



The Organisation of the Academic Year in Europe

2015/16

Eurydice – Facts and Figures

*Education and
Training*

AUSTRIA

Type of programme: Public universities

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2015
Teaching activities and holiday periods	The academic year consists of the winter semester, the summer semester and the periods during which no courses are held. (The so-called 'lecture-free' time is comparable to the summer holidays of schools.) Christmas (2 weeks), semester holidays (February), Easter (2 weeks); summer holidays (July to September); no more detailed information available. All holiday periods are set by the university's senate.
Examinations	No centrally set dates but most of examinations are carried out in January, March, June and October.
End of the academic year	30 September 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	26 October 2015 1 November 2015 8 December 2015 25-26 December 2015 1 January 2016 6 January 2016 28 March 2016 1 May 2016 5 May 2016 16 May 2016 26 May 2016 15 August 2016
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of periods: about 4 months winter semester, about 4 months summer semester.

AUSTRIA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: *Fachhochschulen* (universities of applied science): bachelor-programmes, master-programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Starts generally between 1 September and 10 October.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by the institutions. Usually teaching activities last 15-20 weeks (mostly 15 weeks for full-time programmes, 18-20 weeks mainly for part-time programmes). Usually there are: Christmas holidays (around 2 weeks), Easter holidays (1-2 weeks) and the periods between the semesters.
Examinations	Institutions are free to fix examination dates.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year usually ends at the date the new one begins.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	26 October 2015 1 November 2015 8 December 2015 25-26 December 2015 1 January 2016 6 January 2016 28 March 2016 1 May 2016 5 May 2016 16 May 2016 26 May 2016 15 August 2016
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of semesters is fixed by institutions autonomously. The University of Applied Studies Act does not state details on 'semesters'. Winter semester: between 4 and 6 months Summer semester: between 4 and 6 months

AUSTRIA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: *Pädagogische Hochschulen* (university colleges of teacher education): bachelor-programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2015
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The academic year consists of the winter semester, the summer semester and the periods during which courses are not held (so-called 'lecture-free' time; § 2 (1) <i>Hochschul-Zeitverordnung</i>).</p> <p>The study commission may state that – due to organisational reasons – studies, examinations and traineeship (<i>Praktikum</i>) have to take place also during the lecture-free time (see § 3 (2) <i>Hochschul-Zeitverordnung</i>).</p>
Examinations	<p>Examinations and traineeship (<i>Praktikum</i>) have to take place generally during the winter semester or during the summer semester.</p> <p>Necessary examinations may also be arranged during the lecture-free time (on decision of the respective study commission; see § 3 (2) <i>Hochschul-Zeitverordnung</i>).</p>
End of the academic year	30 September 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Christmas: about 2 weeks, semester holidays: 1 week, Easter (Saturday before Palm Sunday until Tuesday after Easter); summer holidays (1 July-30 September 2016).</p> <p>There is a certain amount of autonomy in deciding upon the lecture-free time (For example: semester holidays may be the 1st; 2nd or 3rd week of February; set by the respective study commission).</p>
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	<p>Winter semester: 4 months Summer semester: 5 months</p>

BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	At the earliest 1 September and at the latest 1 October. Occurs generally between mid-September and 1 October.
Teaching activities (1st semester)	From the beginning of the academic year until the end of the week before the Christmas holidays. - Academic year 2015/16: until Saturday 19 December 2015
Holidays	Two weeks around Christmas and New Year. - Academic year 2015-16: from Monday 21 December 2015 until Sunday 3 January 2016.
Examinations	3-4 weeks in January - Examinations academic year 2015-16: from Monday 4 January 2016 until Saturday 30 January 2016 Followed by one week without class between the first and the second semester - Class-free week academic year 2015/16: from Monday 1 February 2016 until Sunday 7 February 2016
Teaching activities (2 nd semester)	From the beginning of February until the end of the 3rd or 4th week of May. - Academic year 2015/16: from Monday 8 February 2016 until Saturday 21 May 2016. There is an Easter holiday break of two weeks. - Academic year 2015/16: from Monday 28 March 2016 until Sunday 10 April 2016
Examinations	Last week of May until the end of the last week of June or the 1st week of July - Academic year 2015/16: from Monday 23 May 2016 until Saturday 2 July 2016
Holidays	From the beginning (1st or 2nd week) of July until the start of the subsequent academic year - Start holidays academic year 2015/16: Monday 4 July 2016

BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Examinations	From mid-August until the end of the third week of September - Academic year 2015/16: from Tuesday 16 August 2016 until Saturday 17 September 2016
End of the academic year	The day before the start of the new academic year. For most students the academic year ends de facto after the last examination.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 and 2 November 2015 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2015 (Armistice Day) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5-6 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) 11 July 2016 (Flemish Holiday) 21 July 2016 (National Holiday) 15 August 2016 (Assumption Day)

Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: Teaching activities last 13 weeks
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Additional notes:

Students are able to choose their personal learning paths. They can opt for a traditional route of circa 60 ECTS credits a year or for an individual route. When registering, each student gets to choose among three types of study contracts:

- (1) A degree contract: the student wants to obtain a bachelor's or a master's diploma;
- (2) A credit contract the student wants to obtain credits for one or more individual courses;
- (3) An examinations contract: the student wants to obtain a degree or independent credits, based exclusively on examinations (without participation in class activities).

BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY

Type of programme: All programmes (ISCED 5A, 5B and 6)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	<p>The legal act of 7 November 2013 fixes annually the beginning and end of each four-month term.</p> <p>The academic year is a one-year period beginning on 14 September 2015.</p> <p>In practice, teaching activities begin around 14 September in most institutions. In order to encourage student and staff mobility within the French Community, the government may lay down further conditions when determining this academic calendar.</p> <p>(Relative) institutional autonomy</p>
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The first term starts on 14 September 2015; the second on 1 February 2016; the third on 1 July 2016.</p> <p>The two first terms include at least 12 weeks of teaching activity.</p> <p>Teaching activity starts on the first Monday of the term.</p> <p>For purposes of curricular organisation, each of the three four-month terms includes assessment and holiday periods.</p> <p>Institutional autonomy</p>
Examinations	<p>Curricular activities leading to an academic qualification in the first or second cycle are spread over the first two four-month terms in the academic year (with the exception of certain forms of assessment or professional integration activity). Each of these first two terms involves at least 12 weeks of activity and may not exceed four months. A period of assessment occurs at the end of each term.</p> <p>The third term includes assessment periods (as well as professional integration or personal project activity).</p> <p>Institutional autonomy</p>
End of the academic year	13 September of the next year
Holidays	<p>Winter holidays: 21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016</p> <p>Spring holidays: 28 March – 8 April 2016</p> <p>Summer holidays: 7 weeks after the first session</p>

BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Legal public holidays for the 2015/16 academic year are:</p> <p>2 November 2015 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2015 (1918 Armistice Day) 28 March 2016 (Easter) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Pentecost)</p> <p>The authorities of higher education institutions may determine additional holidays. Teaching and assessment activities except professional induction, excursions, visits and internships do not take place on Sundays nor official public holidays. If public holidays fall on a Saturday or a Sunday, no replacement is foreseen.</p>
Number of intervals: 3	<p>Length of intervals: no longer than 4 months (each of the first two four-month terms involves at least 12 weeks of activity and is no longer than four months).</p> <p>As regards the number of intervals, it should be noted that examinations may have been marked and passed at the end of the first two terms, in which case students will have completed their academic year.</p>

BELGIUM – GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Type of programme: ISCED 6

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
First semester	
Beginning of the academic year	2 September 2015 The relevant legislation states that the government fixes the date of the beginning of the academic year between 1 September and 15 September.
Teaching activity	2 September – 30 October 2015
Autumn holiday	2-6 November 2015
Teaching activity	9 November – 18 December 2015
Christmas holiday	21 December 2015 – 1 January 2016
Examinations	4-8 January 2016
Second semester	
Teaching activity	11 January – 5 February 2016
Carnival holiday	8-12 February 2016
Teaching activity	15 February – 25 March 2016
Easter holiday	28 March – 8 April 2016
Teaching activity	11 April – 27 May 2016
Lecture free period	30 May – 3 June 2016
Examinations	6-24 June 2016
End of the academic year	The relevant legislation states that the government fixes the end of the academic year on the first Friday in July at the latest.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	11 November 2015 15 November 2015 (Sunday) 1 May 2016 (Sunday) 5 May 2016 16 May 2016
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: September to mid-January Mid-January to the end of June

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Type of programme: ISCED 6)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	5 October 2015
Teaching activity	5 October – 31 December 2015
Winter holidays	4-15 January 2016
Examinations	18 January – 15 February 2016
Teaching activity	29 February – 10 June 2016
Examinations	1-30 April 2016
Examinations	13 June – 15 July 2016
Summer holidays	15 July – 22 August 2016
Examinations	22 August – 30 September 2016 1-15 October 2016 (extra term)
End of the academic year	30 September 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Republic holidays:</p> <p>25 November 2015 – Statehood Day (celebrated in the Federation of BiH) 1-2 January 2016 – New Year 1-2 May 2016 – International Labour Day</p> <p>Religious holidays:</p> <p>25 December 2015 (Catholic Christmas) 25 and 28 March 2016 (Catholic Easter) 29 April and 2 May 2016 (Orthodox Easter)</p>

Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)
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Additional notes

Religious holidays are celebrated depending on the religious community. Holidays which are dated on non-working days are not taken into account.

BULGARIA

Type of programme: All types and programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October is assumed as the official start of the new academic year. However, due to the autonomy of higher education institutions (HEIs), starting dates vary from one institution to another.
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The academic year consists of two semesters (winter and summer). However, the length of teaching activity (lectures and practical trainings) differs from one HEI to another due to their autonomy.</p> <p>Examinations dates, holidays (other than the officially announced public and religious holidays) are determined at institutional level.</p>
Examinations	<p>The examination dates are determined at institutional level, however, they are usually scheduled within the period starting from mid-January to mid-February at the latest (end of the winter semester), and within the period from mid-June to mid-July.</p> <p>Students who fail to take or pass an exam on the date within the indicated period, are supposed to take/re-take the exam usually in early September.</p>
End of the academic year	HEIs are autonomous. The academic year generally ends between end-June and mid-July.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Certain dates are regarded as official holidays (religious, national, public):</p> <p>22 September 2015</p> <p>1 November 2015</p> <p>24 December 2015</p> <p>3 March 2016</p> <p>1 May 2016</p> <p>6 May 2016</p> <p>24-25 May 2016</p> <p>Students have a break for about 2 weeks for Christmas and Easter holidays. Each HEI celebrates the day of its patron, on which teaching activity is not carried out.</p>
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 15-16 weeks on average of teaching activity

CROATIA

Type of programme: ISCED 5-7

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2015
Teaching activity	5 October – 24 December 2015
Winter holidays	24 December 2015 – 6 January 2016
Teaching activity	4-31 January 2016
Examinations	1-28 February 2016
Teaching activity	29 February – 12 June 2015
Examinations	13 June – 10 July 2016
Summer holidays	11 July – 19 August 2016
Examinations resits	29 August – 9 September 2016
End of the academic year	30 September 2016
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	8 October 2015 (Independence Day) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 26 May 2016 (Corpus Christi) 22 June 2016 (Antifascist resistance Day)
Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)

Additional notes:

Although different universities in Croatia (eight in total) – and individual faculties and schools in some universities – are fully autonomous in deciding on their own individual academic calendar, the calendar provided above is the actual calendar for largest Croatian university, University of Zagreb, and is the most common template.

The academic year, along with the teaching activity in the first ('winter') semester, generally starts at the end of the September or beginning of October. All faculties traditionally have a two-week Christmas and New Year break in the last week of December and first week of January. After this break, the teaching activity of the first semester is resumed and it goes on until late January. The winter exam session generally takes place between the end of January and mid- or end of February. Teaching activity in the second ('summer') semester begins in late February and lasts until late May of early June. The summer exam session takes place from mid-June to mid-July, followed by a summer break until late August, when the autumn exam session is scheduled. It ends mid or late September.

CYPRUS

Type of programme: University level (public universities)

1. University of Cyprus (UCY)
2. Open University of Cyprus (OUC) *
3. Cyprus University of Technology (CUT)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	Public universities in Cyprus are autonomous as regards to their <i>modus operandi</i> and their schedules are determined by the universities themselves. The beginning of the academic year usually occurs between 1 and 15 September. (In the academic year 2015/16, at the UCY and CUT, classes start on 7 September, whereas OUC's first student-tutor communication takes place in the first week of October.)
Teaching activity and vacation periods	Public universities determine all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Holiday periods at public universities will take place as follows: 24 December 2015 – 10 January 2016 (Christmas, at the end of the autumn semester) 25 April – 8 May 2016 (Easter, before the end of the spring semester) Summer session (if it is offered) starts in early June and lasts for 7 weeks.
Examinations	Final examinations' periods and schedule are determined by the universities themselves whereas midterm examination dates may be set by faculty or faculty and students jointly. Only final examination periods appear on the academic calendar and these occur at the end of each semester. Final examination periods in both UCY and CUT in 2015/16 will be as follows: 9-23 December 2015 for autumn semester 9-23 May 2016 for spring semester 20-24 July 2016 for summer session (if offered). In OUC final examinations will take place in June 2016.
End of the academic year	The academic year traditionally ends at the end of July for all universities.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 October 2015 (National Holiday) 28 October 2015 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2015 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2016 (Epiphany Day) 14 March 2016 (Beginning of Lent) 25 March 2016 (National Day) 1 April 2016 (National Day) 29 April 2016 (Good Friday) 1 May 2016 (Easter Day and Labour Day) 2 May 2016 (Easter Monday) 20 June 2016 (Holy Spirit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: Semesters

* **Additional note:** Please note that the Open University of Cyprus is an open type university and students study at their own pace and time via long distance methods. Due to the non-traditional nature of the university its academic calendar may slightly vary from that of other university institutions in Cyprus.

CYPRUS (continued)

Type of programme: University level (private universities)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	Private universities in Cyprus are autonomous as regards to their <i>modus operandi</i> and their schedules are determined by the universities themselves. The beginning of the academic year usually occurs between 15 and 30 September. Classes start in the end of September or early October.
Teaching activity and vacation periods	Universities determine all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Holiday periods at private universities will take place as follows: Around 23 December 2015 – 6 January 2016 (Christmas) Around 25 April – 8 May 2016 (Easter) Summer session starts in early June and lasts for 7 weeks. Some universities may offer summer session II which starts mid-July and lasts for 6 weeks.
Examinations	Final examinations' periods and schedule are determined by the universities themselves whereas midterm examination dates may be set by faculty or faculty and students jointly. Final examination periods at private universities occur at the end of each semester: after the Christmas vacation for the first semester and the last fortnight of May for the spring semester. For summer session, examination period occurs between 18 and 22 July 2016.
End of the academic year	The academic year traditionally ends at the end of July for all universities.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 October 2015 (National Holiday) 28 October 2015 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2015 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2016 (Epiphany Day) 14 March 2016 (Beginning of Lent) 25 March 2016 (National Day) 1 April 2016 (National Day) 29 April 2016 (Good Friday) 1 May 2016 (Easter Day and Labour Day) 2 May 2016 (Easter Monday) 20 June 2016 (Holy Spirit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: Semesters

Additional note:

Please note that the dates in the academic calendar for each institution may vary slightly depending on the institution.

CYPRUS (continued)

Type of programme: Non-university level (public and private institutions of higher education)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	The beginning of the academic year usually occurs in September. Classes start at the beginning or at the end of the month or early October, depending on the institutions which are obliged to include their academic calendar in their internal regulation.
Teaching activity	<p>First academic semester: it is required that classes start in September or within the first two weeks of October and continue until the end of December or mid January.</p> <p>Second academic semester: it is required that classes start within the last two weeks of January or within the first fortnight of February and finish in the end of May or beginning of June.</p> <p>Summer session (Intensive courses): Starts mid-June and lasts for 7 to 9 weeks.</p>
Vacation Periods	Vacation periods occur at the end of the autumn semester for Christmas (usually a 2-week holiday), and before the end of the spring semester for Easter (usually a 2-week holiday). Vacation periods may slightly vary depending on the institution.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>1 October 2015 (National Holiday)</p> <p>28 October 2015 (National Holiday)</p> <p>24-26 December 2015 (Christmas Holidays)</p> <p>1 January 2016 (New Year's Day)</p> <p>6 January 2016 (Epiphany Day)</p> <p>14 March 2016 (Beginning of Lent)</p> <p>25 March 2016 (National Day)</p> <p>1 April 2016 (National Day)</p> <p>29 April 2016 (Good Friday)</p> <p>1 May 2016 (Easter Day and Labour Day)</p> <p>2 May 2016 (Easter Monday)</p> <p>20 June 2016 (Holy Spirit Monday)</p>
Examinations	Final examinations' periods and schedule are set by institutions, whereas, midterm examinations may be set by faculty and students jointly. Only final examination periods appear on the academic calendar and these occur at the end of each semester (15th week of teaching activity) and at the end of the summer session (7th or 9th week of teaching activity).
End of the academic year	31 August 2016
Number of intervals: 2	Length of interval: Semesters

Additional notes:

Non-university institutions are obliged to include their academic calendar (exact dates of classes, examination periods, vacation periods, holidays) in their internal regulation and prospectuses, and they are required to adhere to it.

The majority of non-university institutions in Cyprus use the semester mode of study as it is illustrated in the table.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Type of programme: ISCED 6-8 (higher education institutions – *vysoké školy*)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year usually begins during September or early October.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions in internal regulations.
Examinations	Examination periods are fixed by institutions in internal regulations.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year ends on the day before the new one begins.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 28 September 2015 28 October 2015 17 November 2015 24-26 December 2015 1 January 2016 28 March 2016 (Easter) 1 May 2016 8 May 2016 5 July 2016 6 July 2016
Number of intervals: most often two	Length of intervals: around a half a year

CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: ISCED 655 (tertiary professional schools – *vyšší odborné školy*)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2015 (the exact date is set by the school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme).
Teaching activity and holidays	The exact dates are set by the school head in accordance with the educational programme, the period of teaching must be 40 weeks per academic year (32 for teaching at school, 6 for self study and examinations and 2 weeks of time reserve). The exact days of holidays are set by the school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme. At least 4 weeks are set for holidays.
Examinations	The exact days are set by the school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme.
End of the academic year	31 August 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 28 September 2015 28 October 2015 17 November 2015 24-26 December 2015 1 January 2016 28 March 2016 (Easter) 1 May 2016 8 May 2016 5 July 2016 6 July 2016
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months (153 days) and 7 months (212 days)

DENMARK

Type of programme: Long-cycle higher education (universities) (ISCED 5, 6 and 7)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	The universities are autonomous. The academic year at long-cycle higher education institutions (universities) is normally divided into two semesters and begins typically: 1) Early September (autumn semester) 2) Early February (spring semester)
Teaching activity	The universities fix all periods of teaching activities and holidays themselves. The typical duration of teaching activities is: 1) Early September – mid-December 2) Early February – mid-May
Examinations	The universities fix the dates of examinations autonomously, but generally the period of examinations are: Fall Semester: typically December and two-three weeks in January Spring Semester: Mid and end of May and two-three weeks in June Re-examinations are mainly placed in August before the start of a new academic year.
End of the academic year	The academic year runs from 1 September and ends 31 August, but normally with holidays/periods with no teaching between 30 June and 31 August.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25-26 December 2015 (both days inclusive) 1 January 2016 24-28 March 2016 (both days inclusive) 22 April 2016 5 May 2016 16 May 2016

Number of intervals: 2*

Length of intervals: approx. 4/5 months

Additional notes:

Short cycle and medium-cycle higher education: There is no specific information on the academic calendar available for short cycle and medium-cycle higher education programmes either. Like the universities, the institutions themselves decide how to structure the academic year. The academic calendar, however, is quite similar to that of the universities, outlined above.

* Some university programmes run with four intervals instead of two.

ESTONIA

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Occurs generally between the last week in August and the first week in September
Teaching activity	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. The autumn semester lasts generally until 20 December.
Holiday	Occurs generally between 20 December and 1 January.
Examinations	Occur generally between 2 January and 20 January.
Teaching activity	The spring semester begins generally a week after the examinations are over.
End of the academic year	Between the last week in June and the first week in July
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	24 February 2016 (Independence Day) 25 March 2016 (Good Friday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: ca. 4.5 months

FINLAND

Type of programme: Polytechnics and universities

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 August 2015
First semester - Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between the beginning of August and 21 December 2015
Second semester – Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between 2 January and 31 May 2016
Examinations	Fixed by the teachers
End of the academic year	31 July 2016
Public holidays 2015/16 (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2015 (All Saints) 6 December 2015 (Independence Day) 24 December 2015 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2015 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2015 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2016 (Epiphany) 25 March 2016 (Good Friday) 27 March 2016 (Easter Day) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2016 (May Day) 14 May 2016 (Ascension)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 to 7 months

GERMANY

Type of programme: ISCED 5, ISCED 6 (partly), ISCED 7

The Organisation of the Academic Year Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2015
Teaching activity winter semester	12 October – 18 December 2015
Holiday	21 December 2015 – 8 January 2016
Teaching activity winter semester	11 January – 12 February 2016
End of winter semester	31 March 2016
Beginning of summer semester	1 April 2016
Teaching activity summer semester	11 April – 16 July 2016
End of the academic year	30 September 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	3 October 2015 (German Unity Day) 25 March 2016 (Good Friday) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) + holiday depending on the Land
Number of intervals: 3 2 semesters, one of five months, one of four months	Length of intervals: 10 days close to Christmas, 1 month after the winter semester, two months after the summer semester

GREECE

Type of programme: ISCED 6

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2015
Teaching activity (1 st or winter semester)	From the beginning of the winter semester in September – approximately within the second fortnight of September – until 24 December 2015
Holiday	24 December 2015 – 7 January 2016 (Christmas holidays)
Teaching activity (1 st or winter semester)	8 January until the beginning of the winter semester exams set approximately in mid-January 2016
Examinations	Winter semester exams begin approximately in mid-January 2016 and last for three weeks until the beginning of February 2016
Teaching activity (2 nd or spring semester)	Spring semester begins after the end of the winter semester exams, approximately in mid-February 2016
Holidays	25 April – 8 May 2015 (Easter holidays)
Teaching activity (2 nd or spring semester)	The period after Easter holidays until the beginning of spring semester exams, approximately beginning of June 2016
Examinations	Spring semester exams take place in June 2016 and last for three weeks
Holidays	From the end of the June examinations until those of September 2016
Re-examinations	1 September until the beginning of the new winter semester set approximately within the second fortnight of September 2016
End of the academic year	31 August 2016
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	28 October 2015 17 November 2015 30 January 2016 14 March 2016 25 March 2016 1 May 2016 20 June 2016 + several regional holidays

GREECE (CONTINUED)

Number of intervals: 3	Length of intervals: two weeks Christmas holidays; two weeks Easter holidays; summer holidays from the end of June examinations until those of September
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1st (winter) semester Beginning: September of each calendar year (approximately within the second fortnight of September 2015)	End: Until the final day of the winter semester exams (approximately beginning of February 2016)
2nd (spring) semester Beginning: After the end of winter semester exams (approximately mid-February 2016)	End: 31 August 2016

Additional notes:

The exact dates for the beginning and end of each semester are defined by the HEI's Senate or Board. According to Law 4009/2011 (Government Gazette 195/issue A/06-09-2011), semesters last at least 13 full weeks of teaching activity and their duration can be extended up to two weeks, in exceptional circumstances, in order to complete the minimum number of teaching weeks in the teaching period. According to the same Law (4009/2011), the programme and the total duration of the exam period is defined by the Faculty's General Assembly or Board or by the Department's General Assembly, 2 months before the end of each academic year regarding the following academic year.

During the period of examinations, teaching activity is not taking place, so that students can take part in the examinations.

HUNGARY

Type of programme: All types of programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Usually between 1 and 10 September Institutional autonomy
Autumn term	From the beginning of September until the end of January The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
Teaching activity	From early or mid-September until mid-December The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
Exam period	From mid-December until the end of January The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
(Holiday)	In addition to national/public/church holidays, holiday periods vary greatly (see Additional note 3).
Spring term	From the beginning of February until the end of June The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
Teaching activity	From the beginning of February until mid-May The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
Exam period	From mid-May until the end of June The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
(Holiday)	In spring term there is usually one week around Easter. Institutional autonomy (see Additional note 3).
End of the academic year	Ends around late June The exact date is fixed by the institutions.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	23 October 2015 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956) 1 November 2015 (All-Saints' Day) 25-26 December 2015 (Christmas) 1 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 28 March 2016 (Easter) 15 March 2016 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months

HUNGARY (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

- (1) Higher education institutions (HEIs) in Hungary are usually open all year around for students, who can use libraries, computer rooms and other facilities of the HEI, except on Sundays, on state and church holidays. (Several HEIs are also closed between Christmas and New Year.)
- (2) The Act on Higher Education only stipulates that the academic year lasts 10 months and one term lasts 5 months. The organisation of the academic year is within the competence of HEIs. It is usually determined by the *Senate* and based on the proposal of the head of the HEI. The organisation of the academic year does not vary from one type of programme to the next within the same institution.
- (3) Holidays and non-teaching days: the study and examination regulations of HEIs specify the number of days that the head of the HEI may rule to be a non-teaching day for students of the entire HEI above the official public and church holidays. This number is usually not more than five days. The same regulation also contains the number of days that the head of the faculty may also rule as non-teaching days for the students of a particular faculty. This is usually not more than five days.
- (4) Number of intervals: the academic year in Hungary consists of two terms, an autumn term (*őszi félév*) and a spring term (*tavaszi félév*).

IRELAND

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2015 Universities and Institutes of Technology are autonomous bodies. Occurs generally in September or October.
Teaching activity	1 September – 23 October 2015
Holiday	26-30 October 2015
Teaching activity and holidays	2 November – 18 December 2015 All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by each individual University or Institute. Certain dates, such as 25 December, 1 January or 17 March, are nevertheless regarded as public holidays by Universities and Institutes.
Holiday	21 December 2015 – 3 January 2016 (Christmas)
Teaching activity	From 4 January 2016 until the examinations
Examinations	Two weeks in February
Teaching activity	From the Monday following the last examination
Holidays	17 March 2016 21 March – 3 April 2016 (Easter) 2 May 2016
Teaching activity	From 4 April 2016 until the examinations
Examinations	For Institutes of Technology, it's usually two weeks during May. For Universities, it's usually two weeks during June. Teachers and students are entirely free to fix examination dates jointly. Each University or Institute manages this separately.
End of the academic year	Universities and Institutes of Technology are autonomous bodies. For Universities, the academic year generally ends at the date the new one begins. For Institutes of Technology, the academic year generally ends in June.
Number of intervals: 2-3	Length of intervals: term = 2-3 months, semester = 4-5 months

ITALY

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16 ⁽¹⁾	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2015
First semester – Teaching activity	1 October 2015 – 31 January 2016
Examinations (first session)	1-15 February 2016
Second semester – Teaching activity	1 March – 30 June 2016
Examinations (second session)	1-15 July 2016
Examinations (third sessions)	1-15 September 2016
Admission tests and entrance examinations ⁽²⁾	April 2015 and September 2015
End of the academic year	30 September 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2015 8 December 2015 23 December 2015 – 7 January 2016 Easter (1 week) 25 April 2016 1 May 2016 2 June 2016
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: semesters (October 2015 – January 2016 and March – June 2016)

⁽¹⁾ The definition of the beginning and end of the academic year, the organization of learning activities in semesters and the calendar of examinations are left to the autonomous decision of the HEIs. The information included in the table on these three issues should be considered indicative of the national trend.

⁽²⁾ Entrance test foreseen by the legislation. For medicine, veterinary and architecture, the test is held in April, while for health professions is foreseen in September. According to the principle of autonomy of HEIs, each university can promote additional entrance test to assess the preparation of students at the beginning of their studies.

LATVIA

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Registration/enrolment period	Each year the Cabinet of Ministers determines the initial time period for the registration and admission of entrants in the first year after the acquisition of upper secondary education. Persons with upper secondary education completed outside Latvia and who are not pretending to the state-subsidised study place may be registered and enrolled from 16 March 2015. Local applicants may be registered from 1 July 2015. Higher education institutions autonomously determine the registration and admission periods for Master level and Doctoral level programmes.
Beginning of the academic year	Occurs generally in the first week of September, but may differ among institutions which are autonomous.
Teaching activity and holidays	Institutions fix periods of teaching activity and holidays. Teaching activity usually is organised from September-December and from February-May. Higher education institutions in cooperation with their stakeholders from employment organisations autonomously determine the practical training placements (internships) periods for their students. As regards holidays, there is usually one week around Christmas/New Year and another one at Easter.
Examinations	Institutions fix periods of examinations. Usually examinations proceed after the teaching activity period and take place in January/February and June/July.
End of the academic year	The academic year generally ends after the last examination of spring or summer semester.

LATVIA (CONTINUED)

<p>Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)</p>	<p>18 November 2015 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) 24-26 December 2015 (Christmas) 25-28 March 2016 (Easter) 1 May 2016 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day) 4 May 2016 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)</p>
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<p>Number of intervals: 2 semesters</p>	<p>Length of intervals: in accordance with the Law on Institutions of Higher Education, academic year consists of 40 national credit points. One credit point corresponds to one week of studies. Thus the academic year lasts 40 weeks. The length of intervals is not specified, but normally they are divided in two equal parts – 2 semesters (of 20 weeks each).</p>
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Additional notes:

When the specific holidays of 18 November (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) and 4 May (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia) fall on Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is transferred to the next working day.

Useful information for prospective incoming students is available at The International Student Guide to Education and [Study in Latvia](#).

LIECHTENSTEIN

Type of programme: ISCED 6/7/8 Academic (public sector – *Universität Liechtenstein*)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
<i>The organisation of the academic year is within autonomy of the higher education institutions.</i>	
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2015
Winter semester	1 September 2015 – 31 January 2016
Teaching activity for new students / Introductory weeks	31 August – 5 September 2015
Teaching activity for continuing students	7 September – 19 December 2015
Christmas holidays	21 December 2015 – 6 January 2016
Examination weeks	7-28 January 2016
Summer semester	1 February– 31 August 2016
Teaching activity	22 February – 4 June 2016
Easter holidays	25 March – 3 April 2016
Examination weeks	16 June – 1 July 2016
End of the academic year	31 August 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 September 2015 1 November 2015 8 December 2015 2 February 2016 9 February 2016 19 March 2016 28 March 2016 1 May 2016 5/6 May 2016 16 May 2016 26 May 2016 15 August 2016
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 26 weeks

LITHUANIA

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16									
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods								
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. As a rule the beginning of the academic year is 1 September.								
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Each semester usually covers 20 weeks. The last four weeks within are allocated to an examination session. In some institutions, the semester can last longer (up to 22 weeks) or shorter (17 weeks). In most institutions, the spring semester starts at the beginning of February.								
Examinations*	The last four weeks of each semester are allocated to examination sessions.								
Holidays	Institutions are autonomous. All institutions have Christmas holidays usually from 25 December to the beginning of January. The winter break begins at the end of the autumn semester, right after the winter examination session (usually end of January/beginning of February) and lasts 1 or 2 weeks. Most institutions have Easter holidays lasting a few days in the spring semester. Summer holidays usually start after the end of the spring semester and last maximum 2 months, normally between 1 July and 31 August.								
Professional practice period	During summer holidays (July-August), some students have a training course which lasts 2-3 weeks.								
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. As a rule, the academic year ends on 31 August.								
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Certain dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1 November 2015</td> <td style="width: 50%;">1 January 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 February 2016</td> <td>11 March 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 May 2016</td> <td>24 June 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 July 2016</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1 November 2015	1 January 2016	16 February 2016	11 March 2016	1 May 2016	24 June 2016	6 July 2016	
1 November 2015	1 January 2016								
16 February 2016	11 March 2016								
1 May 2016	24 June 2016								
6 July 2016									
Number of intervals: 2 semesters (autumn and spring semesters)	Length of intervals: around five months								

Additional notes:

* In some cases, students sit examinations or pass the test upon completion of the course unit and thus have no special examination period.

LUXEMBOURG

Type of programme: All types, all programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	15 September 2015
Winter semester	15 September 2015 – 14 February 2016
Christmas holidays	21 December 2015 – 3 January 2016
Revision	4-10 January 2016
Examinations	11 January – 7 February 2016
Winter break between semesters	8-14 February 2016
Summer semester	15 February – 11 September 2016
Easter holidays	28 March – 3 April 2016
Revision	30 May – 5 June 2016
Examinations	6 June – 3 July 2016
Summer break between semesters	4 July – 11 September 2016
End of the academic year	4 July 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2015 (All Saints' Day) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) 23 June 2016 (National Holiday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 6 months

MALTA

Type of programme: Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of Academic Year – Semester I	1 September 2015
Re-sit examinations / Third attempts / Finalisation of Review Board Process	1-11 September 2015
Induction week for all students and MCAST Fresher's week	24-29 September 2015
Start of Teaching Activity for all new, progressing and continuing students	1 October 2015
Foundation Day	1 October 2015
Graduation Days – Levels 5 and 6	December 2015
Christmas Recess	23 December 2015 – 1 January 2016
Teaching Activity (Semester I continued)	4 January – 4 February 2016
Semester I – Examinations / Progress Week	5-12 February 2016
Teaching Activity (start of Semester II)	15 February 2016
Easter Recess	22 March – 1 April 2016
Teaching Activity (Semester II continued)	4 April – 17 June 2016
Examinations (Semester II)	20 June – 1 July 2016
End of Semester II	8 July 2016
Summer Recess and end of Academic Year	11 July – 31 August 2016
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	8 September 2015 21 September 2015 8 December 2015 13 December 2015 25 December 2015 1 January 2016 10 February 2016 19 March 2016 25 March 2016 31 March 2016 1 May 2016 7 June 2016 29 June 2016 15 August 2016

MALTA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: University of Malta

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of Academic Year	1 October 2015 (1st year students) 28 September 2015 (continuing students)
Beginning of Semester 1	1 October 2015 (1st year students) 28 September 2015 (continuing students)
Teaching Activity (Semester I)	1 October – 18 December 2015 (1st year students) 28 September – 18 December 2015 (continuing students)
Graduation Days (Master courses and Doctorate Degrees)	30 November – 15 December 2015
Graduation Days (Undergraduate courses)	19-27 November 2015
Christmas Recess	19 December 2015 – 3 January 2016
Teaching Activity (Semester I cont.)	4-10 January 2016 (Revision Week 11-13 January 2016)
Examinations (Examinations Semester I)	14-30 January 2016
Teaching Activity (Semester II)	1 February – 20 March 2016
Easter Recess	21 March – 3 April 2016
Teaching Activity (Semester II cont.)	4 April – 22 May 2016 (Revision Week 23-27 May 2016)
Examinations (Examinations Semester II)	28 May – 30 June 2016
End of Second Semester	30 June 2016
Summer Semester (for postgraduate courses spread over 3 semesters)	13 June – 30 September 2016
Summer Recess (within the summer semester)	1-14 August 2016
Supplementary Examinations	1-10 September 2016
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	8 September 2015 21 September 2015 8 December 2015 13 December 2015 25 December 2015 1 January 2016 10 February 2016 19 March 2016 25 March 2016 31 March 2016 1 May 2016 7 June 2016 29 June 2016 15 August 2016

MONTENEGRO

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	24 August 2015 (24 August – 6 September 2015 additional examination term will be organized)
Teaching activity	21 September – 31 December 2015
Christmas/New Year holidays	25-27 December 2015 1-3 January 2016 7-9 January 2016
Examinations	11 January – 7 February 2016
Break between the semesters	8-14 February 2016
Teaching activity	15 February – 29 May 2016
Examinations	30 May – 26 June 2016
End of the academic year	13 July 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25-27 December 2015 (Catholic Christmas) 1-3 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 7-9 January 2016 (Orthodox Christmas) 27 March 2016 Easter Day (Catholic) 1 May 2016 Easter Day (Orthodox) 1 May 2016 (International Labour Day) 21 May 2016 (Independence Day) 13 July 2016 (Statehood Day)

Additional notes:

In accordance with the Law on Higher Education (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no 44/14), the examination terms take place in January and June. Examination terms have two set of examination dates. A student who does not pass an exam at the first examination date is entitled to take it at the second examination date of the same examination term.

A student is entitled to take exams for courses that he/she has not passed in the examination terms in January and June in an additional term before the beginning of the next academic year.

Dates for the organisation of exams are determined by the academic calendar for an academic year passed by an institution in compliance with its statute.

THE NETHERLANDS

Type of programme: ISCED 6 and 7

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16		
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods	
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2015	
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions.*	
Examinations	Institutions are entirely free to fix examination dates.	
End of the academic year	31 August 2016	
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25 and 26 December 2015 (Christmas Days) 31 December 2015 (New Year's Eve) 1 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2016 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2016 (Liberation Day) 5 May 2016* (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) * in 2016 is this the same day as Liberation Day	
Number of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.	Length of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.	
<p>Additional notes:</p> <p>Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), article 1.1/definitions, k.: <i>academic year: the period which starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year.</i></p> <p>The academic year can be divided into a semester or a trimester. Institutions are free to decide how many weeks are used to teach and how many weeks are used for the exams.</p> <p>During the period of examinations, teaching activity usually stops, so that students can work and learn for the exams.</p> <p>Some courses also start in the course of the academic year, on 1 February.</p> <p>* The thing that is determined is the number of ECTS in higher education.</p>		
Training	Duration	ECTS
Bachelor HBO (higher professional education)	4 years	240 ECTS
Bachelor WO (university)	3 years	180 ECTS
Master HBO/WO	At least 1 year	At least 60 ECTS

NORWAY

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are autonomous. Generally mid-August
Teaching activity and holidays	HEIs are autonomous, with the exception of public holidays, see below.
Examinations	HEIs are autonomous.
End of the academic year	HEIs are autonomous. The academic year generally ends at the end of June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Christmas holiday (normally 21 December 2015 – 4 January 2016) Easter holiday (normally 21-29 March 2016) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) 17 May 2016 (National Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months

POLAND

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the beginning of October (e.g. Jagiellonian University in Kraków (JU): 1 October 2015).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the beginning of October and the third week of December (JU: 2 October – 22 December 2015).
Christmas holidays	Institutions are autonomous. (JU: 23 December 2015 – 3 January 2016).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually January (JU: 4-28 January 2016).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually two weeks at the end of January/ beginning of February (JU: 29 January – 10 February 2016).
Break between the semesters	Institutions are autonomous. Usually one week in February (JU: 11-16 February 2016)
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the third week of February and Easter (JU: 24 February – 24 March 2016)
Easter holiday	Institutions are autonomous. Easter Monday and a few extra days are free (JU: 25-29 March 2016).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between Easter and summer examinations (JU: 30 March – 15 June 2016).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the last two weeks of June (JU: 16-29 June 2016).
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the end of September (JU: 30 September 2016).
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	11 November 2015 3, 26 May 2016

Additional notes: There are two re-take examination sessions: the winter re-take examination session usually lasts one week and begins 3 weeks after the regular winter examination session (e.g. 17-23 February for the Jagiellonian University in Kraków in 2016); the summer re-take session usually begins in the first or second week of September and lasts two weeks. It ends one or two weeks before the end of the academic year (e.g. 1-15 September for the Jagiellonian University in 2016). HEIs often organise Students' Day (typically 1-2 days) called *Juwenalia* with concerts, performances and other artistic and cultural events. These are additional days off for students. The rector of the institution sets the dates of these events (usually in May).

PORTUGAL

Type of programme: University and polytechnic

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Higher education institutions of (universities and polytechnic institutes) are autonomous. Generally the year begins between 15 September and 15 October.
Periods of teaching activity and holiday periods	Institutions are autonomous and fix all periods of teaching activity and holidays.
Examination periods	The teaching department, teachers and students are entirely free to fix examination dates jointly. Normally there are two examinations periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st: between the end of December and the end of February; • 2nd: between the beginning of June and the end of July.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year generally ends on 31 July.
Public/religious holidays	8 December 2015 1 May 2016 10 June 2016 (plus holidays at municipal level)
Number of intervals: 1 or 2 (more frequently the year is divided in two semesters or three-month terms)	Length of intervals: around 1-2 weeks (maximum 3 weeks)

ROMANIA

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	According the Law of the National Education (Law 1/2011 with subsequent completions), the university year usually begins on the first working day of October; it includes two semesters and ends on 30 September in the next calendar year.
Teaching activity and holidays	The academic year consists of two semesters. Higher education institutions (HEI) are autonomous. They fix all periods of teaching activity, exams and holidays. The length of the teaching activity (lectures and practice trainings) differs from one HEI to another. Examinations dates and holidays (other than the officially announced public and religious holidays) are determined at institutional level.
Examinations	The examination dates are determined at institutional level. Teachers and students are free to fix the dates for examinations within the examination sessions established by institutions.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Generally at the end of September.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	30 November 2015 1 December 2015 20 June 2016
Number of intervals: 2 semesters	Length of intervals: 14 weeks (teaching) + 3 weeks (examinations) each

Additional notes:

1. As a rule, a semester lasts 14 weeks of teaching activities usually followed by minimum 3 weeks of exams.
2. HEI's are free to decide on the inside structure of the academic year, which is approved by the University Senate.
3. Teaching activity stops during the periods of examinations.
4. When assigning the transferable study credits, a period of at least 17 weeks is taken into consideration.

ROMANIA (CONTINUED)

Example of the structure of academic year [University of Bucharest]:

First Semester:

Teaching activity: 01.10.2015 – 16.12.2015.

Winter holydays: 17.12.2015 – 03.01.2016.

Teaching activity: 04.01.2016 – 23.01.2016.

Exams: 24.01.2016 – 13.02.2016.

Holydays: 14.02.2016 – 21.02.2016.

Second Semester:

Teaching activity: 22.02.2016 – 28.04.2016.

Easter holydays: 29.04.2016 – 08.05.2016.

Teaching activity: 09.05.2016 – 03.06.2016.

Exams: 04.06.2016 – 01.07.2016.

Holydays

*Re-examination sessions (for those students who failed in previous sessions):
01.09.2016 – 21.09.2016.*

SERBIA

Type of programme: ISCED 6 and 7

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	Beginning of October (usually 1 October)
Teaching activity (1 st or fall semester)	From the beginning of October to the end of December
Holiday	New Year's and Christmas holidays, usually between 31 December and 7 January
Teaching activity (1 st or winter semester)	Usually from 8 January until the end of the semester in mid-February
Teaching activity (2 nd or spring semester)	From the end of February until the Easter holidays
Holidays	Usually one week around Easter holidays; in 2016, Easter will be on 1 May
Teaching activity (2 nd or spring semester)	After Easter holidays until the end of the semester, usually until the beginning of June
Holidays	Usually from mid-July to mid-August
Examinations	HEIs determine the dates and the number of examination periods during the academic year, usually 4 to 6 periods, at the end of each semester and prior to the end of the academic year, after summer holidays.
End of the academic year	Usually 30 September
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	11 November 2015 1-2 January 2016 7 January 2016 15-16 February 2016 29 April – 3 May 2016
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: fall and spring semester, approximately 4 months long

Additional notes:

The academic calendars are determined each year at institutional level, meaning that HEIs may have different calendars during the same academic year. For this reason, the information about dates/periods is only approximate and is given by comparing calendars of different HEIs and by extracting the most common dates. Moreover, many HEIs do not have 2015/16 calendars ready at the moment, so calendars from previous years and common practices were used to generate expected and approximate calendar for the next academic year.

SLOVAKIA

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2015
End of the academic year	31 August 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 September 2015 15 September 2015 17 November 2015 24-25 December 2015 1 January 2016 6 January 2016 25 March and 28 March 2016 (Easter)

Number of intervals: 2

Length of intervals: 4 to 5 months

Additional notes:

Following the Higher Education Act (Act No. 131 /2002 on Higher Education and on Changes and Supplements to Some Acts):

The academic year begins on 1 September of the current year and ends on 31 August of the next year.

Study in one academic year may be divided into two semesters or three trimesters. The specific division of study (teaching activity and holidays) is determined for every higher education institution in its Statute.

The Bachelor study, Master study, Engineer study and Doctoral study start at the beginning of the first semester or the first trimester of the academic year. PhD study may also start at the beginning of the second semester or the second trimester, or the third trimester of the academic year.

Higher education institutions decide on the organisation of the study in line with the Study Order. Academic senate of the university should approve the Study Order.

SLOVENIA

Type of programme: ISCED level 6 and 7 (universities; higher professional education institutions)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2015
Teaching activity - winter semester	15 weeks on average
Winter examinations during winter holidays period	4 weeks in January and February
Teaching activity - summer semester	15 weeks on average
Spring examinations	4 to 6 weeks in June and July
Summer holidays	1 month on average (15 July to 15 August)
Autumn examinations	Around 4 weeks from mid-August to end of September
End of the academic year	30 September 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2015 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2015 (Day in Remembrance of the Dead) 25 December 2015 (Christmas) 26 December 2015 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 8 February 2016 (<i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 1 and 2 May 2016 (May Day Holiday) 25 June 2016 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2016 (Assumption Day) + University day(s) + Students' day(s)
Number of intervals: 2 semesters	Interval: around 15 weeks

Additional note:

The organisation of an academic year is in the autonomy of higher education institutions. The data presented above refer to the most common arrangements.

SLOVENIA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: ISCED level 5 (short-cycle higher vocational colleges)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2015
Teaching activity	34 weeks; institutions specify periods of teaching activities.
Examinations	Institutions specify examinations at will following the Rules issued by the Minister (*).
End of the academic year	30 September 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2015 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2015 (Day in Remembrance of the Dead) 25 December 2015 (Christmas) 26 December 2015 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 January 2016 (New Year's Day) 8 February 2016 (<i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 28 March 2016 (Easter Monday) 1 and 2 May 2016 (May Day Holiday) 25 June 2016 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2016 (Assumption Day)
Number of intervals Teaching activity: 2 semesters Examination activity: 3 periods	Intervals: Teaching activity: around 12 weeks, 1 semester (around 10 weeks) aimed at practical work, only Examination activity: in the autonomy of colleges
Additional notes: The beginning and the end of an academic year are specified by law. An academic year encompasses no less than 34 weeks of organised study work and 37 to 42 weeks of study load for students. Higher vocational colleges have considerable flexibility in planning and structuring their year. * As specified by the Regulations on Assessment of Knowledge in Higher Vocational Colleges (2009), higher vocational colleges shall organise no less than 3 periods of examination per academic year, i.e. within 30 days after each semester (winter, spring) and also in August and September.	

SPAIN

Type of programme: University tertiary education

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16 ⁽¹⁾	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Between the first and the third week of September 2015.
Beginning of the teaching activity	Throughout the month of September The beginning of the teaching activity in third-cycle education (to gain a PhD) generally occurs between the second week of October and the first week of November.
Teaching activity	Between the beginning of the teaching activity and Christmas holidays
Examinations	2 weeks between the end of November and mid-December These consist of extraordinary examination sessions which take place in December; therefore, not every student takes these exams, but only those who ask for this possibility instead of during the ordinary periods. Teaching activity is not stopped meanwhile.
Christmas Holidays	About 15 days between 23 December 2015 and 7 January 2016
Teaching activity	Between the end of Christmas holidays and the start of the examinations
Examinations	2 or 3 weeks between mid-January and mid-February (teaching activity in this period)
Teaching activity	Between the end of January/mid-February examinations and Easter Holidays
Easter Holidays	About 10 days between the third week of March and the first week of April 2016
Teaching activity	Between the end of Easter holidays and June examinations
Examinations	About 1 month between May and mid-July, depending on whether the university conducts its extraordinary examinations in July or in September (no teaching activity during this period)
Extraordinary examinations	3 weeks between the second week of June and the second week of July (in some universities the first two weeks of September 2016)
Summer Holidays	Between the end of June/July examinations and the end of August
End of the academic year	One day before the beginning of the 2016/17 academic year
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	About 12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4 months

(1) Universities have full autonomy to set up their own academic calendar. Therefore, the number of weeks of the teaching activity and holidays vary from one university to another.

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: Non-university tertiary education: Advanced Specific Vocational Training and Specialised Education (Advanced Artistic studies and Advanced Sport education)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2015
Beginning of the teaching activity	Between mid-September and the beginning of October.
Teaching activity	From the beginning of the teaching activity to the end May or June.
Holidays	<p>Christmas: 2 weeks between 23 December 2015 and 6 or 7 January 2016.</p> <p>Easter: About 10 days between the third week of March and first week of April 2016.</p> <p>Summer: 13/16 weeks between June and beginning/mid-September or the beginning of October.</p> <p>Public holidays: 12 (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities)</p>
Examinations	<p>There are generally three periods of examinations: before Christmas holidays, before Easter holidays and before summer holidays.</p> <p>Schools are free to fix examination dates within those periods.</p>
End of the academic year	30 June 2016

Number of intervals: 3	Length of intervals: 3 months
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Additional notes:

Binding regulations have been issued by some Autonomous Communities to establish the period of the extraordinary resits examinations in Vocational Training and the final exams of Artistic Education. A greater variety of dates can be observed in Advanced Artistic Studies and Advanced Sport Education.

SWEDEN

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are autonomous. Generally between end of August – beginning of September
Teaching activities and holidays	Fixed by each faculty
Examinations	Fixed by the teachers
End of the academic year	Generally ends at the end of May or beginning of June. During June-September, most HEIs offer single subject courses of 7.5-10 ECTS credits
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Approximately 3 weeks around Christmas Several days around Easter including Good Friday (25 March 2016) and Easter Monday (28 March 2016), and around Ascension Day (6 May 2016) National Day (6 June 2016)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months (around 20 weeks)

SWITZERLAND

Type of programme: Universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education (ISCED 6 and 7)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 August 2015
Teaching activities and holiday periods	The academic year consists of an autumn semester, a spring semester and periods during which no courses are held.
Teaching activity autumn semester	14 September – 18 December 2015
Teaching activity spring semester	22 February – 3 June 2016
Examinations	Universities and universities of teacher education fix the periods of examinations autonomously. Usually they take place within 1 to 3 weeks before or after the end of a semester. At the universities of applied sciences, the examinations usually take place at the end of the teaching period. For that reason, their teaching activity period usually lasts about two weeks longer than indicated above.
End of the academic year	31 July 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	19 December 2015 – 21 February 2016 (Christmas holiday) 25 March – 3 April 2016 (Easter holiday) 5 May 2016 (Ascension Day) 16 May 2016 (Whit Monday) Depending on the canton of location, each university has some additional single holidays.
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 2 x 14 weeks (universities, universities of teacher education), 2 x 16 weeks (universities of applied sciences)

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: Colleges of professional education and training (ISCED 6)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the academic year starts between August and October.
Teaching activity and holidays	The institutions fix all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Usually teaching activities consist of two semesters starting between August and October and between January and April. The institutions autonomously fix the holidays.
Examinations	Institutions are free to fix examination dates.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year usually ends at the beginning of summer holidays.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Public holidays depend on the canton of location of the institutions. Usually their holiday periods are similar to those of secondary education.
Number of intervals: 2	Institutions fix the length of intervals autonomously.

TURKEY

Type of programme: All (ISCED 5, 6 and 7)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Universities are autonomous. The autumn semester begins generally in September or October and the spring semester in February.
Teaching activity	Universities are free to determine their own periods of teaching activity. As a rule, each academic year is composed of two semesters which include at least 14 weeks. Universities may offer summer schools for those who fail classes during regular semesters and who would like to take classes from next academic semester.
Holidays (semester/national/religious holidays)	The dates of the semester breaks are freely fixed by the universities. The duration of the semester breaks is at least 2 weeks. National and religious holidays are as follows: 23-27 September 2015 (4.5 days – religious holiday) 28-29 October 2015 (1.5 days - Republic Day) 1 January 2016 (New Year) 23 April 2016 (Children's Day) 1 May 2016 (Labour Day) 19 May 2016 (Youth and Sport Day)
Examinations	Each university fixes its own examination dates. The number of mid-term exams is decided either by the university senate, or by the board of each faculty. In addition to the mid-term exams, there is a final exam for each particular course at the end of each semester. The final exams generally start either right after or one week after the end of the semester. It takes 2-3 on average. Those who take classes annually take one or two midterms and a final exam a year.
End of the academic year	Universities are autonomous. Generally autumn semester ends in December and the spring semester in May or June. Summer semesters last from the end of June until mid-August.
Number of intervals: 2 Semesters (autumn and spring)	Length of intervals: 14 weeks per semester (at least)

UNITED KINGDOM (ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND)

Type of programme: Undergraduate (ISCED 6 first cycle).

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the standard academic year	1 August 2015
Beginning of teaching activity	Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are autonomous, but the first term or semester typically starts in late September/early October.
End of teaching activity	HEIs are autonomous, but the final term/semester typically ends in mid/late June.
End of the standard academic year	31 July 2016
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	2 May 2016 – early May Bank Holiday 30 May 2016 – late May Bank Holiday HEIs are normally closed on public holidays which fall in term-time.
Vacations	As well as the long summer vacation, there are typically vacations of three to five weeks at Christmas and Easter.
Number of intervals (periods): Most commonly 3 (terms) Less commonly 2 (semesters)	Length of intervals (periods): Most commonly 8 to 11 weeks Less commonly typically around 15 weeks

UNITED KINGDOM (SCOTLAND)

Type of programme: All ISCED 5

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Some institutions will follow the traditional academic calendar and will generally start some time in September or October. However others have adopted different patterns where students can start at different times during the year e.g. January.
Teaching activity, holidays and examination periods	All periods of teaching activity, holidays and exams are fixed by institutions.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous and dates will vary depending on when the student has started the year. The traditional academic calendar ends May/June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. However certain dates, such as 25-26 December, 1-2 January will be regarded as public holidays by all institutions

Number of intervals: n/a Institutions are fully autonomous in this respect.	Length of intervals: n/a Institutions are fully autonomous in this respect.
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Additional notes:

Under The Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992, higher education institutions have autonomy. They decide how to divide the academic year, when and how many holidays to have, when and how exam periods should be organised. Traditionally, higher education institutions have started in September/October and finished in May/June. Holidays during the year would be at Christmas and Easter (for approx. a month each) and exams would be at the end of the final term. However, many HEIs have moved to a semester system where the year is split into separate teaching blocks with shorter holidays during the year and exam periods twice yearly. Under this system students can start the year at different times e.g. in September or in January.