

Jewish Medical Association UK

2025-2026

Festivals

There are several festivals and a fast where work is not permitted and there are limitations on private study particularly using technology.

Always, like with the Sabbath, these festivals commence on the previous evening at sunset. Some allowance may need to be made for travel and preparation to be completed before sunset.

For example, in 2025 Jewish New Year commences on Monday 22nd September at 18:55 and ends at nightfall on Wednesday 24th September at 19:40.

These festivals are:

New Year - Rosh Hashanah: 23rd / 24th September 2025

Tabernacles – Sukkot: 6th / 7th October 2025

Eighth Day of Assembly - Shemini Atzeret: 13th October 2025 / Rejoicing of the Law - Simchat Torah: 14th October 2025

Passover – Pesach: 13th / 14th April and 19th / 20th April 2025

Pentecost – Shavuot: 2nd / 3rd June 2025

Fast Day: Day of Atonement

The major annual Jewish fast day is the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) which starts on the evening of Wednesday 1st October 2025 (18:34) and ends at sunset on Thursday 2nd October 2025 (19:21). Work is not permitted, and any form of private study is limited.

Sabbath - Shabbat

During the winter months Sabbath begins on many Fridays before 17.00. This varies from week to week – the earliest such Sabbath start time is 15.35 on 20th December 2024. Observant Jews will want to stop work activities an hour before sunset on Sabbath (and festivals) to enable them to travel home. Of course, the reciprocal applies – Sabbath in these weeks ends at nightfall on Saturday afternoons.

Other festivals and fast days

There are several other festival days which do not require interruption in work and study.

These also start on the previous night at sunset.

Intermediate days of Tabernacles: 19th – 23rd October 2024

Feast of Lights – Hanukkah: 26th December 2024 – 2nd January 2025

New Year for Trees - Tu Bishvat: 15th February 2025

Feast of Lots – Purim: 14th March 2025

Intermediate days of Passover: 15th – 18th April 2025

33rd day of the Omer Period - Lag Ba'Omer: 16th May 2025

There are several other fast days which do not require interruption in work and study. These start at sunrise except where asterisked* which starts on the previous night at sunset.

Fast of Gedalia: 6th October 2024

Fast of 10th Tevet: 10th January 2025

Fast of Esther: 13th March 2025

Fast of 17th Tammuz: 13th July 2025

*Fast of 9th Av: 3rd August 2025