

MUSLIM BOOKLET



2025/2026

SOAS MULTI-FAITH CHAPLAINCY

Contents page

A message from the Muslim Chaplain	P2
Key dates	P3-4
The Islamic Calendar	P5
Three Practices	P6
Mosques near to SOAS	P7
Other central London Mosques	P8
Useful links	P9
Finding your way around Campus	P10

A message from the Muslim Chaplain

Assalamu Alaykum

A warm welcome to SOAS to all new and returning students. One of the wonderful things about being at SOAS is that you will be meeting and crossing paths with some great and exciting people from all corners of the globe, as well as born and bred Londoners. More importantly is the fact that you get to be one of those great people that others will meet.

On this incredible journey you have started you will no doubt from time to time have both ups and downs. How you navigate both will offer invaluable learning and growing opportunities, mentally and spiritually.

Apart from academic distinction one of the greatest achievements you can aspire to at SOAS is to look out for your fellow students. A quick call or text, or dropping by when they cross your mind, even if they are not in your direct socialising group or a classmate.

As the Muslim Chaplain at SOAS, alumni of SOAS, and as part of a dynamic chaplaincy team that sits within Student Advice and Wellbeing, we are here to support you whenever you feel things are not going right for you or when you simply want someone to talk to and share your thoughts. You should never feel shy to get in touch with myself or any of the chaplaincy team in any way that suits you. This can be via direct email to myself or you can pop up over to the chaplaincy office and leave a note or catch whichever chaplain you find in the office. Alternatively, simply grab any of us walking by on campus. You don't have to be a person of faith, or even have to talk to a chaplain of your own faith.

I certainly look forward to catching up with many of you over the coming year.

Tahmid Ahmed (ta26@soas.ac.uk)
Muslim Chaplain at SOAS

Key Dates: January 2027 - May 2027

Isra' and Mi'raj 27th Rajab	2026 AD 6th January	The date of the miraculous night journey of the Prophet, (peace be upon him), and his ascension to the heavens. A pivotal event in the history of Islam.
Laylat al-Baraa 15th Sha'ban	24th February	The night preceding the 15th Sha'ban, great night to seek Allah's forgiveness.
Beginning of Ramadan 1st Ramadan	8th February	The first day of the Muslim Month of fasting. Those who are able will fast the full 29 or 30 days of this ninth month of the Muslim lunar calendar.
Battle of Badr 17th Ramadan	24th February	Anniversary of the first definitive military battle and victory of the early Muslim community in Madina.
Last 10 nights of Ramadan (Laylatul Qadr 27th night of Ramadan)	5th-16th March	The Night of Power (better than a thousand months) is said to be on any of the odd nights of the last 10 nights of Ramadan, but some scholars specifically mark the 27th night. These 10 nights are the best 10 nights of the year to do good deeds.
Eid al-FitrEid 1st Shawwal	9th March	The first day of Shawwal (month 10) also marked the end of Ramadan and one of the two major Eid celebrations.
Battle of Uhud 7th Shawwal	16th March	A landmark military defeat of the early Muslim community, where many great Companions lost their lives.
First 10 Days of Dhu'l Hijja	7th - 16th May	The best 10 days of the year where no good deed is better than a good deed performed in these 10 days except for a martyr. Fasting is also recommended except on the 10th day which is Eid al-Adha.

Key Dates: May 2027 - August 2027

Hajj (Main Days) 8th – 13th Dhu'l Hijja	14th - 19th May	A 5 day pilgrimage to Makkah and other surrounding sites which Muslims must perform once in their life if they are able to.
Day of Arafat 9th Dhu'l Hijja	15th May	A traditional day of fasting for Muslims not on Hajj. Pilgrims on Hajj will spend the afternoon in prayer on the plain of Arafat, a place with a very significant history.
Eid al-Adha 10th Dhu'l Hijja	16th - 18th May	A three day Eid which traditionally involves every Muslim household that can afford it, sacrificing sheep or goat (or cow) and normally giving away much of the meat to others including the poor. Most people in UK now rely on their local halal butcher or gift it abroad to the poor.
(1447 AH) Islamic New Year) 1st Muharram	6th June	The first day of the Islamic year 1447 after the Hijra (AH). Meaning 1447 years after the Prophet (peace be upon him) and many of his companions migrated from Mecca to the illuminated city of Madina after suffering 13 years of persecution and abuse.
Day of Ashurah 10th Muharram	15th June	Another day when many Muslims traditionally fast. It marks the day the Prophet Musa (Moses) led the Tribe of Israel out of Egypt and across the Red Sea.
Mawlid 12th Rabi alAwwal	14th August	Celebration of the birth of the Prophet, peace be upon him. Some communities celebrate 5 days later on the 17th Rabi al-Awwal. The celebration is a matter of dispute among communities.

THE ISLAMIC CALENDAR

The Islamic calendar has a degree of fluidity not seen in the traditional western/gregorian calendar, in that each new month begins with a new moon. Not just an astronomical birth of the new moon, but with an actual physical sighting on the 29th night of the preceding month.

This firstly means that none of the above dates can be absolutely fixed in advance as a month could have 29 days (minimum). However if the moon is not seen that night one extra day is added and the month has 30 days (maximum).



Though in recent times some countries have abandoned that traditional practice in favour of a total reliance on astronomical calculations. This often results in different communities or mosques in the UK celebrating events on different days. This includes the beginning and end of Ramadan, and Eid celebrations.

Muslims in the UK tend to follow one of three practices

01

The first follow astronomical calculations, and these are usually in line with or pronounced by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

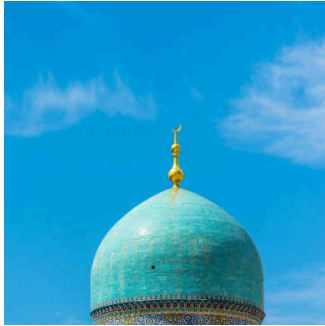
02

Then you have those who do their best to follow a local UK sighting of the moon. Many of them are affiliated to the ever growing UK Moon Sighting group.

03

Finally are those who will follow a local UK sighting as well as official sightings from Morocco and specific communities in nearby Europe. They accept a Moroccan sighting because they feel the Mahgreb is geographically close enough, in the same time zone and Morocco has a trusted and well established system for verifying physical sightings. Whereas the Hijaz is too far, not the same time zone and in most places rely on calculations.

Mosques near SOAS



Goodge Street
(Muslim World League)
46 Goodge Street, London
W1T 4LU



Euston Mosque
(Shahjajal Jame Masjid)
20 Starcross Street
(204A North Gower Street),
London
NW1 2HR



Kings Cross Mosque & Islamic
Cultural Centre
Sandfield (Basement),
Cromer Street,
London
WC1H 8DU

Other Central London Mosques

Mayfair Islamic Centre
19 Hertford Street,
London
W1J 7RU

Whitechapel (East
London Mosque)
82-92 Whitechapel Road
London
E1 1JQ

North Brixton Islamic
Cultural Centre
182 Brixton Road
London
SW9 6AT

Regent's Park
(London Central
Mosque)
146 Park Road
London
NW8 7RG

Soho Islamic Centre
10 Berwick Street
London
W1F 0PH



Useful Links

UK Hilal and Local Moonsighting Group

<https://www.moonsighting.org.uk>

They are always looking for individuals to join local moonsighting groups and they offer training.

UK Mosque/Masjid Directory

<https://mosques.muslimsinbritain.org/index.php>

Great for finding nearby Masjids when in the UK.

Islamic Tours of Central London and other

Islamic related tours for SOAS students (Halal Tours Britain)

<https://www.halaltourismbritain.com/>

The Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES)

<https://www.ifees.org.uk>

One of the foremost Muslim led organisations in the world dealing with these important and topical issues.

UK Muslim Radio

www.ukmuslimradio.com

Broadcasts online everyday at 2pm and throughout the day during Ramadan.

Looking for volunteers to help with programming, presenting, technical support and sponsorship.

Open Trade Network

www.opentrade.org.uk

Dealing with issues of zakat, halal trade, tangible currencies and generally following the command to “abandon riba and establish halal commerce.”

Finding your way around Campus



Chaplaincy Office

Email the Muslim Chaplain: ta26@soas.ac.uk

Wellbeing Team

SL41, Paul Webley Building

Female Prayer Room

Room B105, 1st floor, Brunei Building

Male Prayer Room

Lower Ground/Basement Floor, Main Building

Multi-Faith Room (Room B206)

Available for use in conjunction with members of the Chaplaincy and/or Student Wellbeing team

Jumu'a

During term time ISOC members organise a Friday Jumu'a prayer and service in the Old Rectory on the Lower Ground (basement) floor of the Main Building

Multi-faith Chaplaincy

Student Advice and Wellbeing

