

University of Glasgow**Academic Standards Committee – Friday 23 March 2018****University Assessments Falling During Ramadan****Professor John Briggs, Clerk of Senate**

Starting in 2018 the main Semester Two Exam Diet in April/May will overlap with the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan as follows:

Exam Diet:	23 April – 18 May
Anticipated Ramadan dates:	16 May – 14 June

(Exams in some parts of the University, e.g. Schools of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, continue after 18 May.)

The University recognises religion and belief as a protected equality characteristic. Currently, the Equality & Diversity Policy - Religion & Belief H4.3.5 states that the University 'gives consideration in examination timetabling requirements to requests from students whose religious observance may result in absence on certain week days or at weekends, or at other times for specific religious festivals, but only if such requests are made early around the time of class enrolment and within three weeks of the start of the semester'.

Ramadan, extending over a significant period of time, is not regarded as a 'specific religious festival' and therefore for the 2018 April/May Exam Diet, activities and exams are expected to continue as normal.

During Ramadan, Muslim students will be fasting during the daylight hours (approx. 14 to 16 hours a day). While no special arrangements are anticipated in this respect, students should be aware of the procedures for Incomplete Assessment resulting from Good Cause in the event of unforeseen health circumstances arising that they believe have seriously impacted performance in specific assessments.

A number of sources of information are available, e.g. NHS Choices, Healthy Ramadan: <https://www.nhs.uk/livewell/healthyramadan/Pages/healthyramadhanhome.aspx>

Exam invigilators will need to be made aware of the overlap of Ramadan with exam dates.

In the years following 2018, there will be more of an overlap of Ramadan with exam diets. In 2021 Eid-El-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, will fall within the main April/May Exam Diet. In due course further consideration will be given to appropriate arrangements for recognising this religious festival.