



Muslim student resource guide

On behalf of the Muslim Students Association, we'd like to welcome you to the University of South Carolina. We've all been fortunate to be studying at a campus where diversity and culture are both respected and valued. To help you settle in and make it easier for you to transition to your new home here at Columbia, the Muslim Students Association (MSA) has provided the following resource guide in collaboration with the the Department of Student Life and the office of International Students Services. We hope the information provided herein will help you feel more comfortable in your new home, as well as providing you with the necessary faith-based information.

Muslim Students Association (MSA) at the university of South Carolina

MSA is an organization to promote social interaction and services to Muslim students as well as showcase the diverse cultures that are prevalent here at UofSC within the muslim community. We focus on holding social events throughout the year and create a small family-like community within the organization!

- ✉ **Contact information:** somuslim@mailbox.sc.edu
- 📷 **Instagram :** UofSCMSA
- 📘 **Facebook:** University of South Carolina MSA (you can Facebook message us)
- 🏠 **Garnet Gate :** Muslim Students Association
(<https://garnetgate.sa.sc.edu/organization/muslim>)

Halal dining options (restaurants)

- To request Halal food options on-campus, please reach out to Faren Alston at (803)777-2077 or alston-faren@aramark.com to coordinate a meeting with the Carolina Food Company nutritionist and culinary staff.
- **Sahara on Main** - 629 Main St, Columbia, SC 29201 - ☎(803)851-1118

- **Shalimar** - 631 Main st. Columbia, SC 29203 - ☎(803)960-3755
- **5 Points Chicken & Grill** - 2020 Gervais St suite A, Columbia, SC 29204 - ☎(803)445-1647
- **NoMa by Al-Amir** - 2431 Main St, Columbia, SC 29201- ☎(803)401-5882
- **Nick's Gyros and Philly's** - 1931 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 - ☎(803)798-5000
- **Boeshreen** - 2630 Decker Blvd, Columbia, SC 29223 - ☎(803)788-2100

Halal grocery stores (Off-campus)

- **Halal international** - 1601 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC 29210 - ☎(803)750-9881

Prayer space on campus

The location and hours of operation for all campus prayer spaces are published on the Spiritual and Religious Life website.

- **Close Hipp Prayer Space**, Close Hipp Building 1705 College St located on the 4th floor in front of the International Student Services Office Suite 470, open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
- **Russell House University Union Room** 315, open Monday-Friday 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **300 Main Street** Room B104, open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **Hamilton College**, 1512 Pendleton St room 116, open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.
- **Carolina Faith Center** (off-campus), 728 Pickens St, open Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - ☎(803)799-7363

Local mosques

- **Mission Hope Foundation** - 2304 Kneece Rd, Columbia, SC 29223 - ☎(803)462-9904
<http://missionhopefoundation.org>
- **Islamic Center of Columbia (Masjid Al-Muslimin)** - 1929 Gervais St, Columbia, SC 29201 - ☎(803)254-7242 - <http://www.almasjid.com>
- **Islamic Center of Irmo** - 7232 Broad River Rd, Irmo, SC 29063 - ☎(803)250-5576 - <https://icirmo.org>

Prayer times

- A calendar of prayer times can be found here:
<https://sites.google.com/site/missionhopefoundation/mosque/prayer-calendar>
- You can also view prayer times listed on Masjid al-Muslimiin on their front page:
<https://www.almasjid.com>

Religious holidays

Faculty are strongly encouraged to consider religious holidays as excused absences. Students should notify faculty members at least two weeks prior to the absence to notify them of the holiday and request accommodation. Students that need assistance working with their faculty member on a religious holiday absence should contact the Undergraduate Student Ombudsperson in the Division of Student Affairs or the Graduate School Ombudsperson. More information about absences can be found in the Academic Bulletin.

- **Eid-Adha** 2021 (depends on the moon sighting in Saudi Arabia) - est. beginning evening of July 19th and ends evening of July 20th.
- **Eid-Fitr** 2021 (depends on the moon sighting in Saudi Arabia) - est. beginning evening of May 12th and ends evening of May 13th.

Bathrooms with running water

Certain bathrooms are to be equipped with water hoses. This section will be updated once proper facilities are allocated.

Local reputable charities

- **Helping Hand** (can be local or online) <https://new.hhrd.org/>
- **Islamic Society of North America** (donate online) <https://isna.net/>
- **Islamic Relief USA** (donate online) <https://irusa.org>

Reporting incidents of bias or hate

- In the unlikely case of bias or hate incidents, they can be submitted anonymously to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion via their incident form.