Religious and Spiritual Days of Observance 2022

The following are some dates of religious, spiritual, and/or cultural significance that students, faculty and staff members may choose to consider when making scheduling decisions; for example, when planning dates for class requirements, examinations, or events.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive but highlights some of the key dates of importance. Some of the days may vary a few days before or after the date indicated, due to lunar calendars, time zone differences, incompatibility with the Western Gregorian calendar, government or ecclesiastical declarations, date reporting conflicts etc. Individuals who practice the religious or spiritual tradition are to be positioned as the experts in when the dates of observance land.

Dates of religious/spiritual significance may require a formal accommodation, as outlined by, and protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The University of Waterloo has a duty to accommodate religious and spiritual observances. This list of dates should not be used to vet the legitimacy of requests for accommodations related to religious or spiritual days of observance but is designed to be a guide for planning purposes and may signal to instructors potential conflicts with course requirements; or provide dates to consider avoiding for those planning events or celebrations.

Additionally listed are dates that are specifically important to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. Although these dates are not necessarily inherently spiritual, Indigenous spirituality is also protected under the OHRC as a ground for accommodation, and as such Indigenous students, faculty or staff may require time off to recognize these important dates for spiritual or ceremonial reasons. These are also not exhaustive, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit across the country are extremely diverse and each have their own days of significance and observances.

Please contact the Equity Office if you have any questions about this list, and when published, consider consulting the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI)’s 2022 calendar for a more fulsome list or brief description of these dates.

Winter Term:

January 2022

• January 6 – Christmas (Armenian Apostolic Church)
• January 7 – Christmas (Christian-Coptic & Eastern Orthodox)
• January 10 – Bodhi Day (Buddhism)
• January 14 – Orthodox New Year (Orthodox Christian)
• January 16-17 – Tu B’Shevat (Judaism)*

February 2022

• February 5 – Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
• February 16 – Magha Puja (Buddhism)*
• February 21 – Mi’Kmaq and Nova Scotia Heritage Day*
March 2022

- March 1 – Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
- March 2 - April 14 – Ash Wednesday, Start of Lent (Christian)*
- March 2 – March 20 – Nineteen Day Fast (Bahá’í)
- March 3 – Losar (Tibet)* / Chotrul Duchen (Tibetan Buddhists)*
- March 16-17 – Purim (Judaism)*
- March 17-18 – Holi (Hindu)*
- March 21 - Nowruz (Bahá’í)*
- March 26 – Birth Anniversary of Prophet Zarathustra (Zoroastrian)*

April 2022

Sikh Heritage Month
- April 2 - Hindu New Year (first day of Chaitra)*
- April 2 - May 2 – Start of Ramadan (Islam)*
- April 10 – Palm Sunday (Christian)* / Ram Navami (Hindu)*
- April 13-15 – Songkran (Thailand)*
- April 14 - Vaisakhi (Sikh)* and Mahavir Jayanti (Jainism)
- April 15 – April 23 – Passover/Pesach (Judaism)*
- April 15 – Good Friday (Christian)*
- April 16 - Theravada New Year (Buddhism)*
- April 16 – Easter Sunday (Christian)*
- April 17 - Easter Monday (Christian)*
- April 21 – First Day of Ridvan (Bahá’í)*
- April 22 – Orthodox Good Friday (Coptic-Christian& Eastern Orthodox)*
- April 23 – Orthodox Holy Saturday (Coptic-Christian& Eastern Orthodox)*
- April 24 – Easter/ Pasha (Coptic-Christian& Eastern Orthodox)*
- April 25 – Easter Monday (Coptic-Christian & Eastern Orthodox)*
- April 29 – Laylatul Qadr (Night of Power) (Islam)
- April 29 – Ninth Day of Ridvan (Bahá’í)*

Spring Term:

May 2022

Canadian Jewish Heritage Month
- May 2 – End of Ramadan (Islam)
- May 3 – Eid ul Fitr (Islam)*
- May 6 – Vesak (Buddhist)*
- May 24 – Declaration of the Bab (Bahá’í)*
- May 29 – Ascension of Bahá’u’lláh (Bahá’í)
June 2022

- June 4 – Shavuot (Judaism)*
- June 21 – National Indigenous People’s Day

July 2022

- July 10 – Huron Tract Treaty of 1827 Anniversary / Martyrdom of the Bab (Bahá’í)*
- July 9 – July 13 – Eid ul Adha* (Islam)
- July 11 – Imamat Day (Islam Ismaillî)*
- July 13 – Asala (Dharma Day) (Buddhist)*
- July 30 – Muharram (Islam)*

August 2022

- August 9 – International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
- August 11 – Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
- August 12 – Obon (Japanese Buddhist)*
- August 18 – Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
- August 24 – Paryushan-Parvarambha (Jain)*
- August 31 – Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)*

Fall Term:

September 2022

- September 24 – Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre (WISC) Pow Wow*
- September 25 – September 27 – Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)*
- September 26 - October 4 – Navratri (Hindu)*
- September 30 – Orange Shirt Day / National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October 2022

Canadian Islamic History Month
- October 4 - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) National Day of Remembrance / Yom Kippur (Judaism)*
- October 5 - Dussehra (Hindu)*
- October 7-8 – Mawlid al Nabi (Islam)*
- October 9 - October 16 – Sukkot (Judaism)*
- October 16 – October 18 – Shemini Atzeret (Judaism)*
- October 12 - October 13 – Karva Chauth (Hindu)
- October 15 – October 16 – Hoshana Rabbah* (Judaism)
- October 24 – Diwali (Sikh, Hindu, Jain)*
- October 26 – Birth of the Bab (Bahá’í)*
- October 27 – Birth of Bahá’u’lláh (Bahá’í)*
November 2022

- November 7 – Inuit Day (International)
- November 8 – National Indigenous Veterans Day / Guru Nanak’s Birthday – Bikrami (Sikh)*
- November 28 – Ascension of Abdu’l-Bahá (Bahá’í)*
- November 28-Jan 6, 2023 – Nativity Fast (Eastern Orthodox & Eastern Catholic)*

December 2022

- December 13 – Aga Khan’s Birthday (Islam Ismaili)*
- December 18 - December 26 – Hanukkah (Judaism)*
- December 24 – Christmas Eve (Christian)
- December 25 - Christmas Day (Christian)
- December 26 – Kwanzaa (Spiritual Observance)
- December 27 - Death of Prophet Zarathustra (Zoroastrian)
*date changes each year