

RAMADAN – FAQ

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the name for the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is a holy month for Muslims when they abstain from eating and drinking and any other physical needs during the daylight hours. As a time to purify the soul, refocus attention on God, and practice self sacrifice. Ramadan is much more than just not eating and drinking.

When is Ramadan?

As the Islamic calendar is based on lunar sightings, Ramadan falls on different dates each year—these are summarised overleaf.

How long does Ramadan last?

It lasts for approximately one month. The dates change every year and are based on the lunar calendar.

Should all Muslims fast?

Fasting is mandatory on every Muslim who is of sound mind, adult, able and resident. The following exemptions apply: those not of sound mind; children who are not adolescent yet; the elderly and chronically ill for whom fasting is unreasonably strenuous; pregnant and nursing women (may postpone the fasting at a later time); the ill and travellers can also defer their fasting; Women during the period of menstruation or of post childbirth confinement

How does the fast become void/broken?

When an agent of consequence reaches the throat, stomach, intestines or a cavity that has a path, immediately or via another cavity to any of these three and settles therein the fast is broken. An agent of consequence is one that has nutritional or medicinal benefit or has been introduced by oneself.

What is Eid?

Muslims celebrate Eid twice a year. The first is known as Eid Al-Fitr. It marks the end of Ramadan and is celebrated with family members. It is similar to Christmas in many ways gifts are distributed and families have a big dinner together. The second is known as Eid Al-Adha. This is celebrated because it marks the end of the holy pilgrimage for Muslims known as Hajj. It is celebrated in a similar way and is generally two months after Eid-Al-Fitr.

Can you drink water during the fasting period?

No, this is not permitted. Things like chewing gum are also forbidden.

SEE OVER FOR A FULL GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND RAMADAN DATES

RAMADAN

GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

- Eid** – the celebrations after Ramadan and Hajj
- Fajr** – the first prayer of the day after Sahur
- Fidyah** - a method of compensation for a missed act of worship
- Hajj** – a holy pilgrimage for Muslims
- Iftar** – the meal and prayer taken to break the fast each day
- Maghrib** – the fourth prayer of the day
- Qur'an** – the holy book of the Muslim faith
- Sahur** – a meal taken before fasting begins
- Tarawih** – special prayers held each night of Ramadan at mosques

Ramadan Dates and Exams 2018 & 2019

We acknowledge at times there may be some overlap between religious celebrations and examinations. Therefore, in the table below we have prepared a schedule for the coming years, so dates and potential clashes can be easily identified.

Year	Ramadan		Exams		Resits		Clashes
	Start*	End*	Start	End	Start	End	
2018	16 May	14 June	16 May	6 June	20 August	31 August	16 May—6 June
2019	6 May	4 June	15 May	5 June	19 August	30 August	15 May—4 June

- dates are approximate (depending on initial sighting of the moon)

The University offers support to all staff and students who have a religion or belief (including no belief). During a festival such as Ramadan there will be extra provisions that need to be considered. We will endeavour to provide extra prayer facilities if these are needed and the exams team will be sympathetic to students and do their best to schedule exams accordingly, but this may not always be possible. This dedicated team can also provide information if you believe you have grounds for requesting to be excused from the exam. More details can be seen here: www.exams.manchester.ac.uk/exam-timetable/#religious-observance

Location of Prayer Rooms

- South Campus: McDougall Centre (Building 91 on campus map)
- North Campus: Sackville Street Building (Building 1 on campus map)

There is also a Muslim Chaplain assigned to The University of Manchester who provides pastoral support, guidance and a listening ear to Muslim students and staff as well as advice or information on related matters. Please find contact details below:

Mr Mohammed Ullah: mohammed.ullah@manchester.ac.uk

Further information available at:
www.manchesterisoc.com