



Religious Holidays Policy Statement

Postgraduate Programs should make every effort to accommodate religious holidays. As stipulated in the PAIRO/CAHO Agreement, prior to granting any vacation or leave, it must be ensured that patient care responsibilities are met. It must also be recognized that postgraduate trainees will have to support each other at times when many trainees could be away for a certain religious holiday. It is the responsibility of the resident to request in writing a leave day(s) for religious holidays as far in advance as possible. As per the Agreement, this request must be made at least 4 weeks ahead of time.

In accordance with the PAIRO/CAHO Agreement, residents are entitled to 5 days of leave over the Christmas/New Year's Eve period. If a resident wishes to waive this leave in order to take a 5 day leave at the time of a religious holiday pertinent to their faith, this request should be accommodated whenever possible, again with the caveat that patient care responsibilities are being met.

Enclosed is a list of religious holidays, which may be requested as leave days. Please inform the Postgraduate Office at once if any important religious holidays are missing from this list.

Religious Holidays Academic Year 2011-2012

MONTHS	DATES	RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS	RELIGION
August	1, 1st day of Ramadan (through to August 29, 2011)	Ramadan (Holy Month of Fasting)	Islam
	(*29), 30, 31 or (*30), 31, Sept. 1	Eid-al-Fitr (Feast to end Fasting)	Islam
September	(*28), 29, 30	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)	Judaism
October	(*7), 8	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Judaism
	(*12), 13-19 (13 & 14 Primary Obligation Days)	Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)	Judaism
	(*19), 20 & 21	Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah (Eighth day of Sukkot & Rejoicing of the Torah)	Judaism
	26	Diwali (Festival of Lights)	Hinduism
November	(*6), 7	Eid-al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice)	Islam
December	25	Christmas (Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ)	Christianity
March	8	Holi (Festival of Colours)	Hinduism
April	(*6) 7-14 (7, 8 & 13, 14 primary obligation days)	Pesach (Passover)	Judaism
	6	Good Friday (Remembrance of Jesus crucifixion)	Christianity
	8	Easter (Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and other related events)	Christianity
May	(*26) 27-28	Shavuot (Feast of Weeks)	Judaism
PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME DATES MAY VARY, because some religious holidays are based on the lunar calendar.			
(*) Holidays beginning at sunset of that day			