

Religious Identities

Respecting religious and cultural diversity at La Trobe University

The La Trobe University community is represented by people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. In recognition of this diversity, the University has established policies and support services for staff and students.

The La Trobe Equal Opportunity Policy is inclusive of the diverse elements associated with culture, including religion. La Trobe University is committed to treating people fairly in areas of education, employment, accommodation, provision and receipt of goods and services, clubs and community service organisations.

The following information may assist in creating an environment that is considerate and respectful of the religious and cultural traditions of staff and students at La Trobe University.

The Chaplaincy Centers

La Trobe University has established chaplaincies on the Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo and Bundoora campuses for the benefit of staff and students, in support of the pursuit of their diverse religious and spiritual views, beliefs and practices.

The chaplaincies are intended to provide a space on campus where religious or spiritual activities can take place and a meeting place for groups and individuals with a focus on or interest in religious or spiritual matters.

Religious bodies appoint chaplains to the University. The chaplains work together as a multi-faith team as well as being a resource for particular faiths. **For further information visit <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/chaplaincy>**

Religious Observance

Where it is reasonable and practicable to do so, flexible work and study arrangements can be made to accommodate the religious obligations of staff and students at La Trobe. Examples include:

- Negotiated flexible work/study arrangements between heads of departments/supervisors and staff and students who are required to pray at certain times of the day or to attend other religious ceremonies at particular times of the year.
- Consideration of the main religious festivals when determining examination dates, assessment dates, field trips and arranging placements.
- Consideration given to student requests for extensions to accommodate religious observance.

For further information on cultural days see the Cultural Diversity Calendar: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/cdip>

Religious Identities Documents

A number of documents are available that provide general information on religious beliefs of specific faiths. The Religious Identities documents can be found at <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/cdip>

References and Further Information

ABC Religion and Ethics

<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/library/religion.htm>

Australian Government – Living in Harmony:

Australia is Religiously Diverse:

www.harmony.gov.au/_docs/ReligiouslyDiverseHD.pdf

La Trobe University Chaplaincy Centres

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/chaplaincy>

La Trobe University Cultural Diversity and Inclusive Practice

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/cdip>

La Trobe University Equity and Access Unit

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/equity/>

