

Religious Observance Policy

London Campus

Document title: Religious Observance Policy	
Owner: UK Director of Student and Academic Services	
Approving body: Campus Academic Board	Date of approval: July 2026
Version: 1.0	Next review date: July 2028
Supersedes: N/A	Previous review dates: September 2025

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1. Introduction

ESCP Business School is proud of the diversity of its student population and values the contribution this brings to our community. With a wide range of faiths and beliefs represented on campus, we are committed to promoting tolerance, understanding, and cooperation.

Many religions require members to pray at specific times or to observe festivals and holy days. We recognise that students often balance their educational and religious commitments. This policy aims to minimise, where reasonable and practicable, the impact that mandatory religious observance may have on a student's studies and ability to succeed.

2. Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

- Remain engaged with their studies.
- Attend all scheduled classes and assessments.

The academic calendar is structured around UK national public holidays, which largely reflect the Christian calendar. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance must inform the School in advance (2 weeks) and complete the **Religious Observance Form** (Appendix A), which will be reviewed by the Student Services Panel.

3. Scope and Limitations

The School publishes a calendar of key religious observances (see section 5) for each academic year where work or study restrictions may apply. The calendar is intended as a guide and is not exhaustive.

Where an observance is not included in the published calendar, the School may require written confirmation from a recognised faith leader to support the application.

2026.

If an assessment falls on a day of mandatory religious observance, the School will make reasonable efforts to provide appropriate adjustments where possible.

All requests must be submitted at least two weeks in advance of the intended absence. The School cannot be held responsible for missed assessments where the request was not submitted on time, or where no reasonable alternative can be arranged.

Extended absences (e.g. for pilgrimage) cannot usually be accommodated within the academic term. In such cases, students may be required to formally interrupt their studies, take a gap year, or defer their programme.

ESCP will endeavour to make adjustments to support the student. It may not be possible for all students' requests to be accommodated.

4. Assessment of Applications

The School will consider:

- Whether observance is a mandatory aspect of the student's faith.
- The amount of requested time off and its compatibility with academic requirements.
- Any potential impact on other students' learning.
- Practical feasibility, including staffing, space, and resources.

5. Calendar of Key Religious Observance AY26/27

- Rosh Hashanah (Jewish): Friday 11 September evening to Sunday 13 September evening
- Yom Kippur (Jewish): Sunday 20 September evening to Monday 21 September evening
- Sukkot (Jewish): Friday 25 September evening to Friday 2 October evening
- Shemini Atzeret (Jewish): Friday 2 October evening to Saturday 3 October evening
- Simchat Torah (Jewish): Saturday 3 October evening to Sunday 4 October evening
- Eid al-Fitr (Islam): Wednesday 10 March (tentative date)
- Pesach/Passover (Jewish): Wednesday 21 April evening to Thursday 29 April evening
- Eid al-Adha (Islam): Monday 17 May (tentative date)
- Shavuot (Jewish): Thursday 10 June evening to Saturday 12 June evening

(Appendix A) Religious Observance Request Form

This must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the intended absence or assessment affected.

Student name	
Student ID	
Programme of study	
Religion	
Requested dates of absence	
Courses affected	
Request for	☐ Class absence ☐ Exam absence
Explanation of observance	
Evidence (Supporting letter from the faith leader of the community you practice with)	
Decision (for School use only)	

Please email the completed form to the UK Director of Student and Academic Services, Florence Mele, at fmele@escp.eu