and adherence; this calendar aims to show what is commonly observed in consultation with faith groups.

High Impact: This festival significantly affects both staff and students who observe it. Whenever possible, the timetabling of deadlines, exams and important university work should be avoided on these dates. If avoiding these dates is not feasible, reasonable considerations should be provided for those impacted. Line managers should recognise that staff may request flexible working hours or annual leave.

Moderate Impact: If it is necessary to schedule deadlines, exams or important university work on these dates, alternative arrangements may be needed for some individuals. Additionally, some staff may request annual leave.

***Important:** Muslim and Jewish festivals begin in the evening of the day prior to the date shown in this calendar. Asterisks have been included to indicate this.

September 2024

Semester 1: 30 September 2024 – 1 February 2025

- 16 September 2024*
Mawlid al-Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad) – Muslim – MODERATE

October 2024

- 3 & 4 October 2024*
Rosh Hashanah (New Year) – Jewish – HIGH
- 12 October 2024
Vijaya Dashami / Dussehra (Triumph of Lord Rama) – Hindu – MODERATE
- 12 October 2024*
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) – Jewish – HIGH
- 17 & 18 October 2024*
Sukkot (Festival of Booths) – Jewish – HIGH
- 24 October 2024*
Shemini Atzeret (8th Day of Assembly) – Jewish – HIGH
- 25 October 2024*
Simchat Torah (Rejoicing with the Torah) – Jewish – HIGH

November 2024

- 1 November 2024
Diwali (Festival of Lights) – Hindu – **HIGH**
- 1 November 2024
Bandi Chhor Divas (Release of Guru Hargobind) / Diwali – Sikh – **HIGH**
- 15 November 2024
Guru Nanak Gurburab (Birthday of Guru Nanak) – Sikh – **HIGH**
- 24 November 2024
Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur – Sikh – **MODERATE**

December 2024

Winter Break: 23 December 2024 – 5 January 2025

- 25 December 2024
Christmas Day (Birth of Jesus) – Christian – **HIGH**

January 2025

- 6 January 2025
Guru Gobind Singh Gurburab (Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh) – Sikh – **HIGH**
- 7 January 2025
Christmas Day (Birth of Jesus) – Orthodox Christian – **HIGH**

February 2025

Semester 2: 10 February 2025 – 7 June 2025

- 26 February 2025
Maha Shivaratri (The Great Night of Shiva) – Hindu – **MODERATE**

March 2025

- 1 March 2025* – *expected*
Ramadan begins (lasts 30 days) – Muslim – **MODERATE**
- 14 & 15 March 2025
Holi (Festival of Colours, Love and Spring) – Hindu – **MODERATE**
- 21 March 2025
Jamshedi Noruz / Nowrooz (New Year) – Zoroastrian and Persian – **HIGH**
- 30 March 2025*
Eid al-Fitr (Feast of Breaking the Fast, End of Ramadan) – Muslim – **HIGH**

April 2025

Spring Break: 14 April 2025 – 21 April 2025

- 6 April 2025
Ram Navami (Birth of Lord Ram) – Hindu – **MODERATE**
- 13 & 14 April 2025*
Pesach (Passover, first 2 days of the festival) – Jewish – **HIGH**

- 14 April 2025
Vaisakhi / Baisakhi (Spring Festival) – Sikh and Hindu – **HIGH**
- 18 April 2025
Good Friday (Crucifixion of Jesus) – Christian – **HIGH**
- 18 April 2025
Great & Holy Friday (Crucifixion of Jesus) – Orthodox Christian – **HIGH**
- 19 & 20 April 2025*
Pesach (Passover, final 2 days of the festival) – Jewish – **HIGH**
- 20 April 2025
Easter Sunday (Resurrection of Jesus) – Christian – **HIGH**
- 20 April 2025
Pascha / Easter Day (Resurrection of Jesus) – Orthodox Christian – **HIGH**

May 2025

- 12 May 2025
Wesak (Buddha Day) – Buddhist – **MODERATE**

June 2025

Summer Break: 9 June 2025 – 28 September 2025

Semester 3: 9 June 2025 – 27 September 2025

- 2 & 3 June 2025*
Shavuot (Festival of Weeks) – Jewish – **HIGH**
- 7 June 2025*
Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) – Muslim – **HIGH**
- 8 June 2025
Pentecost (Gift of the Holy Spirit) – Orthodox Christian – **MODERATE**
- 15 June 2025*
Eid al-Ghadir (Feast of the Pond) – Muslim [Shia] – **HIGH**
- 16 June 2025
Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev – Sikh – **MODERATE**

July 2025

- 6 July 2025*
Ashura (Death of Husayn ibn Ali) – Muslim [Shia] – **MODERATE**

August 2025

- 15 August 2025
Dormition of the Mother of God – Orthodox Christian – **MODERATE**
- 15 & 16 August 2025
Krishna Janmashtami (Birth of Lord Krishna) – Hindu – **MODERATE**