



Student Support Quick Guide:

A student has a query related to faith, belief or religion

What should you look out for?

Coming to University is an exciting time for students and brings with it greater freedom to question the world around them and their place in it. For many this may mean exploring issues of faith, perhaps questioning their own beliefs, or exploring new ideas and possibilities. As a university, we also need to be aware of our responsibilities for responding to practical issues of faith observance on campus and requests from students for adjustments. Students may come to you with a variety of questions about faith.

What should you do?

1. If the student is requesting an adjustment of some kind on religious or faith grounds.

When a student requests an adjustment to their timetable or the scheduling of a particular aspect of their course on grounds of religion or belief, we recommend the initial response is to take all reasonable steps to try to accommodate these requests. In essence, we encourage all parts of the University to try to foster and demonstrate an instinctive response which is flexible and takes full account of the benefits to the organisation of meeting, rather than rejecting, these requests.

At the same time, it is entirely reasonable for us to require students to provide sufficient notice of their religious observance requirements (providing these timescales are well-publicised).

Occasionally it will not be possible, despite best endeavours, to meet an individual request. In these situations, it is important, and generally considered good practice, to document clearly why it was

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not reasonable or practicable to meet the request. You can also seek advice from the Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to assist you in such circumstances. Email: EDI@napier.ac.uk

2. If the student might like to talk to someone or find out more about local faith communities, events and facilities.

The University has a multi-faith and belief Chaplaincy Team with a number of honorary chaplains and belief contacts from a wide range of different faith traditions. They are trained and experienced in supporting students of all faiths and none.

To contact the Chaplaincy Team email: chaplaincy@napier.ac.uk

What happens next?

The Chaplaincy Team offers a range of faith services to support students including: one-to-one and group support, organised events and activities organised by Friends International, discussion groups and information on local places of worship including churches, Gurdwaras, mosques and synagogues. There are also quiet / prayer rooms on each campus and a Muslim prayer room at Craiglockhart. It is also worth bearing in mind that the Chaplaincy and Faith Advice Team is in place to work with staff members as well as students.

See the [myNapier pages on the Chaplaincy Team](#) for more information.

