



# FOSIS RAMADAN GUIDANCE 2017



## BEST PRACTICE & RECOMMENDATIONS



# FOSIS Guide for Universities on Muslim Students, Exams in the month of Ramadan

The Federation of Student Islamic Societies is the umbrella body for 120 Islamic Societies across the UK and Ireland. Established in 1963, FOSIS represents the interests of 115,00 Muslim Students, supporting academic, social, spiritual and political needs as well as providing key services, resources and support at a national level on issues affecting Muslims. Ramadan is a special month in the Islamic Calendar for Muslims and is one of the five pillars of faith. This year Ramadan will overlap exam period impacting many Muslim students who will be fasting. This guide is to provide understanding on this impact as well as a reference on how to support Muslim students through this time.

**This guide is for:**

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|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>1) Members of Court (governors)</b>   | <b>5) Human Resources staff</b>  |
| <b>2) Senior management</b>  | <b>6) University Chaplain(s)</b> |
| <b>3) Registrars</b>   | <b>7) Equality staff</b>         |
| <b>4) Staff responsible for setting class schedules and setting examinations</b> | <b>8) Students Associations</b>  |

## Religious Festivals - Ramadan

Ramadan is the name of the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is the holiest month of the year for Muslims. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. People wake up before dawn for “suhur” (meal to be consumed before dawn) and then fast until sunset where they will gather for the breaking of the fast.

On average Muslim students across the UK will fast for 19 hours without water.

## Muslims in further & higher education

According to the 2011 Census there are over 329,694 in full time education. This is a significant demographic of students who will be fasting whilst sitting their exams.

## **Ramadan Dates:**

\* All dates are subject to moon sighting and only an approximation

Ramadan 2017	27 <sup>th</sup> May *	Eid: June 25 <sup>th</sup> *
Ramadan 2018	16 <sup>th</sup> May *	Eid: June 15 <sup>th</sup> *
Ramadan 2019	6 <sup>th</sup> May *	Eid: June 4 <sup>th</sup> *



### **Impact of Fasting on Exams:**

- Impact on students during preparation and sitting of exams.
- Due to the length of the fasting day there is significant effect on concentration and increased fatigue can occur.

### **FOSIS Recommendations: -**

○	Recommendation	○	Summary
	<b>1. Education of staff</b>		Awareness training and resources on Ramadan and its importance to Muslim  Data on number of Muslims on Campus (i.e. overview of numbers per department may be useful too)  Effects of fasting on concentration  University/SU policies in place
	<b>2. Exam Timetabling</b>		Adjusting time of exams to early morning or early afternoon (especially in departments with bigger Muslim student demographic)
	<b>3. Mitigating Circumstances</b>		Policy in place for students who struggle in the exam to appeal the case and if conditions are met re-sit in august as a first attempt
	<b>4. Student Support</b>		Universities should try to have café space open in the evening time for students to break fast  Student Unions should also offer café space for students evening meal  Universities should work with Islamic society on campus to ensure Muslim student welfare needs are being met  Conduct risk assessment on those on placements or working in labs (e.g. Fatigue doesn't lead to mishaps. At some Universities a number of students fainted in the afternoon whilst working in labs)  Halls to allow students to cook breakfast in early hours, etc.



To help facilitate this FOSIS have created a package of materials, available upon request, which includes:

- Ramadan guidance (Times for Fasting & permissibility of breaking fast)
- Importance of prayers
- Prayer room guidance
- Arrangement of a Ramadan Webinar – introduction to Ramadan

For further info please contact:

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**SOCs across the UK break fast together**

Celebrating the blessed month of Ramadan, Memories & Inspiration | #MyRamadan  
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