



May Allah bless  
throughout the  
New Year!

# 1st of Muharram (Islamic New Year)

Islam

[muh-heh-ruhm](#) 

The Islamic New Year starts on the 1st of Muharram, which is the first month in the Islamic calendar, and historically marks the moment the Prophet Mohammed [peace be unto him] fled from Mecca to [Yathrib](#) (now called Medina) to escape religious persecution. This migration is called [Hijra](#) in Arabic, also spelled Hegira. It is considered the most holy Muslim holiday after Ramadan.

This collection of information sheets on major holidays and cultural events is a joint partnership of the School of Information staff, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office of the Provost. Facts have been vetted by U-M's Association of Religious Counselors (ARC), and other campus groups. Public feedback is welcome; please email [DEIHoliday-Facts@umich.edu](mailto:DEIHoliday-Facts@umich.edu).



## Date

- Takes place on the 1st of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar. It begins at the first sighting of the lunar crescent after the new Moon in the month of Muharram. The crescent Moon may be visible a day or so after the new Moon, but weather and other factors may delay the sighting.
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

## Greetings

Wish the celebrant a New Year full of peace, happiness, and abundance of all. May Allah bless him/her/them throughout the new year.

## Common Practices and Celebrations

- It is usually celebrated with low-key religious events.
- Some Muslims mourn heavily during Muharram, although others do so to a much lesser extent.
- Storytelling, weeping and chest beating, wearing black, partial fasting, street processions, and re-enactments of the Battle of Karbala are part of the traditions.
- It is etiquette in the Islamic tradition to distinguish prophets by referring to them with an immediate notation of respect following their names, as seen above with the bracketed phrase [peace be upon them].

## Common Dietary Restrictions

- Celebrants usually opt for simple, vegetarian food during this celebration. Some Muslims fast as part of their mourning.

## Impact to U-M Community

- Muslim colleagues and students may request to take the first day of the celebration off. Colleagues and remote students in Muslim countries will likely have a national holiday.
- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts](#).

## U-M Campus Resources

- [Maize Pages - Muslim](#), U-M
- [U-M Religious Groups Compiled by ARC](#), U-M
- [Reflection Rooms](#)

## Information Sources

- [Almanac](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [Times of India](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)

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