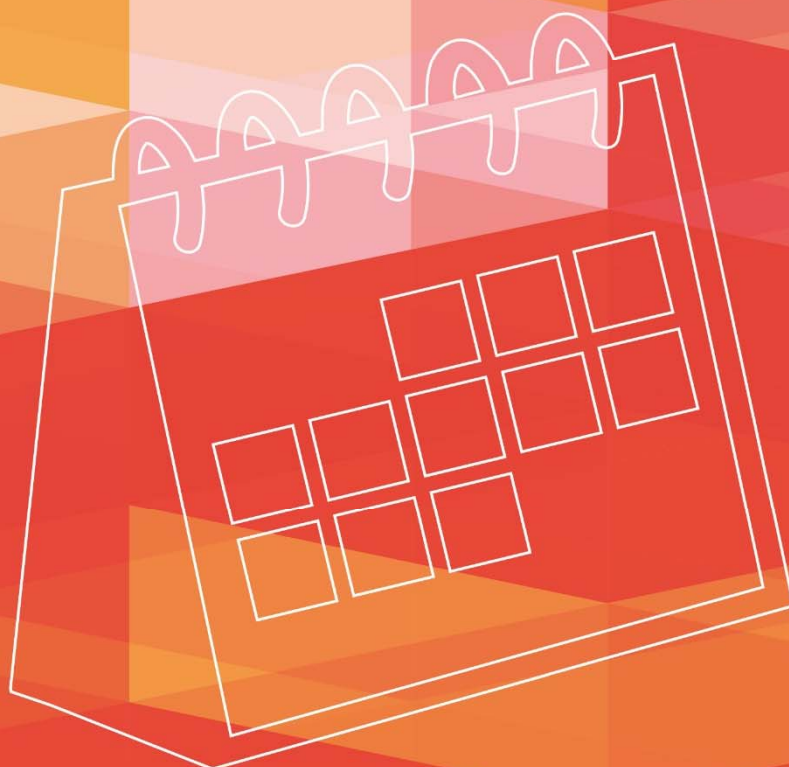


The Organisation of the Academic Year

*in Europe
2020/21*

Eurydice – Facts and Figures





The Organisation of the Academic Year in Europe 2020/21

Eurydice – Facts and Figures

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AUSTRIA

Type of programme: Public universities

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
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. 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 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	26 October 2020 1 November 2020 8 December 2020 25-26 December 2020 1 January 2021 6 January 2021 5 April 2021 1 May 2021 13 May 2021 24 May 2021 3 June 2021 15 August 2021
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 sciences): bachelor-programmes, master-programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 activities and holidays are fixed by the institutions. Usually teaching activities last 15-20 weeks (usually 15 weeks for full-time programmes, 18-20 weeks for degree-programmes especially designed for working professionals). 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 2020 1 November 2020 8 December 2020 25-26 December 2020 1 January 2021 6 January 2021 5 April 2021 1 May 2021 13 May 2021 24 May 2021 3 June 2021 15 August 2021
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of semesters is fixed by institutions autonomously and may vary from degree programme to degree programme even within the same institution. The University of Applied Studies Act does not regulate the duration of 'semesters'. Winter semester: from 4 to 6 months Summer semester: from 4 to 6 months

AUSTRIA (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
Teaching activity and holidays	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). The study commissions may enact further/detailed regulations concerning the beginning and the end of a semester as well as concerning the 'lecture-free time'. (see § 36 Hochschulgesetz 2005 idgF)
Examinations	The study commissions may enact further/detailed regulations concerning the beginning and the end of a semester as well as concerning the 'lecture-free time'. (see § 36 Hochschulgesetz 2005 idgF)
End of the academic year	30 September 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Christmas: about 2 weeks, semester holidays: 3 to 5 weeks, Easter (Saturday before Palm Sunday until Tuesday after Easter); summer holidays (about 1 July – 30 September 2021). There is a certain amount of autonomy in deciding upon the lecture-free time (for example: semester holidays may be mainly in February from 3 to 5 weeks; set by the respective study commission).
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Winter semester: 4 months Summer semester: 4 months

BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020/21: until Saturday 19 December 2020 There is an autumn holiday of one week for the students of some institutions of higher education only - Academic year 2020/21: from Monday 2 November until Sunday 8 November 2020
Holidays	Two weeks around Christmas and New Year - Academic year 2020/21: from Monday 21 December 2020 until Sunday 3 January 2021
Examinations*	3-4 weeks in January - Examinations academic year 2020/21: from Monday 4 January 2021 until Saturday 30 January 2021 Followed by one week without class between the first and the second semester - Class-free week academic year 2020/21: from Monday 1 February 2021 until Sunday 6 February 2021
Teaching activities (2nd semester)*	Academic year 2020/21: Monday 8 February 2021 until Saturday 22 May 2021 There is a spring holiday of one week for the students of some institutions of higher education only - Academic year 2020/21: from Monday 15 February until Sunday 21 February 2021 There is an Easter holiday break of two weeks. - Academic year 2020/21: from Monday 5 April 2021 until Sunday 18 April 2021
Examinations*	Last week of May until the end of the last week of June or the 1st week of July - Academic year 2020/21: from Monday 24 May 2021 until Saturday 3 July 2021 or Saturday 4 July 2021 (may vary depending on institution of higher education)

BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2019/20	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Holidays*	From the beginning (1st or 2nd week) of July until the start of the subsequent academic year - Start holidays academic year 2020/21: Monday 5 July 2021 (may vary depending on institution of higher education)
Examinations*	From mid-August until the end of the second or third week of September - Academic year 2020/21: from Monday 16 August 2021 until Saturday 18 September 2021 (may vary depending on institution of higher education)
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 2020 (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day) - 11 November 2020 (Armistice Day) - 15 November 2020 (King's Day) (holiday for some institutions of higher education only) - 1 January 2021 (New Year) - 4 April 2021 (Easter) - 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) - 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) - 13 May 2021 (Ascension Day) - 24 May 2021 (Whit Monday) - 11 July 2021 (Flemish Holiday) - 21 July 2021 (National Holiday) - 15 August 2021 (Assumption Day) Note that when a holiday takes place on a Thursday some institutions of higher education are closed on the following Friday as well. This depends on the institution in question.
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: Teaching activities last 12-13 weeks

* Individual institutions of higher education can deviate from the concrete dates mentioned here.

BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 legal act of 7 November 2013 fixes annually the beginning and end of each four-month term. The academic year is a one-year period beginning on 14 September 2020. 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. (Relative) institutional autonomy
Teaching activity and holidays	The first term starts on 14 September 2020; the second on 1 February 2021; the third on 1 July 2021. The two first terms include at least 12 weeks of teaching activity. For purposes of curricular organisation, each of the three four-month terms includes assessment and holiday periods. Institutional autonomy
Examinations	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. The third term includes assessment periods (as well as professional integration or personal project activity). Institutional autonomy
End of the academic year	13 September of the next year
Holidays	Winter holidays: 21 December 2020 – 1 January 2021 Spring holidays: 5-16 April 2021 Summer holidays: 7 weeks after the first session

BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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)	Legal public holidays for the 2020/21 academic year are: 11 November 2020 (1918 Armistice Day) 13 May 2021 (Ascension Day) 24 May 2021 (Pentecost) 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.
Number of intervals: 3	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). 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.

BELGIUM – GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Type of programme: ISCED 6

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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	1 September 2020 <i>The relevant legislation states that the government fixes the date of the beginning of the academic year between 1 September and 15 September.</i>
Teaching activity	1 September – 2 November 2020
Autumn holiday	2 November – 6 November 2020
Teaching activity	7 November – 20 December 2020
Christmas holiday	21 December 2020 – 1 January 2021
Examinations	January 2021
Second semester	
Teaching activity	Mid-January – End February 2021
Carnival holiday	15-19 February 2021
Teaching activity	March – April 2021
Easter holiday	6-16 April 2021
Teaching activity	20 April – 29 May 2021
Lecture free period	1-5 June 2021
Examinations	8-26 June 2021
End of the academic year	<i>The relevant legislation states that the government fixes the end of the academic year on the first Friday in July at the latest.</i>
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2020 11 November 2020 15 November 2020 24-26 December 2020 1 January 2021 5 April 2021 1 May 2021 13 May 2021 24 May 2021
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: September to mid-January Mid-January to the end of June

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Type of programme: ISCED 6

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
Teaching activity	5 October 2020 – 15 January 2021
Winter holidays	15-25 January 2021
Examinations	25 January – 5 February 2021
Teaching activity	25 January – 26 July 2021
Examinations	1-30 April 2021
Examinations	14-25 June 2021
Summer holidays	27 July – 30 August 2021
Examinations	30 August – 24 September 2021
End of the academic year	30 September 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Republic holidays: 25 November 2020 (Statehood Day) 1-2 January 2021 (New Year) 1 March 2021 (Independence Day) 1-2 May 2021 (International Labour Day) Religious holidays: 25 December 2020 (Catholic Christmas) 7 January 2021 (Orthodox Christmas) 27 March 2021 (Pesah) 4 April 2021 (Catholic Easter) 2 May 2021 (Orthodox Easter) 13 May 2021 (Eid Al-Fitr) 20 July 2021 (Eid Al-Adha)
Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)

Additional notes

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

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – REPUBLIKA SRPSKA

Type of programme: ISCED 6

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
Teaching activity	5 October 2020 – 30 January 2021
Winter holidays	1-10 January 2021
Examinations	25 January – 6 March 2021
Teaching activity	22 February – 6 June 2021
Examinations	19 April – 5 May 2021
Examinations	14 June – 9 July 2021
Summer holidays	12 July – 20 August 2021
Examinations	1 September – 24 September 2021
End of the academic year	4 October 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Republic holidays: 21 November 2021 (Day of establishing of General Framework Agreement for Peace) 1-2 January 2021 (New Year) 1-2 May 2021 (International Labour Day) 9 May 2021 (Day of victory over fascism) Religious holidays: 25 December 2020 (Catholic Christmas) 4 April 2021 (Catholic Easter) 2 May 2021 (Orthodox Easter)
Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)

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 – 2020/21	
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	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. Examinations dates, holidays (other than the officially announced public and religious holidays) are determined at institutional level.
Examinations	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. 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.
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)	Certain dates are regarded as official holidays (religious, national, public): 22 September 2020 24 December 2020 3 March 2021 1 May 2021 6 May 2021 24-25 May 2021 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.
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 – 2020/21	
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 2020
Teaching activity	1 October – 23 December 2020
Winter holidays	24 December 2020 – 6 January 2021
Teaching activity	7-22 January 2021
Examinations	25 January – 19 February 2021
Teaching activity	22 February – 4 June 2021
Examinations	7 June – 9 July 2021
Summer holidays	12 July – 27 August 2021
Examinations resits	30 August – 30 September 2021
End of the academic year	30 September 2021
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	8 October 2020 (Independence Day) 1 November 2020 (All Saints Day) 18 November 2020 (Remembrance Day for the Victims of the Homeland War and Remembrance Day for the Victims of Vukovar and Skabrnja) 25 December 2020 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2020 (Saint Stephen's Day) 1 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2021 (Epiphany) 4 April 2021 (Easter) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2021 (International Labour Day) 30 May 2021 (Statehood Day) 3 June 2021 (Corpus Christi) 22 June 2021 (Anti-Fascist Struggle Day)
Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)

Additional notes

Although different universities in Croatia (nine public universities 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 the largest Croatian university, University of Zagreb, and is the most common template.

Teaching activity in the first ('winter') semester of the academic year 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 or 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.

Article 80 of the Act on Scientific Activity and Higher Education (*Zakon o znanstvenoj djelatnosti i visokom obrazovanju*, Official Gazette, 123/2003, 198/2003, 105/2004, 174/2004, 02/2007, 46/2007, 45/2009, 63/2011, 94/2013, 139/2013, 101/2014, 60/2015, 131/2017) stipulates that the academic year starts on 1 October of the current year and ends on 30 September the following calendar year. Teaching activity starts between 1 September and 1 October and it cannot start before 1 September for the academic year in question. Teaching activity is organized in semesters or trimesters according to the steering documents (statute) of higher education institutions.

CYPRUS

Type of programme: University level (Public Universities)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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> . Their schedules are determined by the Universities themselves. The academic year usually starts between 1 and 15 September. At the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus University of Technology, which are both Public Universities, classes start on 7 September 2020.
Teaching activity and vacation periods	Public Universities determine all periods of teaching activity, as well as holidays. Holiday periods for the academic year 2020/21 at Public Universities take place as follows: 24 December 2020 – 7 January 2021 (Christmas vacations, at the end of the autumn semester) 26 April – 5 May 2021 (Easter vacations, before the end of the spring semester) Summer session (in case 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 take place at the end of each semester. The dates of the final examination periods at the University of Cyprus for the academic year 2020/21 are listed below: 9-23 December 2020 for autumn semester 13-27 May 2021 for spring semester The dates of the final examination periods at Cyprus University of Technology for the academic year 2020/21 are listed below: 9-23 December 2020 for autumn semester 10-26 May 2021 for spring semester At the Open University of Cyprus for the academic year 2020/21 final examinations take place between 6-24 May 2021.
End of the academic year	The academic year traditionally ends at the end of July 2021 for all Universities of Cyprus.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 October 2020 (National Holiday) 28 October 2020 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2020 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2021 (Epiphany Day) 15 March 2021 (Beginning of Lent- Green Monday) 25 March 2021 (National Day) 1 April 2021 (National Day) 30 April – 3 May 2021 (Easter Holidays) 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) 21 June 2021 (Holy Spirit Monday) 15 August 2021 (Assumption of Virgin Mary)
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 the academic calendars of other University Institutions in Cyprus.

CYPRUS (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: University level (Private Universities)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 at 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 for the academic year 2020/21 take place as follows: 24 December 2020 – 7 January 2021 (Christmas) 24 April – 7 May 2021 (Easter) Summer session starts in early June and lasts for 7 weeks. Some Universities may offer summer session II, which starts at 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 the summer session, examination period occurs between 16 and 21 July 2021.
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 2020 (National Holiday) 28 October 2020 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2020 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2021 (Epiphany Day) 15 March 2021 (Beginning of Lent- Green Monday) 25 March 2021 (National Day) 1 April 2021 (National Day) 30 April – 3 May 2021 (Easter Holidays) 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) 21 June 2021 (Holy Spirit Monday) 15 August 2021 (Assumption of Virgin Mary)
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 – 2020/21	
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 is usually within the month of September. The Institutions of Higher Education are obliged by their internal regulations, as specified by the Law, to publish an academic calendar.
Teaching activity	Classes start in September or within the first two weeks of October and continue until the end of December or mid-January in the first academic semester. Classes start within the last two weeks of January or within the first fortnight of February and finish at the end of May or the beginning of June for the second academic semester. Summer session (Intensive courses): Starts mid-June and lasts for 7 to 9 weeks.
Vacation Periods	At the end of the autumn semester the Institutions have Christmas vacations (usually a 2-week holiday), and before the end of the spring semester they have Easter vacations (usually a 2-week holiday). Vacation periods may slightly vary depending on the Institution.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 October 2020 (National Holiday) 28 October 2020 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2020 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2021 (Epiphany Day) 15 March 2021 (Beginning of Lent- Green Monday) 25 March 2021 (National Day) 1 April 2021 (National Day) 30 April – 3 May 2021 (Easter Holidays) 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) 15 June 2021 (Holy Spirit Monday) 15 August 2021 (Assumption of Virgin Mary)
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 2021
Number of intervals: 2	Length of interval: Semesters

Additional notes

Non-University Institutions are obliged by the relevant Law, 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.

Total number of academic days: 14 weeks for public universities and private universities as well.

Total number of public holidays: Christmas Holidays 2 weeks (the 24th of December the first day), Easter holidays 2 weeks (the 30th of April the first day), 8 occasional/national holidays.

CZECH REPUBLIC

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020 28 October 2020 17 November 2020 24-26 December 2020 (26 falls on Saturday) 1 January 2021 2 and 5 April 2021 1 May 2021 (Saturday) 8 May 2021 (Saturday) 5 July 2021 6 July 2021
Number of intervals: most often two	Length of intervals: around a half a year

The beginning and end of the academic year, teaching activity, holidays, and examination periods and therefore the total number of academic days and holidays vary depending on universities.

CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020 (the beginning of the teaching period is set by the school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme).
Teaching activity and holidays	The exact dates of teaching activity 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 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 28 September 2020 28 October 2020 17 November 2020 24-26 December 2020 (26 falls on Saturday) 1 January 2021 2 and 5 April 2021 1 May 2021 (Saturday) 8 May 2021 (Saturday) 5 July 2021 6 July 2021)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months (153 days) and 7 months (212 days)

Additional notes

The exact dates are set by the school head, therefore the total number of school days and holidays vary depending on schools.

DENMARK

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 examination period is: Fall Semester: typically December and three weeks in January Spring Semester: mid- and end of May and 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)	23 December 2020 – 1 January 2021 (both days included) 1-5 April 2021 30 April 2021 13 May 2021 24 May 2021 5 June 2021
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. 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 – 2020/21	
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. Generally takes place between the last week of August and the first week of September.
Teaching activity	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. The autumn semester generally lasts until 20 December.
Holiday	Generally takes place between 20 December and 1 January.
Examinations	Generally take place between 2 January and 20 January.
Teaching activity	The spring semester generally begins a week after the examinations are over.
End of the academic year	Between the last week of June and the first week of July
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	24-26 December 2020 (Christmas) 1 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 24 February 2021 (Independence Day) 2 April 2021 (Good Friday) 1 May 2021 (May Day) 23 June 2021 (Victory Day) 24 June 2021 (St John's Day) 20 August 2021 (Independence Restoration Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals (semesters): ca. 4.5 months

FINLAND

Type of programme: Universities of Applied Sciences and universities

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
First semester – Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between the beginning of August 2020 and 31 December 2020
Second semester – Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between 1 January and 31 July 2021
Examinations	Fixed by the teachers
End of the academic year	31 July 2021
Public holidays 2020/21 (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2020 (All Saints Day) 6 December 2020 (Independence Day) 24 December 2020 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2020 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2020 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2021 (Epiphany) 2 April 2021 (Good Friday) 4 April 2021 (Easter Day) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2021 (May Day) 13 May 2021 (Ascension Day) 19 June 2021 (Midsummer Eve) (partly)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 to 7 months

FRANCE

Type of programme: University studies

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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	Institutional autonomy. Almost everywhere the period is between 1 September and 15 October.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holiday are fixed by institutions, which however comply with the following calendar: All Saint's Holidays in autumn, holidays at the end-of-year festive season (one or often two weeks), as well as in February (generally one week) and Easter holidays in spring (one or two weeks).
Examinations	Examination periods are entirely at the discretion of university managing bodies.
End of the academic year	No precise date. Institutional autonomy. In practice, the academic year ends after the final examination, in June or at the beginning of July.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions¹: 1 November 2020 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2020 (1918 Armistice Day) 25 December 2020 (Christmas) 1 January 2021 (New Year) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) 8 May 2021 (end of WWII in Europe) 13 May 2021 (Ascension Day) 24 May 2021 (Whit Monday) 14 July 2021 (National holiday) 15 August 2021 (Assumption Day)

¹ Information on additional holidays which are specific to the area Alsace and Moselle or to French overseas territories can be found here: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2405>

FRANCE (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: Non-university studies (courses to prepare for competitive selection for the *grandes écoles*, higher 'technician' sections, *grandes écoles* and other higher 'schools')

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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	Institutional autonomy, although all institutions open at the beginning of September or later in the same month.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holiday are fixed by institutions, which however comply with the following calendar: All Saint's Holidays in autumn; holidays between Christmas and New Year's Day; often one week in February; Easter holidays in spring (one or two weeks).
Examinations	Examination periods are entirely at the discretion of the managing bodies of institutions.
End of the academic year	No precise date. Institutional autonomy. In practice, the academic year ends after the final examination, in June or at the beginning of July.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions ² : 1 November 2020 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2020 (1918 Armistice Day) 25 December 2020 (Christmas) 1 January 2021 (New Year) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) 8 May 2021 (end of WWII in Europe) 13 May 2021 (Ascension Day) 24 May 2021 (Whit Monday) 14 July 2021 (National holiday) 15 August 2021 (Assumption Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months

² Information on additional holidays which are specific to the area Alsace and Moselle or to French overseas territories can be found here: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2405>

GERMANY

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
Teaching activity winter semester	First week of October to first week of November 2020 – second to third week of December 2020
Holiday	Third to fourth week of December 2020 – first week of January 2021
Teaching activity winter semester	First to second week of January 2021 – third week of January to fourth week of February 2021
End of winter semester	31 March 2021
Beginning of summer semester	1 April 2021
Teaching activity summer semester	First to second week of April 2021 – first to third week of July 2021
End of the academic year	30 September 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	3 October 2020 (German Unity Day) 2 April 2021 (Good Friday) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) 13 May 2021 (Ascension Day) 24 May 2021 (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 – 2020/21	
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 2020
Teaching activity (1st or winter semester)	From the beginning of the winter semester in September – approximately within the second fortnight of September – until 23 December 2020
Holiday	2 weeks 24 December 2020 – 7 January 2021 (Christmas holidays)
Teaching activity (1st or winter semester)	8 January 2021 until the beginning of the winter semester exams, set approximately in mid-January 2021
Examinations	Winter semester exams begin approximately in mid-January 2021 and last for three weeks until the beginning of February 2021
Teaching activity (2nd or spring semester)	Spring semester begins after the end of the winter semester exams – approximately in mid-February 2021
Holidays	2 weeks 13-26 April 2021 (Easter holidays)
Teaching activity (2nd or spring semester)	The period after Easter holidays until the beginning of spring semester exams – approximately beginning of June 2021
Examinations	Spring semester exams take place in June 2021 and last for three weeks
Holidays	From the end of the June exams until those of September 2021
Re-examinations	1 September until the beginning of the new winter semester, set approximately within the second fortnight of September 2021
End of the academic year	31 August 2021
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	28 October 2020 (National holiday) 17 November 2020 (National holiday) 30 January 2021 (Religious holiday) 15 March 2021 (Religious holiday) 25 March 2021 (National holiday) 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) 21 June 2021 (Religious holiday)

GREECE (CONTINUED)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Number of intervals: 3	Length of intervals: two weeks at Christmas; two weeks at Easter; summer holidays from the end of June exams until those of September
1st (winter) semester Beginning: September of each calendar year (approximately within the second fortnight of September 2020)	End: until the final day of the winter semester exams (approximately beginning of February 2021)
2nd (spring) semester Beginning: after the end of winter semester exams (approximately mid-February 2021)	End: until the final day of the spring semester exams (it varies for each institution)

Additional notes

The academic year begins on 1 September each year and ends on 31 August of the following year (1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021). Teaching activities are divided into two semesters.

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Greece are autonomous as regards to their *modus operandi*. The exact dates for the beginning and end of each semester are defined by the HEI's Senate or Board. Only in exceptional cases is the semester's extension allowed in order to cover the necessary teaching weekly hours of a module, but in no case can this extension be more than two weeks. The internal regulation of the institution regulates the arrangements of the study programme.

Each semester includes at least 13 weeks of teaching. The end of each semester marks the beginning of the exam period. During the period of exams, no teaching activity is taking place, so that students can take part in the exams. Students may be reassessed in the modules of both semesters before the beginning of the winter semester, during September. Students, who have certified dyslexia before their entry to the HEI, can be examined orally.

Students who have completed full-time attendance, meaning they have attended the necessary number of semesters leading to a degree, have the opportunity to take part in the exams at any semester, either winter or spring. This means that they can be examined in any course they choose regardless if it is taught in the winter or spring semester.

The total academic days and the total number of holidays cannot be estimated because the exact dates for the beginning and end of each semester are determined by each HEI's Senate or Board. Hence, dates in the academic calendar may vary slightly depending on the institution.

HUNGARY

Type of programme: All types of programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 (see Additional notes 1, 2)
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 2020 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956) 1 November (Sunday) 2020 (All-Saints' Day) 24-25-26 December 2020 (Christmas) 1 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 15 March 2021 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 2 April and 5 April 2021 (Easter) 1 May (Saturday) 2021 (Labour Day) 24 May 2021 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months (see Additional note 4)

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. (Most of the HEIs are also closed between Christmas and New Year, and in August.)
- (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 (*ősz* *félév*) and a spring term (*tavasz* *félév*).

ICELAND

Type of programme: ISCED 6A

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 beginning of the academic year is generally latter half of August.
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Teaching activity generally starts between 15 August and 5 September and ends on 30 November. Some institutions have summer sessions that last from May to August.
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Examinations generally take place between 2 and 20 December.
Holidays	Institutions are autonomous. Normally between 19 December – 4 January and Easter, in 2021 from 1 April to 5 April 2021, both days included.
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Teaching activity generally starts around 7 January and ends end-April or early May 2021.
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Examinations generally take place between 24 April and 10 May.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. No precise date. The academic year ends <i>de facto</i> after the last examination.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	24 December 2020 25 December 2020 26 December 2020 1 January 2021 1 April 2021 2 April 2021 4 April 2021 5 April 2021 22 April 2021 1 May 2021 13 May 2021 23 May 2021 24 May 2021 (Public holidays outside the school year:) 17 June 2021 2 August 2021
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 13 weeks

IRELAND

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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, Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology are autonomous institutions and start dates may vary, but in general, for 2020/21 the academic year starts the week beginning Monday 28 September.
Teaching activity	Teaching activity commences during the week beginning Monday 28 September to the end of January. The semester is generally a period of 15 weeks, which normally includes 12 weeks teaching. All periods of teaching activity and holidays are individually fixed by each University or Institute.
Holiday	Bank Holiday Monday 26 October 2020
Examinations	Examinations commence early January 2021. Each University or Institute manages this separately.
Holiday	Dates from 23 December 2020 (Christmas break)
Teaching activity	Teaching activity commences at the beginning of February to mid May 2021. The semester is generally a period of 15 weeks, which normally includes 12 weeks teaching. All periods of teaching activity and holidays are individually fixed by each University or Institute.
Holidays	St Patrick's Day – 17 March 2021 Good Friday – 2 April 2021 Easter Monday – 5 April 2021 May Bank Holiday Monday – 3 May 2021
Examinations	Usually 2 weeks (11-12 working days) in May. 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.

Additional notes

The HEIs are autonomous institutions and are free to set their own academic year teaching activity, examination dates and holidays. It is therefore not possible to be specific on actual dates for these.
Due to Covid 19, start dates are later than usual and term dates may be subject to change.

ITALY

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21 ⁽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 2020
First semester – Teaching activity	1 October – 23 December 2020
Examinations (first session)	January – February 2021
Second semester – Teaching activity	1 March – 31 May 2021
Examinations (second session)	June – July 2021
Examinations (third sessions)	September 2021
Admission tests and entrance examinations ⁽²⁾	September 2021
End of the academic year	30 September 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2020 8 December 2020 23 December 2020 – 6 January 2021 Easter (1 week) 25 April 2021 1 May 2021 2 June 2021
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: semesters (October – December 2020 and March – May 2021)

⁽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 are foreseen by the legislation. Medicine, veterinary, architecture, health professions are 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 – 2020/21	
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 for the registration and admission of entrants in the first year after the acquisition of upper secondary education. For the year 2020, it is 1 July. Candidates who have acquired secondary education abroad and do not apply for studies in state-funded study places or study programmes where the number of students is determined, higher education institutions and colleges may start to register and enrol as of 29 April 2020. 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 to December and from February to May. Full-time studies correspond to 40 weeks per year and not less than 40 academic hours per week. Higher education institutions in cooperation with their stakeholders from employment organisations autonomously determine the practical training placements (internships) periods for their students. As regards the 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.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	18 November 2020 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) 24-26 December 2020 (Christmas) 10-13 April 2021 (Easter) 1 May 2021 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day) 4 May 2021 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)

LATVIA (CONTINUED)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2019/20	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Number of intervals: 2 semesters	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).

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 – 2020/21	
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 2020
Winter semester	1 September 2020 – 31 January 2021
Teaching activity for new students / Introductory weeks	1-4 September 2020
Teaching activity for continuing students	7 September – 19 December 2020
Christmas holidays	21 December 2020 – 4 January 2021
Examination weeks	4-22 January 2021
Summer semester	1 February – 31 August 2021
Teaching activity	8 February – 29 May 2021
Easter holidays	2-11 April 2021
Examination weeks	7-27 June 2021
End of the academic year	31 August 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 September 2020 1 November 2020 8 December 2020 2 February 2021 16 February 2021 19 March 2021 5 April 2021 1 May 2021 13 May 2021 24 May 2021 3 June 2021 15 August 2021
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 26 weeks

LITHUANIA

Type of programme: All types, full-time studies

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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. Due to COVID19 caused delay in Matura exams the academic year for the first-cycle students and students of integrated studies (first year students in some HEIs) starts on the 14 September 2020. However, the date varies considerably among the institutions (from 31 August 2020 to 14 September 2020).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Each semester usually covers 20 weeks. Typically, 16 weeks per semester are dedicated for teaching activities (lectures, practical work etc., including 1 week for self-study). The last four weeks within are allocated to an examination session**. In some institutions, the semester may last longer (up to 22 weeks)***. Due to COVID19, the courses are accelerated in the autumn semester of 2020 in some HEIs. In most institutions, the spring semester starts at the beginning of February. Typically, the autumn semester starts on 1 September 2020, the spring semester starts on 1 February 2020.
Examinations*	Typically, the last two to four weeks of each semester are allocated to examination sessions. The total number of school/academic days dedicated for exams and the starting date of the exam sessions varies considerably among institutions.
Holidays	Institutions are autonomous. All institutions have Christmas holidays usually from 24 December to the beginning of January. The length of Christmas holidays is 1 to 2 weeks. The winter break begins at the end of the autumn semester, right after the winter examination session (usually the end of January/beginning of February) and lasts 1 week. Most institutions have Easter holidays usually lasting for 1 week 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. However, the occurrence and the length of holidays may vary considerably.
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.

LITHUANIA (CONTINUED)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2019/20	
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)	Certain dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1-2 November 2020 24-26 December 2020 1 January 2021 16 February 2021 11 March 2021 5 April 2021 1 May 2021 24 June 2021 6 July 2021 15 August 2021 Some dates may coincide with the winter/spring holiday period.
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.

** Autumn exam session in some HEIs may occur before Christmas.

*** Excluding holidays.

LUXEMBOURG

Type of programme: All types, all programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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	14 September 2020
Winter semester	14 September 2020 – 6 February 2021
Christmas holidays	21 December 2020 – 3 January 2021
Revision	4-10 January 2021
Examinations	11 January – 6 February 2021
Winter break between semesters	8-14 February 2021
Summer semester	15 February – 19 September 2021
Easter holidays	5-11 April 2021
Revision	31 May – 6 June 2021
Examinations	7 June – 3 July 2021
Summer break between semesters	5 July – 19 September 2021
End of the academic year	19 September 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2020 (All Saints' Day) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) 9 May 2021 (Europe Day) 13 May 2021 (Ascension Day) 24 May 2021 (Whit Monday) 23 June 2021 (National Holiday) 15 August 2021 (Assumption)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 6 months

Additional notes

Total number of academic days: 117 days (weekends, examination and revision periods not included)

Total number of holidays: 34 days (the summer break not included)

MALTA

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
Induction week for all students	12-16 October 2020
Beginning of semester 1	19 October 2020
Campus Day	12-16 October 2020
No lectures	2 November 2020
Graduation Ceremonies – Level 5 & 6	December 2020
Graduation Ceremonies – Level 4	January 2021
Christmas Recess	21 December 2020 – 1 January 2021
Continuation of semester 1	4 January 2021
Graduation ceremonies – Levels 1, 2 & 3	February 2021
End of semester 1	29 January 2021
Beginning of Semester II	1 February 2021
No lectures	15 February 2021
Easter recess	1-9 April 2021
Continuation of semester 2	12 April 2021
End of Semester II	12 April 2021
Summer Recess	13 July – 31 August 2021
Public holidays falling on week days (occasional / national / religious holidays)	8 September 2020 21 September 2020 8 December 2020 10 February 2021 19 March 2021 31 March 2021 7 June 2021 29 June 2021

There is a total of 168 academic days starting from 19 October 2020 till 12 July 2021. These include examination days. Total number of holidays is 24 during this period.

MALTA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: University of Malta

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of Semester 1	Continuing students – Monday 12 October 2020 For Year 1 students – Monday 19 October 2020
Opening Ceremony	Friday 16 October 2020
On-line enrolment for 2020/21	October/November
Registration for study-units by students admitted in October 2020	End of July
Add/drop period – adding or cancelling study-units previously registered for	Monday 12 October 2020 – Friday 16 October 2020
Christmas Recess	21 December 2020 – Sunday 3 January 2021
Continuation of semester 1 and Revision Week	Monday 4 January 2021 – Friday 29 January 2021
Examinations (Semester I)	Monday 1 February 2021 – Friday 19 February 2021
Beginning of semester 2	Monday 22 February 2021
Add/drop period- adding or cancelling study-units previously registered for	Monday 15 February 2021– Friday 19 February 2021
Easter Recess	Monday 29 March 2021 – Friday 9 April 2021
Continuation of semester 2	Monday 12 April 2021
Examinations Semester II	Saturday 5 June 2021 – Wednesday 6 July 2021
End of Second Semester	Wednesday 6 July 2021
Summer Semester (for postgraduate courses spread over 3 semesters)	Tuesday 8 June 2021– Thursday 30 September 2021
Summer Recess (within the summer semester)	Monday 2 August 2021– Friday 13 August 2021
Supplementary Examinations	Wednesday 1 September 2021– Friday 17 September 2021
Public holidays falling on a week day (occasional / national / religious holidays)	Tuesday 8 December 2020 Wednesday 10 February 2021 Friday 19 March 2021 Wednesday 31 March 2021 Friday 2 April 2021 Monday 7 June 2021

Additional notes

For first year students there is a total of 129 academic days while for continuing students there are 134 days, both of these over 2 semesters excluding examination periods. Total number of holidays during this period is 23.

For postgraduate courses spreading over 3 semesters, the total number of possible academic days is 184 days and total number of holidays is 34.

MONTENEGRO

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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	28 September 2020 (31 August – 27 September 2020 examination term will be organized)
Teaching activity	28 September 2020 – 10 January 2021
Christmas/New Year holidays	1-2 January 2021 6-8 January 2021
Examinations	11 January – 14 February 2021
Break between the semesters	No break this year.
Teaching activity	15 February – 30 May 2021
Examinations	31 May – 4 July 2021
End of the academic year	18 July 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1-2 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 1-2 May 2021 (International Labour Day) 21-22 May 2021 (Independence Day) 13-14 July 2021 (Statehood Day)

Additional notes

Total number of teaching days is 143 (this number relates to teaching days only). Total number of working days which includes teaching days + examination days + final weeks of study year + enrolment and preparation days is 221.

Faculty units are obligated to organize one day of classes for the purpose of compensation on 4-5 January.

In accordance with Law on National and Other Holidays (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro, 27/2007 and Official Gazette of Montenegro, no. 36/2013), national holidays in Montenegro include: 21 May (Independence Day) and 13 July (Statehood Day).

Holidays in Montenegro are also: 1 January – New Year and 1 May – Labour Day.

National and other holidays are celebrated for two days, on the day of the holiday and the day that follows.

Holidays are non-working days.

If a holiday falls on Sunday, the following two days are non-working days.

If the second day of the holiday falls on Sunday, the following first day is a non-working day.

Religious holidays are non-working days.

In accordance with the Law on Higher Education (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no 44/14, 47/15, 40/16 and 42/17 and 71/17, 55/18, 3/19), the examination terms take place in January, June and September. 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.

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.

Source: Eurydice.

THE NETHERLANDS

Type of programme: ISCED 6 and 7

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
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 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25 and 26 December 2020 (Christmas Days) 31 December 2020 (New Year's Eve) 1 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2021 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2021 (Liberation Day) 13 May 2021 (Ascension Day) 24 May 2021 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.	Length of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.

Additional notes

Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), article 1.1/definitions, k.: *academic year: the period which starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year.*

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.

During the period of examinations, teaching activity usually stops, so that students can work and learn for the exams.

Some courses also start during the course of the academic year, on 1 February.

* The only thing that has been determined is the number of ECTS in higher education.

Training	Duration	ECTS
Associate degree HBO (higher professional education)	2 years	120 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

School days and holidays 2020/21

There are no legal regulations for the number of teaching hours (/school days) in higher education. Universities and institutions for higher professional education can decide for themselves how they organize teaching. There are some agreements made on the course load. The course load for an academic year is 60 ECTS (this is equivalent to 1 680 hours of study).

There are no legal regulations for the number of holidays in higher education. There are also no mandatory dates for the summer holidays and no recommended dates for other holidays. This means that schools/institutions themselves determine the holidays.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
Teaching activity	5 October 2020 – 15 January 2021
Christmas/New Year holidays	1-7 January 2021
Teaching activity	8-15 January 2021
Examinations	18 January – 6 February 2021
Break between the semesters	16 January – 14 February 2021
Teaching activity	15 February – 29 April 2021
Spring/Easter holiday	30 April – 3 May 2021
Teaching activity	4-28 May 2021
Examinations	31 May – 27 June 2021 20 August – 17 September 2021
End of the academic year	30 September 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 September 2020 (Independence day) 11 October 2020 (Uprising day) 23 October 2020 (Day of the revolutionary struggle) 8 December 2020 (St. Clement day) 1 January 2021 (New Year) 7 January 2021 (Orthodox Christmas) 30 April – 3 May 2021 (Orthodox Easter) 1 May 2021 (Labour day) 13 May 2021 Ramadan 24 May 2021 (St. Cyril and Methodius) 2 August 2021 (Republic day)

Additional note

The data refer for the largest state university representing as a leader in the higher education in North Macedonia. The universities have guaranteed institutional autonomy by the Constitution of North Macedonia and therefore their academic calendars may vary up to one month from the stated data.

NORWAY

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 by mid-June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Christmas holidays (22 December 2020 – 2 January 2021) Easter holidays (6-13 April 2021) 1 May 2021 (Labour Day) 17 May 2021 (National Day) 21 May 2021 (Ascension Day) 31 May 2021 (White Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months

POLAND

Type of programme: All types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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. University of Warsaw (UoW): 1 October 2020).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the beginning of October and the third week of December (e.g. UoW: 2 October – 22 December 2020).
Christmas holidays	Institutions are autonomous. (e.g. UoW: 23 December 2020 – 6 January 2021).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually January (e.g. UoW: 7-27 January 2021).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually two weeks at the end of January/beginning of February (e.g. UoW: 28 January – 10 February 2021).
Break between the semesters	Institutions are autonomous. Usually one week in February (e.g. UoW: 11-17 February 2021)
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the third week of February and Easter (e.g. UoW: 18 February – 31 March 2021)
Easter holiday	Institutions are autonomous. Easter Monday and a few extra days are free (e.g. UoW: 1-6 April 2021).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between Easter and summer examinations (e.g. UoW: 7 April – 13 June 2021).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the last two weeks of June (e.g. UoW: 14 June – 4 July 2021).
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the end of September (e.g. UoW: 30 September 2021).
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1, 11 November 2020 1-3 May 2021 3 June 2021

Additional notes

HEIs often organise Students' Days (typically 1-2 days) called *Juwenalia* with concerts, performances and other artistic and cultural events. These are additional days off for students set by the rector of the institution (e.g. UoW: 7-8 May 2021).

PORTUGAL

Type of programme: University and polytechnic

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 (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. Typically, 1st semester goes from the second or third week of September to the second or third week of December; 2nd semester starts in the second week of February and ends in the end of May. The 2nd semester has a two to four days interruption for Carnival (end of February) and a one week interruption for Easter (mid-April)
Examination periods	The teaching department, teachers and students are entirely free to fix examination dates jointly. Normally there are two examinations periods: • 1st: between the end of December and the first week 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	5 October 2020 1 December 2020 8 December 2020 1 January 2021 2 April 2021 3 June 2021 10 June 2021
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 – 2020/21	
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 to 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 2020 1 December 2020 30 April 2021 1 June 2021
Number of intervals: 2 semesters	Length of intervals: 14 weeks (teaching) + 3 weeks (examinations) each semester

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 [*Babes-Bolyai University Cluj – Napoca*]:

First Semester:

Teaching activity: 28.09.2020 - 18.12.2020 (12 weeks)

Winter holidays: 21.12.2020 - 03.01.2021 (2 weeks)

Teaching activity: 04.01.2021 - 15.01.2021 (2 weeks)

Exams: 18.01.2021 - 07.02.2021 (3 weeks)

Holidays: 08.02.2021 - 14.02.2021 (1 week)

Second Semester:

Teaching activity: 22.02.2021 - 30.04.2021 (10 weeks)

Easter holidays: 03.05.2021 - 09.05.2021 (1 week)

Teaching activity: 10.05.2021 - 04.06.2021 (4 weeks)

Exams: 07.06.2021 - 27.06.2021 (3 weeks)

Holidays: 28.06.2021 - 04.07.2021 (1 week)

Re-examination sessions (for those students who failed in previous sessions):

15.02.2021 - 21.02.2021 (1 week) and 05.07.2021 - 11.07.2021 (1 week)

Practice period (where applicable):

12.07.2021 - 23.07.2021 (2 weeks)

Holidays: 26.07.2021 - 26.09.2021 (9 weeks)

References:

https://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/studenti/files/invatamant/Structura_anului_2020-2021_Ro.pdf

SERBIA

Type of programme: ISCED 6 and 7

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 (1 October 2020)
1st semester / teaching activity	From the beginning of October (usually between 1 October 2020 and 15 January 2021)
2nd semester / teaching activity	Usually from the end of February until the end of May (usually between 17 February and 31 May 2021)
Examinations	HEIs determine the dates and the number of examination periods during the academic year, usually 4 to 6 examination periods, taking place between semesters and prior to the end of the academic year, after summer holidays. <i>The most common exam periods are:</i> • January-February (15 Jan to 18 Feb) • April (first half of April) • June (the whole month) • September (the whole month) – beginning of October
Holiday	Summer holiday is usually between the end of July and the end of August (usually between 22 July and 26 August 2021)
End of the academic year	Usually 30 September
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	• 11 November 2020 – <i>national holiday</i> • 1-2 January 2021 – <i>New Year holiday</i> • 7 January 2021 – <i>religious holiday (Christmas for Orthodox Christians)</i> • 15-16-17 February 2021 – <i>national holiday</i> • 30 April - 3 May 2021 – <i>religious holiday (Easter for Orthodox Christians)</i> • 1-2 May 2021 – <i>International Workers' Day</i>
Number of intervals: 2	2 semesters Length of intervals: 15 weeks per interval

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 can only be approximate and is given by comparing calendars of different HEIs from previous years and by extracting the most common dates. Moreover, majority of the HEIs do not have their academic calendars available on their webpages at the moment of filling in the current update, so calendars from previous years and common practices were used to generate expected and approximate calendar for the next academic year.

According to the Law on HE, article 79, the academic calendar is comprised of 30 working weeks.

There are 6 non-working public holidays in Serbia that are listed above.

SLOVAKIA

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 2020
End of the academic year	31 August 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 September 2020 15 September 2020 1 November 2020 17 November 2020 24-26 December 2020 1 January 2021 6 January 2021 2 and 5 April 2021 (Easter) 1 May 2021 8 May 2021 5 July 2021 29 August 2021
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 – 2020/21	
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 2020
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 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2020 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2020 (Day in Remembrance of the Dead) 25 December 2020 (Christmas) 26 December 2020 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 and 2 January 2021 (New Year's Days) 8 February 2021 (<i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2021 (Day of Uprising Against Occupation) 1 and 2 May 2021 (May Day Holiday) 25 June 2021 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2021 (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 above apply 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 – 2020/21	
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 2020
Teaching activity	34 weeks; institutions specify periods of teaching activities.
Examinations	Institutions specify examinations at will in compliance with the Rules issued by the Minister (*).
End of the academic year	30 September 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2020 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2020 (Day in Remembrance of the Dead) 25 December 2020 (Christmas) 26 December 2020 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 and 2 January 2021 (New Year's Days) 8 February 2021 (<i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2021 (Day of Uprising Against Occupation) 1 and 2 May 2021 (May Day Holiday) 25 June 2021 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2021 (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 Assessment of knowledge in higher vocational colleges Rules (2009), higher vocational colleges organise no less than 3 periods of examination per academic year, i.e. within 30 days after each semester (winter, spring) and in August and September as well.

SPAIN

Type of programme: University tertiary education (Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21 ^(1, 2, 3)	
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	Date still needs to be set in most universities.
Beginning of the teaching activity	Bachelors: between 1 September and 5 October 2020. Master's or PhD degrees: it ranges from the last week of September to the first week of November.
Teaching activity	- Half of the universities continue their teaching activity after Christmas until 13 January at the soonest (Aragón), and until 26 February at the latest (Andalucía). - Those finishing their teaching activity before Christmas holidays do so on 2 December at the soonest (Comunidad Foral de Navarra), and 23 December at the latest, for almost all of them.
Examinations	- The period for examinations can take between 1 and 4 weeks, depending on the Autonomous Community. - The earliest starting date is 4 December (Comunidad Foral de Navarra), and the latest ending date is 6 March (Andalucía). Particular features: - In Castilla y León, Galicia and Castilla-La Mancha neither the dates nor the duration of their examinations are set in their academic calendars because they will be set by the faculties. - There is a third extra call in November (3-13) in Extremadura.
Total number: Christmas holidays	Between 14 and 20 days, starting 21 December and ending 10 January.
Teaching activity	Between the end of the first examination period and between mid-May and the end of June: the average is mid-May (from 7 to 27 May). Particular features: Comunidad Foral de Navarra has the earliest starting and ending dates, 11 February and 30 April. The latest ending date is 2 July (Andalucía).
Total number: Easter holidays	Between 4 and 10 days, the earliest starting date being 26 March in Andalucía (Universidad de Córdoba) and Castilla y León, and the latest ending day, 12 April, in Comunitat Valenciana.

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: University tertiary education (Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21 ^(1, 2, 3)	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Examinations	About 1 month between the beginning of May and the beginning of June. Comunidad Foral de Navarra is the first one to start (3 May,) and Andalucía, the latest one to finish (17 July).
Extraordinary examinations	1. Those universities scheduling extraordinary exams in June start 4 June at the soonest, and 5 July at the latest, and spend between one week (Cantabria) and 4 and a half weeks at the most (Galicia). 2. Those examining in September allocate no more than 12 days at the beginning of September 2021.
Total number: Summer holidays	Between the end of June/July examinations and the start of the extraordinary examinations in September, if any, or the start of the academic year 2021/22.
End of the academic year	Date still needs to be set in most universities.
Total number: Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	6 days plus some additional ones that each university may establish ⁽⁴⁾ .
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: approximately 4 months.

Additional notes

⁽¹⁾ Data presented above represent a sampling of the most populated universities from each Autonomous Community, except for Andalucía and Comunidad de Madrid, where two universities are chosen. This is the list of the Universities depicted:

- Andalucía - Universidad de Córdoba and Universidad de Sevilla.
- Aragón - Universidad de Zaragoza.
- Principado de Asturias - Universidad de Oviedo.
- Canarias - Universidad de La Laguna.
- Cantabria - Universidad de Cantabria.
- Castilla-La Mancha - Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha.
- Castilla y León - Universidad de Salamanca.
- Cataluña - Universitat de Barcelona.
- Comunidad Valenciana - Universitat de València.
- Extremadura - Universidad de Extremadura.
- Galicia - Universidad de Santiago de Compostela.
- Illes Balears - Universitat de les Illes Balears.
- La Rioja - Universidad de La Rioja.
- Región de Murcia - Universidad de Murcia.
- Comunidad de Madrid - Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Universidad Complutense de Madrid.
- Comunidad Foral de Navarra - Universidad de Navarra.
- País Vasco - Universidad del País Vasco.

⁽²⁾ Universities have full autonomy to set up their own academic calendar. Therefore, the number of weeks of teaching activity and holidays vary from one university to another, even between those in the same Autonomous Community.

⁽³⁾ Total number of academic days in university: each university has competence over the design and organisation of the academic year, which must be included in their statutes.

⁽⁴⁾ During the year, there are 14 public holidays, out of which 8 are common throughout the whole country, 4 are specific of the different Autonomous Communities and 2 additional ones are decided at the local level. Out of those 8 days, 3 are allocated in Christmas holidays and 2 of them, in Easter holidays; besides, 15 August is out of the academic calendar and 2 days fall on a weekend. This turns out in the total number of public holidays being actually 6 per Autonomous Community and two additional days off that may be set by universities and faculties.

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 – 2020/21 ⁽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 September 2020
Beginning of the teaching activity	Between the beginning of September and the beginning of October ⁽²⁾ .
Teaching activity	From mid-September and the beginning of October to a period between the end of May and the end of July.
Holidays	Christmas: At least 2 weeks between 21 December 2020 and 8 January 2021. Easter: Between 5 and 12 days in the period between 26 March and 12 April 2021. Summer: 12 to 16 weeks, ranging from between the end of May and the beginning of September or the beginning of October. Public holidays: 6 days plus some additional days that each school may establish ⁽³⁾. Particular feature: In the Autonomous Community of Cantabria, the school calendar follows a special pattern that differs from the rest of the country. There is a break of one week in November (2-6 Nov) and another break of 3 days in February (15-17 Feb). Easter and Christmas are similar to the rest of the Autonomous Communities. Schools are allowed to choose a certain number of days off, depending on the Autonomous Community.
Examinations	• School year organised into 3 periods of examinations: before Christmas holidays, before Easter holidays and before summer holidays. Schools are free to fix examination dates within those periods. • School year organised into 2 intervals: examinations take place after each interval. • Advanced vocational training studies arrange their examination periods after each training cycle, so some of the final exams start in March and may continue until June, and some start in June.
Extraordinary examinations	• Depending on the type of program and on the Autonomous Community, exams can take place during June and the first week of July. • There could also be a period of extraordinary examinations foreseen in the first week of September. • There is also the case of extraordinary examinations periods in December (end of the 1st interval), combined with one call in June (end of the 3rd interval).
End of the academic year	31 August 2021.
Number of intervals: 3 ⁽⁴⁾	Length of intervals: approximately 3 months.

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Additional notes

- (¹) A great variety of dates can be observed in Advanced specific vocational training, where there are different training cycles, each of them with different examination dates.
- (²) Depending on the type of programme and on the Autonomous Community, the starting date of the teaching activity may range from 4 September to 13 October. The number of school days depends on the specific regulations of each programme, which establish the total length and the total amount of hours corresponding to each programme.
- (³) During the year there are 14 public holidays, out of which 8 are common throughout the whole country, 4 are specific of the different Autonomous Communities and 2 additional ones are decided at the local level. Out of those 8 days, 3 are allocated in Christmas holidays and 2 of them, in Easter holidays; besides, 15 August is out of the academic calendar. This turns out in the total number of public holidays being 6.
- (⁴) In the Autonomous Communities of Illes Balears, Extremadura, Cataluña, Navarra, Canarias, País Vasco and Región de Murcia, either both or just the 2nd year of Advanced artistic studies or the Advanced drama studies may be organised into 2 intervals.

Total number

Total number of school days in non-university tertiary education: generally, the duration of the school year comprises a minimum of 175 days.

SWEDEN

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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 (2 April 2021) and Easter Monday (5 April 2021), Labour Day (1 May 2021), around Ascension Day (13 May 2021) and National Day (6 June 2021)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months (around 20 weeks)

Additional notes

As stated above, HEIs are autonomous and the total number of academic days or holidays are not centrally regulated.

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 – 2020/21	
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 2020
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 2020
Teaching activity spring semester	22 February – 4 June 2021
Examinations	Universities and universities of teacher education fix the periods of examinations autonomously. Usually they take place within 1 to 3 weeks before 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 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25 December 2020 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2020 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2021 (New Year's Day) 2 April 2021 (Good Friday) 5 April 2021 (Easter Monday) 13 May 2021 (Ascension Day) 24 May 2021 (Whit Monday) 1 August 2021 (National Day) Depending on the canton of location, each university has 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 – 2020/21	
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 – 2020/21	
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 (this year it was declared that semester would begin in October due to COVID 19) 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: 29 October 2020 (1 day – Republic Day) 1 January 2021 (1 day – New year holiday) 23 April 2021 (1 day – Children's Day) 12-15 May 2021 (3 days – Ramadan holiday) 19 May 2021 (1 day – 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)

The total number of school/academic days varies from one university to another. The total number of public/religious holidays is 7 days in 2020/21 academic year.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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	3 August 2020
Beginning of teaching activity	Higher education institutions (HEIs) are autonomous, but the first term or semester typically starts in mid-late September/early October.
End of teaching activity	HEIs are autonomous, but the final term/semester typically ends in early-mid June.
End of the standard academic year	30 July 2021
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	3 May 2021 – early May bank holiday 31 May 2021 – Spring 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 two to four weeks at Christmas and Easter.
Number of intervals (periods): 3 (terms) or 2 (semesters)	Length of intervals (periods): 3 terms, typically of around 6-8 to 11-12 weeks (with the post-Easter term being the shortest), or 2 semesters, typically of around 15 weeks.

UNITED KINGDOM – SCOTLAND

Type of programme: All ISCED 5

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education – 2020/21	
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.

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. There is no fixed number of academic days or academic holidays.

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The Organisation of the Academic Year in Europe – 2020/21

The academic calendar contains national data on how the academic year is structured (beginning of the academic year, term times, holidays and examination periods). Differences between university and non-university study programmes are also highlighted. The information is available for 37 countries.

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