

Ramadan 2019

Information Sheet for the Columbia University Community

Background

In 2019, Ramadan begins Sunday, May 5 at sunset and ends Tuesday, June 4 at sunset. Observation of the start and end dates may vary by one day depending on different schools of thought within the Islamic tradition. The majority of Muslims in America will be observing Ramadan this year on the aforementioned dates. Ramadan is on a lunar calendar and moves up 11 days each year.

Many practicing Muslims observe fasting and additional Taraweeh prayers during Ramadan. Fasting is typically observed by abstaining from food and water from dawn to sunset and is considered mandatory by many Muslims throughout the month of Ramadan. Taraweeh prayers are about two hours every night during Ramadan and are generally considered to be highly recommended rather than mandatory.

For Administration and Faculty

- As noted, Ramadan will begin on Monday, May 6 (the last day of classes for many schools) and continue through study days, finals, Commencement and Reunion Weekend.
- Due to fasting practices, Muslim students may opt to request religious accommodations for final exams, particularly for exams that occur during the 4-7 pm and 7-10 pm time slots.
- Amina Darwish (a.darwish@columbia.edu), Columbia's Muslim Life Coordinator, is available to assist faculty who receive requests for accommodations. She can help arrange space in Earl Hall and/or a proctor for students taking exams elsewhere.

For Students

- Students seeking religious accommodations for their observation of Ramadan should contact their professors as soon as possible.
- For questions about Ramadan or religious accommodations, please contact Columbia's Muslim Life Coordinator Amina Darwish at a.darwish@columbia.edu.

Programming

Muslim Life at Columbia is coordinating programming for both fasting and prayers throughout Ramadan.

A. Meals

Iftars, the evening meals during Ramadan, will be held in the Earl Hall auditorium while students are on campus. Specialized iftars include a Commencement iftar on Wednesday, May 22 at 7 pm and an alumni iftar on Friday, May 31 at 7 pm. For information about additional iftars at Columbia, please visit the [Columbia Muslim Student Association Facebook page](#).

Columbia Dining is open at JJ's Place for the pre-dawn meal. All students and Columbia affiliates are welcome in JJ's Place.

B. Prayer

Providing the Taraweeh prayers on campus gives students, staff and faculty the flexibility to attend as often as their schedules permit. Taraweeh prayers will be offered every night in Earl Hall starting Sunday, May 5 from 10 pm to 12 am.