

Religious observance policy

This policy is of relevance to students / staff / applicants

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Approved by	Academic Board
Written by	Registry
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The School's 'Course Participation Policy' requires students to be able to participate in all aspects of their programme, attending all scheduled sessions under normal circumstances. Students have particular responsibilities towards their fellow students in collaborative activity.

The School aims to be sensitive to the observance of religious holidays and other religious practices (eg those involving the funeral arrangements of a close family member). However, vocational work often demands a six day week, particularly during production and performance schedules, and the intensive nature of the School's programmes leaves little flexibility in the timetable for accommodating the wide range of religious holy days and festivals of our multi-cultural society.

A student wishing to be excused from a scheduled activity for religious observance on a regular basis should make this known as early as possible to the Programme/Pathway Leader to assess and approve what is reasonable and practicable within the timetable. Given the intensive nature of the timetable it will not be possible to reschedule class activity and where permission is granted for religious leave the student will be expected to catch up on any work missed.

Ad hoc requests for religious observance leave should be requested using the leave of absence system and the Programme/Pathway Leader will consider the implications in respect of the individual student's training and the training of other students where it affects collaborative activity.