



# NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

## Memorandum

**To:** Deans and Faculty

**Date:** 8/26/2013

**From:** David W. McLaughlin, Provost

**Subject:** Students' Religious Observance and Class Attendance

As a nonsectarian, inclusive institution, NYU policy permits members of any religious group to absent themselves from classes without penalty when required for compliance with their religious obligations. The policy and principles to be followed by students and faculty may be found here: [The University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#).

This autumn is a time of important religious observance for many of our students who celebrate the Jewish High Holy Days and Sukkoth holiday in September, and the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha in October. Some students may miss a significant amount of class early in the semester, as they choose to observe some or all the holidays.

It has come to my attention that notwithstanding the University's supportive approach to these matters, some students feel uncomfortable alerting their professors to upcoming absences related to religious observance. As we start the new semester, I thank you for your continued cooperation in creating an atmosphere of understanding and accommodation in response to our students' commitment to religious observance.