

# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH

## FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND RELIGIOUS OBSERVATIONS: WINTER 2023

The April exam period occurs at the same time as some important religious observations, including Orthodox Easter, Vaisakhi, Ramadan and Eid.

Ramadan, a Muslim religious observance marked by fasting from food and water, prayer and reflection, is expected to begin at sunset on Thursday, March 23 and is expected to end with Eid-al-Fitr on Saturday, April 22. **Exams have not been scheduled over the period of sunset during the portion of the exam period that falls during Ramadan (April 13 – April 21).** This will allow students to observe prayer and fast-breaking at the appropriate time with no impact on an evening exam. It was not possible to avoid the scheduling of exams on April 22 for the expected celebration of Eid-al-Fitr.

Holy Friday (Orthodox) and Vaisakhi (Sikh) are both observed on Friday, April 14. It was not possible to avoid the scheduling of exams on this date.

It is expected that students be provided with options so they can effectively observe their faith and fulfill their academic obligations. Acknowledging that students may choose to practice their faith in a number of ways, various options are available. The options below are applicable for students writing exams during regular sittings, or those writing an accommodated exam.

### Option 1: PRAYER DURING EXAMS

Some students may wish to observe prayers during exams. A schedule of prayer times during Ramadan can be found here: <https://aladhan.com/ramadan-prayer-times/2023/Toronto/Canada> More specifically, there may be students who wish to observe prayers during exams held at 1pm and 5pm.

For in-person exams: Students who wish to observe prayer while writing an exam will identify themselves to an invigilator who will be able to accompany the student to a dedicated prayer space during the exam. Each exam building will have a dedicated prayer space for this purpose. Following prayer, the invigilator will lead the student(s) back to the exam space. Students do not need to make a special request to use this option and will not be provided with extra time in the exam. Students who feel they will be disadvantaged by losing time in the exam should use Option 2 below.

### Spaces available for prayer during the exam period:

- Student Life - SL 279 and 281
- Highland Hall - HL B110
- Arts & Administration - AA 209
- Instructional Centre - IC 302
- Humanities Wing - HW 308
- Science Wing - SW 311
- Social Sciences - MW 140
- Academic Resource Centre - AC 332
- Bladen Wing - BV 260



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**For virtual timed exams:** Students who wish to observe prayer while writing a virtual timed exam of three hours or less should identify themselves to their instructors at least two weeks prior to the scheduled exam. Instructors may contact [quercus.utsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:quercus.utsc@utoronto.ca) for assistance to configure a time extension in Quercus, or if using other tools of submission, may simply choose to accept the exam submission late. The recommended time extension for prayer during timed virtual exams should not exceed 15 minutes.

## **Option 2: CONSIDERATION OF RELIGIOUS CONFLICT**

Students who feel that the scheduling of their exam is in conflict with their ability to observe their faith may request religious consideration through the Office of the Registrar at <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/conflicts>. This process may be used to request for an exam to be moved to an alternate time/date due to religious observation.

The deadline to declare a religious conflict for the April exam period is **Thursday, March 23, 2023**.



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