

The right to education without religious discrimination

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The Union notes:

1. Muslim and Jewish Friday prayers can clash with compulsory lectures. For many students, this means that they either miss their prayers, or they are recorded as being absent/late to their class. This has serious repercussions on their overall grade for that module and/or for their student experience.
2. Muslim daily prayers also can clash with compulsory lectures. Similarly, this affects students' ability to arrive to labs/lectures on time or they may have to leave for a short period. Students should not be disadvantaged due to their religious requirements. Special measures need to be put in place to ensure that students' attendance is not penalised in these situations. This is particularly an issue in the Optometry department.
3. Currently, some module leaders provide forms which can be filled out if a student will be late to labs/lectures, or have to leave due to their prayers. However, some lecturers penalise their students anyway, or do not permit students to leave.
4. The forms also do not facilitate getting permission for daily prayers. The timings of daily prayers change throughout the seasons. This makes it difficult for a student to predict which labs will be affected.

The Union believes:

1. Faith plays a key role students' lives. City, University London should try to meet the needs of individual religious groups. Students should not be penalised academically due to their religious requirements.
2. Special circumstances need to be applied for students who need to leave labs/lectures to pray.
3. The process of getting permission to leave labs/lectures needs to be simplified and standardised.

The Union Resolves:

1. To design and produce a standard form which would inform a lecturer of the students' situation in relation to prayer and request that they are not penalised for lateness/absence for compulsory labs/lectures.
2. To lobby City, University of London staff to schedule all compulsory course related activity outside of 1-2pm on Fridays.

3. To lobby City, University of London staff to ensure that no students are penalised when citing religious reasons for missing activities. To actively assist all students who are faced with the threat of penalisation due to religious requirements such as prayers.