To: Carnegie Mellon Faculty and Staff  
From: Amy Burkert, Vice Provost for Education, ak11@andrew.cmu.edu  
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Date: August 1, 2017  
Subject: Religious Holidays 2017-2018

With preparations for the academic year underway, we are writing to provide information about religious observances and their potential impact on class attendance and the scheduling of exams and events.

Carnegie Mellon University is a diverse community, with students, staff and faculty of many spiritual and faith traditions. Given this diversity, it is impossible to avoid conflicts with every religious observance. Instead, faculty members should invite students to bring scheduling conflicts to their attention so that a reasonable accommodation may be made. University policy dictates that when a student has a conflict between a religious holiday and a graded assignment, the student should contact the faculty member directly to work out a resolution.

We would like to call your attention to seven particular holidays that are observed by a number of our students, to which we should be sensitive when planning mandatory academic and metacurricular activities:

- Eid al-Adha (sundown on or about Friday, Sept. 1 through sundown Saturday, Sept. 2)*
- Rosh Hashanah (sundown Wednesday, Sept. 20 through sundown Friday, Sept. 22)
- Yom Kippur (sundown Friday, Sept. 29 through sundown Saturday, Sept. 30)
- Passover (first two evenings: Friday and Saturday, March 30-31, and last day of the eight day observance, Saturday, April 7)
- Good Friday (Friday, March 30)
- Easter (Sunday, April 1)
- Eid al-Fitr (sundown on or about Thursday, June 14, through sundown Friday, June 15, concluding the month-long Ramadan observance)*

* dates may vary based on moon sighting

Please note that this is by no means a complete list of dates important to our students’ religious and cultural backgrounds. For example, some of our students may wish to seek accommodation for their observances of Diwali or the Lunar New Year. As a demonstration of our commitment to inclusion, we encourage faculty to invite students to self-identify important observances to their tradition. A valuable resource that provides detailed information about religious observances and celebrations can be found online at [http://www.interfaith-calendar.org](http://www.interfaith-calendar.org).

Thank you for your commitment to demonstrating our shared value for the diversity of our community. Please feel free to contact either of us should you have any questions.