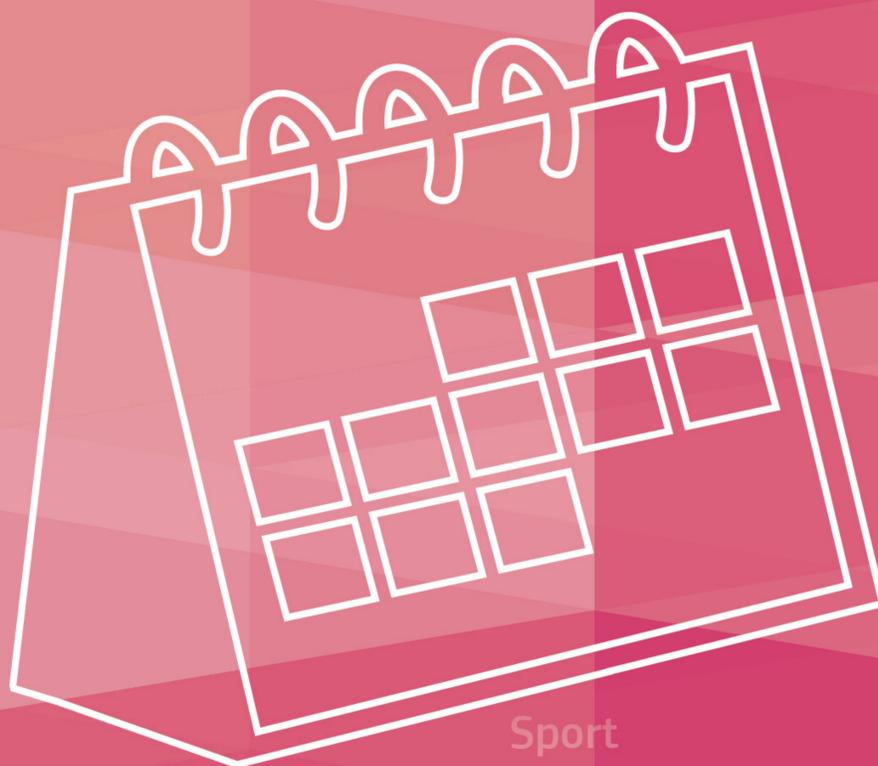




The organisation of the academic year

in Europe
2023/2024

Eurydice – Facts and Figures



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The organisation of the academic year *in Europe* *2023/2024*

Eurydice – Facts and Figures

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Introduction

Higher education institutions work together across national boundaries for many purposes, including: expanding the horizons of research; improving teaching, and enhancing cultural development and transmission of knowledge. Indeed for institutions that are concerned by universal reality and truth, international cooperation and partnership are intrinsic elements of their mission. Ever-increasing cooperation has been facilitated in recent years by improving the understanding of system differences, as well as by working in a common policy direction. For example, this century in Europe degree structures have converged into three main cycles, quality assurance has developed on the basis of common European standards and guidelines and the European Research Area has strengthened cooperation among institutions.

Does the organisation of the academic year also facilitate cooperation in Europe?

The academic calendar plays a crucial role in determining the feasibility and preferences for student and staff mobility. In projects which seek high levels of institutional cooperation, such as the European Universities Initiative, planning mobility periods for students and staff would be easier if the academic year started and finished at similar times, and if it were organised into the same or similar number of terms or semesters. Differences in start and end dates, holidays, and exam periods can affect the timing and duration of exchanges. If the calendars don't match, students or staff may have difficulty in finding suitable exchange opportunities, and institutions with different academic schedules may need to negotiate specific agreements to facilitate mobility.

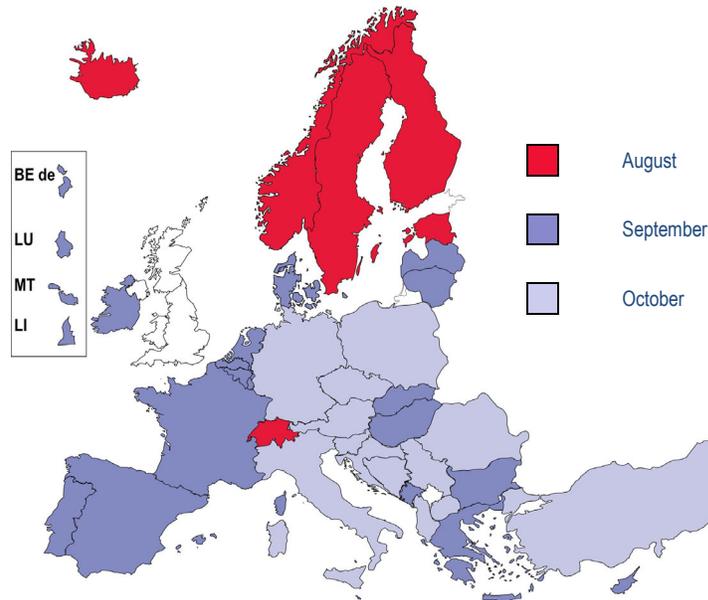
Harmonising calendars is not, however, a simple matter. Seasons arrive at different times in different parts of the continent, and holiday periods are embedded in cultural traditions. While many other structural aspects of higher education systems have converged, there has so far been little momentum for greater harmonisation of academic calendars in Europe.

This report outlines how the key aspects of academic calendars vary across Eurydice member countries and institutions.

Beginning of the academic year

Figure 1 shows the month when the academic year officially begins in European systems.

Figure 1: Month when the academic year begins, 2023/2024



Source: Eurydice.

The organisation of the academic year displays significant national diversity – and sometimes variation within countries regarding how different types of institution organise their year. Three main patterns can be identified:

- 1) Six countries/higher education systems begin the academic year in August. These are mostly Nordic countries, but also include Estonia and Switzerland (although in the case of Switzerland, the official beginning of the academic year precedes the start of teaching activities by around seven weeks).
- 2) The majority of countries (20 higher education systems) begin the academic year in September.
- 3) A further 13 systems begin the academic year in October. Many of these systems are in Central and South-Eastern Europe. Slovenia and Serbia are the two countries that have moved the beginning of the academic year from September to October this year.

The reasons for different starting dates for the academic year are undoubtedly related to variations in national, cultural and geographical reality. At first sight August to October may not seem a particularly significant time range for a staggered start to the academic year across the European continent. However, it can amount to a difference of up to 12 working weeks for institutions situated in the more 'extreme' systems. As the average length of a teaching semester is less than 15 weeks, this can indeed be a substantial variation.

Such differences to the start of the academic year could be difficult to factor into some forms of institutional cooperation. International joint programmes, joint research projects, and European

University Alliances are just some of the forms of cooperative project that may be hindered by a significant difference in academic years.

It is also interesting to note that the patterns, although quite diversified, are stable. Indeed only Slovenia and Serbia have changed the month in which the academic year begins in 2023/2024 (from September to October).

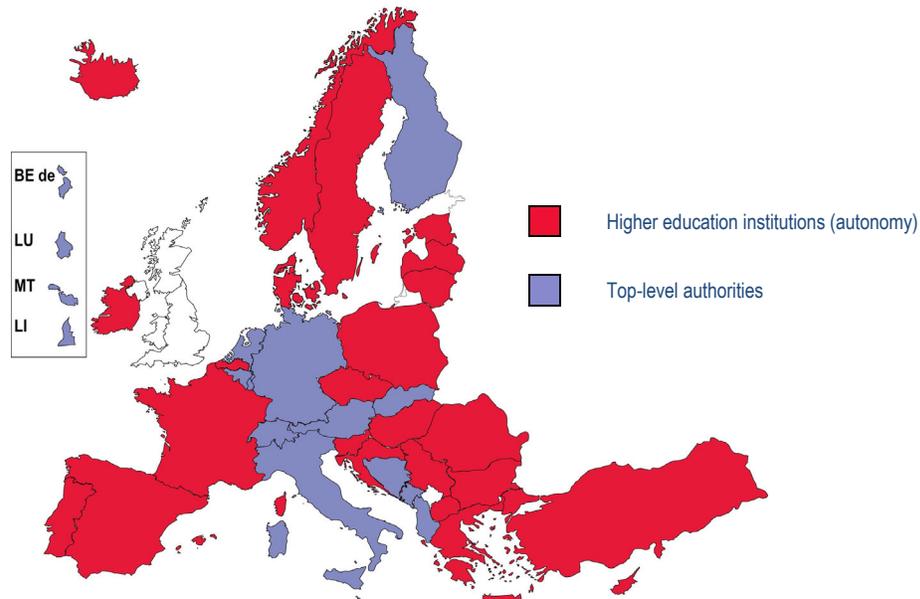
End of the academic year

While the date of the start of the academic year is significant in revealing different patterns for the academic calendar, the end date of the academic year is most often set the day before the new academic year begins. Thus for systems beginning officially on 1 September, the end date would typically be 31 August.

Institutional autonomy

Many countries point to institutional autonomy in their system with regard to setting the start date of the academic year. As Figure 2 illustrates, Europe can be divided in two parts – those countries where the decision on when to begin the academic year is left to higher education institutions' autonomy, and other countries where the date is set by top-level authorities.

Figure 2: Responsibility for setting start of the academic year, 2023/2024



Source: Eurydice.

There are slightly more systems where the decision on setting the start of the academic year is left to higher education institutions (24) compared to the systems where the decision is taken by top-level authorities (15). In some cases, such as Belgium (Flemish Community), while higher education institutions may be responsible for setting the date, they have to do so within limits set by top-level authorities.

There is no obvious relationship between this decision-making role and the actual date that is set. In other words, top-level authorities appear to be no more or less likely than higher education institutions to pick a particular month for the academic year to begin.

Semester organisation

While clear-cut differences can be seen in both the responsibility for setting the start of the academic year, and the month when the academic year actually begins, there is one aspect of the organisation of the academic year which is widely used across countries. This is the organisation of the year into two main terms or semesters. While the length of semesters may vary between countries, and the start and end dates of semesters may be very different, the semester model itself is the dominant model in Europe. Belgium and Slovakia are the only countries that have three terms (in Slovakia there may be two or three terms) while Denmark, although using the semester model, points out that some programmes have two additional breaks (half terms).

KEY POINTS

- 1) Although the extent of national diversity in start dates of the academic year could pose challenges to some forms of European cooperation, countries and higher education institutions appear to be resistant to change in calendars. Only two systems have made any changes in the last year.
- 2) The question of whether public authorities or higher educational institutions determine the start date for the academic year seems to have no clear impact on the starting month that is chosen.
- 3) A common model based on two semesters has been adopted in nearly all European higher education systems.

ALBANIA

Type of programme: All types

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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	10 October 2023
Teaching activity	10 October 2023 – 30 September 2024
Christmas/New Year holidays	24 December 2023 – 4 January 2024
Teaching activity	-
Examinations	-
Break between the semesters	-
Teaching activity	-
Spring/Easter holiday	-
Teaching activity	-
Examinations	16 May – 16 June 2024 15 August – 15 September 2024
End of the academic year	30 September 2023
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 October 2023 (National Youth Day) 19 October 2023 (Mother Theresa sanctification day) 28 November 2023 (Flag and Independence Day) 29 November 2023 (Liberation Day) 24 December 2023 – 4 January 2024 (Christmas Holiday) 13 March 2024 (Summer day) 22 March 2024 (Novruz Day) 1 April 2024 (Catholic Eastern) 10 April 2024 (Muslim fest) 1 May 2024 (Labor Day) 6 May 2024 (Orthodox Easter)

AUSTRIA

Type of programme: Public universities

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 2023
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 2023
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	26 October 2023 1 November 2023 8 December 2023 25-26 December 2023 1 January 2024 6 January 2024 1 April 2024 1 May 2024 9 May 2024 20 May 2024 30 May 2024 15 August 2024
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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023 1 November 2023 8 December 2023 25-26 December 2023 1 January 2024 6 January 2024 1 April 2024 1 May 2024 9 May 2024 20 May 2024 30 May 2024 15 August 2024
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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The academic year consists of the winter semester, the summer semester and the periods during which courses are not held (so-called 'lecture-free' time).</p> <p>The study commissions may enact further/detailed regulations concerning the beginning and the end of the 'lecture-free time'. (see § 36 Hochschulgesetz 2005 idgF).</p>
Examinations	<p>The study commissions may enact further/detailed regulations concerning the beginning and the end of the 'lecture-free time'. (see § 36 Hochschulgesetz 2005 idgF); exam dates have to be set at least at three different dates each semester.</p>
End of the academic year	30 September 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Christmas: about 2 weeks, semester holidays: 3 to 5 weeks, Easter (Saturday before Palm Sunday until and including Monday after Easter); summer holidays (usually from the beginning of July – 30 September 2024, depending on the regulations concerning the 'lecture-free-time').</p> <p>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 college board).</p> <p>Further public (national or religious) holidays:</p> <p>26 October 2023 1 November 2023 8 December 2023 25 and 26 December 2023 1 January 2024 6 January 2024 1 April 2024 1 May 2024 9 May 2024 20 May 2024 30 May 2024 15 August 2024</p>
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	<p>Winter semester: (about 4 months) Summer semester: (about 4 months)</p>

BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY

Type of programme: All types

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 on Saturday 23 December 2023
Holidays	Two weeks around Christmas and New Year; from Monday 25 December 2023 until Sunday 7 January 2024 There is an autumn holiday of one week for students of some institutions of higher education only; from Monday 30 October 2023 until Sunday 5 November 2024.
Examinations*	3-4 weeks in January-February; from Monday 8 January 2024 until Saturday 3 February 2024 Followed by one week without class between the first and the second semester; from Monday 5 February 2024 until Sunday 11 February 2024 For universities of applied sciences and university colleges, the exams can take place at different times.
Teaching activities (2nd semester)*	Monday 12 February 2023 until Saturday 27 May 2023 There is a spring holiday of one week for students of some institutions of higher education only from Monday 5 February 2024 until Sunday 11 February 2024. There is an Easter/Spring holiday break of two weeks from Monday 1 April 2024 until Sunday 14 April 2024
Examinations*	Ranging from the last week of May or first half of June until the last week of June or the 1st week of July; from Monday 27 May 2024 to Saturday 29 June 2024. For universities of applied sciences and university colleges, the exams can take place at different times.

BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2022/2023	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Holidays*	From the first half of July until the start of the subsequent academic year
Examinations*	From mid-August until the end of the second or third week of September; Monday 19 August 2024 until Saturday 7 September 2024. For universities of applied sciences and university colleges, the exams can take place at different times.
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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 and 2 November 2023 (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day) - 11 November 2023 (Armistice Day) - 15 November 2023 (King's Day) (holiday for some institutions of higher education only) - 1 January 2024 (New Year) - 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) - 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) - 9 May 2024 (Ascension Day) - 20 May 2024 (Whit Monday) - 11 July 2024 (Flemish Holiday) - 21 July 2024 (National Holiday) - 15 August 2024 (Assumption Day) <p>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.</p> <p>Note additionally that some institutions of higher education celebrate their Dies Natalis.</p>
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.

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BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY

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

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	<p>The legal act of 7 November 2013 fixes annually the beginning and end of each four-month term.</p> <p>The academic year is a one-year period beginning on 14 September 2023.</p> <p>In practice, teaching activities begin around 14 September in most institutions. In order to encourage student and staff mobility within the French Community, the government may lay down further conditions when determining this academic calendar.</p>
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The first term starts on 14 September 2023; the second on 1 February 2024; the third on 1 July 2024.</p> <p>The two first terms include at least 12 weeks of teaching activity.</p> <p>For purposes of curricular organisation, each of the three four-month terms includes assessment and holiday periods.</p>
Examinations	<p>Curricular activities leading to an academic qualification in the first or second cycle are spread over the first two four-month terms in the academic year (with the exception of certain forms of assessment or professional integration activity). Each of these first two terms involves at least 12 weeks of activity and may not exceed four months. A period of assessment occurs at the end of each term.</p> <p>The third term includes assessment periods (as well as professional integration or personal project activity). Institutional autonomy</p>
End of the academic year	13 September of the next year
Holidays	<p>Winter holidays: 25 December 2023 – 5 January 2024</p> <p>Spring holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-5 April 2024 and 29 April – 3 Mai 2024 for Hautes Écoles and Écoles Supérieures des Arts; - 1-12 April 2024 for Universities. <p>Summer holidays: 1 July – 13 September 2024 (The third interval includes, when applicable, assessment periods, professional integration or personal work activities for student concerned. It is usually considered as summer holidays for students not concerned by those activities).</p>

BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Legal public holidays for the 2023/2024 academic year are:</p> <p>27 September 2023 (French Community Day)</p> <p>1 November 2023 (All Saints' Day)</p> <p>1 May 2024 (Labour Day)</p> <p>9 May 2024 (Ascension Day)</p> <p>20 May 2024 (Pentecost)</p> <p>The authorities of higher education institutions may determine additional holidays.</p> <p>Teaching and assessment activities except professional induction, excursions, visits and internships do not take place on Sundays nor official public holidays.</p> <p>If public holidays fall on a Saturday or a Sunday, no replacement is foreseen.</p>
Number of intervals: 3	<p>Length of intervals: no longer than 4 months (each of the first two four-month terms involves at least 12 weeks of activity and is no longer than four months).</p> <p>At the end of each of these intervals, an assessment period is organised for the acquisition of credits. This will cover at least all the learning activities organised during the four-month period. The third interval includes assessment periods, as well as professional integration or personal work activities (cf. during summer holidays), but it should be noted that examinations may already have been marked and passed by students at the end of the first two terms.</p>

BELGIUM – GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Type of programme: ISCED 6

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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	4 September 2023 <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	4 September – 30 October 2023
Autumn holiday	30 October – 6 November 2023
Teaching activity	6 November – 25 December 2023
Christmas holiday	25 December 2023 – 8 January 2024
Examinations	January 2024
Second semester	
Teaching activity	8 January – 12 February 2024
Carnival holiday	12-19 February 2024
Teaching activity	19 February – 1 April 2024
Easter holiday	1-15 April 2024
Teaching activity	15 April – 3 June 2024
Lecture free period	27 May – 3 June 2024
Examinations	3-24 June 2024 12-26 August 2024
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. 01/07/2024</i>
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2023 11 November 2023 15 November 2023 25 December 2023 1 January 2024 16 February 2024 1 April 2024 1 May 2024 9 May 2024 20 May 2024
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 – 2023/2024	
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	2 October 2023
Teaching activity	2 October 2023 – 12 January 2024
Winter holidays	12-22 January 2024
Examinations	22 January – 9 February 2024
Teaching activity	12 February – 14 June 2024
Examinations	17 June – 12 July 2024
Summer holidays	15 July – 16 August 2024
Examinations	19 August – 13 September 2024
End of the academic year	30 September 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Public holidays: 25 November 2023 (Statehood Day) 1-2 January 2024 (New Year) 1 March 2024 (Independence Day) 1-2 May 2024 (International Labour Day)</p> <p>Religious holidays: 31 March – 1 April 2024 (Catholic Easter) 5-6 May 2024 (Orthodox Easter) 10 April 2024 (Eid Al-Fitr) 16 June 2024 (Eid Al-Adha)</p>
Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)

Additional notes

Religious holidays are celebrated depending on the religious community. Holidays that are dated on non-working days are not taken into account (25 December 2023 Catholic Christmas and 7 January 2024 Orthodox Christmas)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – REPUBLIKA SRPSKA

Type of programme: ISCED 6

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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	2 October 2023
Teaching activity	2 October 2023 – 12 January 2024
Examinations	22 January – 16 February 2024
Teaching activity	19 February – 31 May 2024
Examinations	22 April – 10 May 2024
Examinations	10 June – 5 July 2024
Summer holidays	8 July – 16 August 2024
Examinations	26 August – 20 September 2024
Examinations	23 September – 4 October 2024
End of the academic year	4 October 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Public holidays: 21 November 2023 (Day of establishing of General Framework Agreement for Peace) 1-2 January 2024 (New Year) 9 January 2024 Day of Republic 1-2 May 2024 (International Labour Day) 9 May 2024 (Day of victory over fascism)</p> <p>Religious holidays: 6-7 January 2024 (Orthodox Christmas) 3 May 2024 (Good Friday) 5 May 2024 (Orthodox Easter)</p>
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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023 24 December 2023 3 March 2024 1 May 2024 6 May 2024 24-25 May 2024 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 – 2023/2024	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	2 October 2023
Teaching activity	2 October – 22 December 2023
Winter holidays	27 December 2023 – 5 January 2024
Teaching activity	8-26 January 2024
Examinations	29 January – 23 February 2024
Teaching activity	26 February – 7 June 2024
Examinations	10 June – 12 July 2024
Summer holidays	15 July – 23 August 2024
Examinations resits	26 August – 27 September 2024
End of the academic year	30 September 2024
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	1 November 2023 (All Saints Day) 18 November 2023 (Remembrance Day for the Victims of the Homeland War and Remembrance Day for the Victims of Vukovar and Skabrnja) 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2023 (Saint Stephen's Day) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2024 (Epiphany) 31 March 2024 (Easter) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2024 (International Labour Day) 30 May 2024 (Statehood Day) 30 May 2024 (Corpus Christi) 22 June 2024 (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 70 of the Act on Scientific Activity and Higher Education (*Zakon o znanstvenoj djelatnosti i visokom obrazovanju*, Official Gazette, 119/2022) 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 – 2023/2024	
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 4 September 2023.
Teaching activity and vacation periods	Public Universities determine all periods of teaching activity, as well as holidays. Holiday periods for the academic year 2023/2024 at Public Universities take place as follows: 24 December 2023 – 7 January 2024 (Christmas vacations, at the end of the autumn semester) 29 April – 10 May 2024 (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 2023/2024 are listed below: 8-22 December 2023 for autumn semester 13-27 May 2024 for spring semester The dates of the final examination periods at Cyprus University of Technology for the academic year 2023/2024 are listed below: 8-22 December 2023 for autumn semester 13-27 May 2024 for spring semester At the Open University of Cyprus for the academic year 2023/2024 final examinations take place between 11-26 May 2024.
End of the academic year	The academic year traditionally ends at the end of July 2024 for all Universities of Cyprus.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 October 2023 (National Holiday) 28 October 2023 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2023 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2024 (Epiphany Day) 18 March 2024 (Beginning of Lent- Green Monday) 25 March 2024 (National Day) 1 April 2024 (National Day) 29 April – 10 May 2024 (Easter Holidays) 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) 24 June 2024 (Holy Spirit Monday) 15 August 2024 (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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023/2024 take place as follows: 24 December 2023 – 7 January 2024 (Christmas Holidays) 29 April – 10 May 2024 (Easter Holidays) 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 or the beginning of June for the spring semester.
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 2023 (National Holiday) 28 October 2023 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2023 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2024 (Epiphany Day) 18 March 2024 (Beginning of Lent- Green Monday) 25 March 2024 (National Day) 1 April 2024 (National Day) 29 April – 10 May 2024 (Easter Holidays) 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) 24 June 2024 (Holy Spirit Monday) 15 August 2024 (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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023 (National Holiday) 28 October 2023 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2023 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2024 (Epiphany Day) 18 March 2024 (Beginning of Lent- Green Monday) 25 March 2024 (National Day) 1 April 2024 (National Day) 29 April 2024 – 10 May 2024 (Easter Holidays) 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) 13 June 2024 (Holy Spirit Monday) 15 August 2024 (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 2024
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.

CZECH REPUBLIC

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

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 2023 28 October 2023 (Saturday) 17 November 2023 24-26 December 2023 (24 falls on Sunday) 1 January 2024 29 March and 1 April 2024 1 May 2024 8 May 2024 5 July 2024 6 July 2024 (Saturday)
Number of intervals: most often two	Length of intervals: around a half a year

Additional notes

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 higher education institutions.

CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

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

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 2023 (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 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 28 September 2023 28 October 2023 (Saturday) 17 November 2023 24-26 December 2023 (24 falls on Sunday) 1 January 2024 29 March and 1 April 2024 1 May 2024 8 May 2024 5 July 2024 6 July 2024 (Saturday)
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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023 – 1 January 2024 (both days included) 28 March – 1 April 2024 9 May 2024 20 May 2024 5 June 2024
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 – 2023/2024	
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, the year begins between the last week of August and the first week of September.
Teaching activity	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by HE institutions. The autumn semester generally lasts until 20 December.
Holiday	Generally, between 20 December and 1 January.
Examinations	Generally, 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 2023 (Christmas) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 24 February 2024 (Independence Day) 29 March 2024 (Good Friday) 31 March 2024 (Easter Sunday) 1 May 2024 (May Day) 19 May 2024 (Pentecost) 23 June 2024 (Victory Day) 24 June 2024 (Midsummer Day) 20 August 2024 (Day of Restoration of Independence)
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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023
First semester – Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between the first part of August 2023 and the beginning of December 2023
Second semester – Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between the first part of January and mid-May 2024
Examinations	Fixed by the teachers
End of the academic year	31 July 2024
Public holidays 2020/21 (occasional/national/religious holidays)	4 November 2023 (All Saints Day) 6 December 2023 (Independence Day) 24 December 2023 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2023 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2024 (Epiphany) 29 March 2024 (Good Friday) 31 March 2024 (Easter Day) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2024 (May Day) 9 May 2024 (Ascension Day) 22 June 2024 (Midsummer Eve) 23 June 2024 (Midsummer Day)
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 – 2023/2024	
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 institutions ⁽¹⁾ : 1 November 2023 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2023 (1918 Armistice Day) 25 December 2023 (Christmas) 1 January 2024 (New Year) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) 8 May 2024 (end of WWII in Europe) 9 May 2024 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2024 (Whit Monday) 14 July 2024 (National holiday) 15 August 2024 (Assumption Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months

⁽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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2023 (1918 Armistice Day) 25 December 2023 (Christmas) 1 January 2024 (New Year) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) 8 May 2024 (end of WWII in Europe) 9 May 2024 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2024 (Whit Monday) 14 July 2024 (National holiday) 15 August 2024 (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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023
Teaching activity winter semester	Second to third week of October – third week of December 2023
Holiday	Third to fourth week of December 2023 – first week of January 2024
Teaching activity winter semester	Second week of January 2024 – first to third week of February 2024
End of winter semester	31 March 2024
Beginning of summer semester	1 April 2024
Teaching activity summer semester	First to third week of April 2024 – second to third week of July to first week of August 2024
End of the academic year	30 September 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	3 October 2023 (German Unity Day) 29 March 2024 (Good Friday) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2024 Labour Day 9 May 2024 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2024 (Whit Monday) + holidays 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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023
Teaching activity (1st or winter semester)	From the beginning of the winter semester in September – approximately within the second fortnight of September – until 22 December 2023
Holiday	2 weeks 25 December 2023 – 7 January 2024 (Christmas holidays)
Teaching activity (1st or winter semester)	8 January 2024 until the beginning of the winter semester exams, set approximately in mid-January 2024
Examinations	Winter semester exams begin approximately in mid-January 2024 and last for three weeks until the beginning of February 2024
Teaching activity -2nd (or spring) semester	Spring semester begins after the end of the winter semester exams – approximately in mid-February 2024
Holidays	2 weeks 29 April – 12 May 2024 (Easter holidays)
Teaching activity -2nd (or spring) semester	The period after Easter holidays until the beginning of spring semester exams – approximately beginning of June 2024
Examinations	Spring semester exams take place in June 2024 and last for approximately three weeks
Holidays	From the end of the June exams until those of September 2024
Re-examinations	1 September until the beginning of the new winter semester, set approximately within the second fortnight of September 2024
End of the academic year	31 August 2024
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	17 November 2023 (National holiday) 30 January 2024 (Religious holiday) 18 March 2024 (Religious holiday) 25 March 2024 (National holiday) 24 June 2024 (Religious holiday)

GREECE (CONTINUED)

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 2022)	End: until the final day of the winter semester exams (approximately beginning of February 2024)
2nd (spring) semester Beginning: after the end of winter semester exams (approximately mid-February 2024)	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 2023 – 31 August 2024). 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 of 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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956) 1 November 2023 (All-Saints' Day) 25-26 December 2023 (Christmas) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 15 March 2024 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 29 March and 1 April 2024 (Easter) 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) 20 May 2024 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals:	2 (see Additional note 4)
Length of intervals:	5 months (see Additional note 2, 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 stipulates that the academic year lasts 10 months (12 months for doctoral programmes) and one term lasts 5 months (from 1 September to 31 January, and from 1 February to 31 August for doctoral programmes). The organisation of the academic year is within the competence of HEIs.
- (3) Holidays and non-teaching days: the study and examination regulations of HEIs specify the number of days that the head of the HEI (or a specified head/s) may rule to be a non-teaching day for students of the entire HEI above the official public and church holidays.
- (4) Number of intervals: the academic year in Hungary consists of two terms, in practice an autumn term (*őszi félév*) and a spring term (*tavaszi félév*).

ICELAND

Type of programme: ISCED 6A

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 (In many schools, the week dating 15-19 August are designated staff days, used for preparing, planning, and re-organising, and therefore, in most cases, formal teaching will start on 21 August) and ends on 24 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 for the autumn semester (and in April and May for the spring semester).
Holidays	Institutions are autonomous. Normally between 19 December – 3 January and during Easter, in 2024 from around 27 March to 2 April, both days included.
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Teaching activity generally starts during the first or second week in January and ends mid- to end April. In 2024 teaching activity ends on 19 April.
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Examinations generally take place between 22 April and 8 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 2023 25 December 2023 26 December 2023 1 January 2024 28 March 2024 29 March 2024 31 March 2024 1 April 2024 25 April 2024 1 May 2024 9 May 2024 19 May 2024 20 May 2024 29 May 2024 Public holidays outside the official school year: 17 June 2024 5 August 2024
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 13 weeks

IRELAND

Type of programme: All types

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 2023/2024 the academic year starts the week beginning Monday 18 September 2023.
Teaching activity	Teaching activity commences during the week beginning Monday 25 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 30 October 2023
Examinations	Examinations commence December 2023 or January 2024. Each University or Institute manages this separately.
Holiday	Week commencing 18 December 2023 (Christmas break)
Teaching activity	Teaching activity commences at the beginning of February to mid May 2024. 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	5 February 2024 (St Brigid's Day) 18 March 2024 (St Patrick's Day 17th March) 29 March 2024 (Good Friday) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 6 May 2024 (May Bank Holiday Monday)
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.

ITALY

Type of programme: All types

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024 ⁽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 2023
First semester – Teaching activity	1 October – 23 December 2023
Examinations (first session)	January – February 2024
Second semester – Teaching activity	1 March – 31 May 2024
Examinations (second session)	June – July 2024
Examinations (third sessions)	September 2024
Admission tests and entrance examinations ⁽²⁾	September 2023
End of the academic year	30 September 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2023 8 December 2023 23 December 2023 – 6 January 2024 Easter (1 week) 25 April 2024 1 May 2024 2 June 2024
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: semesters (October – December 2023 and March – May 2024)

(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 and on other dates. (See attached decrees). 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 – 2023/2024	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Registration/enrolment period	<p>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 2023, it is 12 July.</p> <p>Candidates who have acquired secondary education outside Latvia 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 1 March 2023.</p> <p>Higher education institutions autonomously determine the registration and admission periods for Master level and Doctoral level programmes.</p>
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	<p>Institutions fix periods of teaching activity and holidays. Teaching activity usually is organised from September to December and from February to May.</p> <p>Full-time studies correspond to 40 weeks per year and not less than 40 academic hours per week.</p> <p>Higher education institutions in cooperation with their stakeholders from employment organisations autonomously determine the practical training placements (internships) periods for their students.</p> <p>As regards the holidays, there is usually one week around Christmas/New Year and another one at Easter.</p>
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)	<p>18 November 2023 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia)</p> <p>24-26 December 2023 (Christmas)</p> <p>29-31 March 2024 (Easter)</p> <p>1 May 2024 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day)</p> <p>4 May 2024 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)</p>

LATVIA (CONTINUED)

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/24	
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). Recalculating in European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) points, the amount of Latvian credit points has to be multiplied by 1.5.

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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023
Winter semester	1 September 2023 – 31 January 2024
Teaching activity for new students / Introductory weeks	1-7 September 2023
Teaching activity for continuing students	11 September – 22 December 2023
Christmas holidays	23 December 2023 – 5 January 2024
Examination weeks	8-26 January 2024
Summer semester	1 February – 31 August 2024
Teaching activity	12 February – 24 May 2024
Easter holidays	29 March – 7 April 2024
Examination weeks	3-21 June 2024
End of the academic year	31 August 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 September 2023 1 November 2023 8 December 2023 6 January 2024 2 February 2024 13 February 2024 19 March 2024 1 April 2024 1 May 2024 9 May 2024 20 May 2024 30 May 2024 15 August 2024
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 – 2023/2024	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. As a rule, the beginning of the academic year is 1 September.
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Each semester usually covers 20 weeks. 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)***. In most institutions, the spring semester starts at the beginning of February. Typically, the autumn semester starts on 1 September 2023, the spring semester starts on 1 February 2024.
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 – 2023/2024	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Certain dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions:</p> <p>1-2 November 2023 24-26 December 2023 1 January 2024 16 February 2024 11 March 2024 31 March – 1 April 2024 1 May 2024 5 May 2024 2 June 2024 24 June 2024 6 July 2024 15 August 2024</p> <p>Some dates may coincide with the winter/spring holiday period.</p>
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 – 2023/2024	
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	18 September 2023
Winter semester	18 September 2023 – 10 February 2024
Christmas holidays	25 December 2023 – 7 January 2024
Revision	8-13 January 2024
Examinations	15 January – 10 February 2024
Winter break between semesters	12-17 February 2024
Summer semester	19 February – 14 September 2024
Easter holidays	1-6 April 2024
Revision	3-8 June 2024
Examinations	10 June – 6 July 2024
Summer break between semesters	8 July – 14 September 2024
End of the academic year	14 September 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2023 (All Saints' Day) 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2023 (St. Stephen's Day) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) 9 May 2024 (Europe Day & Ascension Day) 20 May 2024 (Whit Monday) 23 June 2024 (National Holiday) 15 August 2024 (Assumption)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 6 months

Additional notes

Total number of academic days: 134 days (weekends, examination and revision periods not included)

Total number of holidays: 24 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 – 2023/2024	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Student applications – International Students	16 January – 30 June 2023
Start of Academic Year	1 September 2023
Student applications – First Call	17-30 July 2023
Student applications – Second Call	4-10 September 2023
Induction Week - MQF Level 3 students and above	26-30 September 2023
Start of Semester 1 - Students attending MQF Level 3 and above	2 October 2023
Student applications – Late call (following publication MATSEC Resit Results)	2-6 October 2023
Induction Week – MQF Level 1 and 2 students	2-6 October 2023
Start of Semester 1 – Students attending MQF Level 1 and 2	10 October 2023
Campus Day / Fresher's Week	10-14 October 2023
Deadline for transfer between courses (excluding Introductory and Foundation Certificate students)	16 October 2023
Student application – Final Call	16-27 October 2023
Deadline for transfer between courses for Introductory and Foundation Certificate students	30 October 2023
Presentation Ceremonies Award & Levels 1,2,3 Graduation Ceremonies Levels 4-7	21 November – 12 December 2023
Christmas Recess	24 December 2023 – 4 January 2024
Continuation of semester 1	5 January 2024
Last day of semester 1	27 January 2024
Assessment/Marking Days	30 January – 3 February 2024
Start of semester 2	6 February 2024
Easter Recess	6-16 April 2024
Continuation of semester 2	17 April 2024
Last day of semester 2	2 June 2024
Summer recess	10 July – 31 August 2024
Public holidays falling on week days (occasional / national / religious holidays)	8 December 2023 13 December 2023 19 March 2024 1 May 2024 7 June 2024 29 June 2024

MALTA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: University of Malta

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of Semester 1 for continuing students	25 September 2023
Beginning of Semester 1 for continuing First Year students	2 October 2023
Opening Ceremony	2 October 2023
Undergraduate Graduation Ceremonies	14-24 November 2023
Christmas Recess	20 December 2023 – 3 January 2024
Continuation of semester 1 and Revision Week	4-19 January 2024
Examinations (Semester 1)	22 January – 9 February 2024
End of semester 1	9 February 2024
Beginning of semester 2	12 February 2024
Postgraduate Graduation Ceremonies	6-17 March 2024
Easter Recess	25 March – 7 April 2024
Continuation of semester 2	8 April 2024
Examinations semester 2	1-28 June 2024
End of semester 2	28 June 2024
Summer Semester (for postgraduate courses spread over 3 semesters)	10 June – 27 September 2024
Summer Recess (within the summer semester)	1-16 August 2024
Supplementary Examinations	2-14 September 2024
Public holidays falling on a week day (occasional / national / religious holidays)	8 December 2023 13 December 2023 19 March 2024 1 May 2024 7 June 2024 29 June 2024

MONTENEGRO

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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	25 September 2023 (28 August – 20 September 2023 examination term will be organized)
Teaching activity	25 September 2023 – 5 January 2024
Christmas/New Year holidays/Easter	1-2 January 2024 8 January 2024 3-6 May 2024 (Orthodox Easter)
Examinations	9 January – 14 February 2024
Break between the semesters	No break this year.
Teaching activity	19 February – 31 May 2024
Examinations	3 June – 12 July 2024
End of the academic year	19 July 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1-2 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 8 January 2024 3-6 May 2024 (Orthodox Easter) 1-2 May 2024 (International Labour Day) 21-22 May 2024 (Independence Day) 15 July 2024 (Statehood Day) 13 November 2024 (The Day of Njegoš)

Additional notes

Total number of teaching days is 141 (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 244.

Faculty units are obligated to organize classes for the purpose of compensation for 3-5 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), 13 July (Statehood Day) and 13 November (The Day of Njegoš).

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 – 2023/2024	
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	Monday 4 September 2023
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	Thursday 31 August 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25 and 26 December 2023 (Christmas Days) 31 December 2023 (New Year's Eve) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 29 March 2024 (Good Friday) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2024 (King's Day) 5 May 2024 (Liberation Day) 9 May 2024 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2024 (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 2023/2024

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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023
Teaching activity	2 October 2023 – 12 January 2024
Christmas/New Year holidays	1 and 6 January 2024
Teaching activity	2-12 January 2024
Examinations	15 January – 14 February 2024
Break between the semesters	15 January – 14 February 2024
Teaching activity	15 February – 2 May 2024
Spring/Easter holiday	3-6 May 2024
Teaching activity	7-31 May 2024
Examinations	3 June – 5 July 2024 27 August – 30 September 2024
End of the academic year	30 September 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Public holidays (national/religious/occasional) 8 September 2023 (Independence day) 11 October 2023 (Uprising day) 23 October 2023 (Day of the revolutionary struggle) 8 December 2023 (St. Clement day) 1 January 2024 (New Year) 7 January 2024 (Orthodox Christmas) 3-6 May 2024 (Orthodox Easter) 10 April 2024 (Ramadan) 1 May 2024 (Labour day) 24 May 2024 (St. Cyril and Methodius) 2 August 2024 (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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023 – 2 January 2024) Easter holidays (22 March – 2 April 2024) 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) 9 May 2024 (Ascension Day) 17 May 2024 (National Day) 20 May 2024 (Whit 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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the beginning of October and the third week of December (e.g. UoW: 2 October – 21 December 2023).
Christmas holidays	Institutions are autonomous. (e.g. UoW: 22 December 2023 – 7 January 2024).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually January (e.g. UoW: 8-28 January 2024).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually two weeks at the end of January/beginning of February (e.g. UoW: 29 January – 11 February 2024).
Break between the semesters	Institutions are autonomous. Usually one week in February (e.g. UoW: 12-18 February 2024)
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the third week of February and Easter (e.g. UoW: 19 February – 27 March 2024)
Easter holiday	Institutions are autonomous. Easter Monday and a few extra days are free (e.g. UoW: 28 March – 2 April 2024).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between Easter and summer examinations (e.g. UoW: 3 April – 16 June 2024).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the last two weeks of June (e.g. UoW: 17 June – 7 July 2024).
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the end of September (e.g. UoW: 30 September 2024).
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2023 1-3 May 2024 30 May – 2 June 2024

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: 10-11 May 2024).

PORTUGAL

Type of programme: University and Polytechnic Institutes

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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), in accordance with the law, have statutory, pedagogical and scientific autonomy from the State. In general, the academic year will start between 4 September 2023 and 2 October 2023.
Periods of teaching activity and holiday periods	Within the scope of their autonomy, higher education institutions establish the periods of teaching activity and the holiday periods. The 1st semester starts between the first and third week of September and ends during the month of February; the 1st semester has a seven to ten days of interruption for Christmas holidays. The 2nd semester starts in February and ends at the end of July; the 2nd semester has a three-day break for Carnival (in the second week of February) and one week for the Easter holidays (between the end of march and the beginning of April).
Examination periods	Within the framework of their autonomy, higher education institutions are free to organise themselves. There are normally two exam periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the first, between the beginning of January 2024 and the end of February 2024. • the second, between the beginning of June 2024 and the end of July 2024.
End of the academic year	Higher education institutions establish the periods of teaching activity. In general, the academic year ends on 31 July 2024.
Public/religious holidays	5 October 2023 1 November 2023 1 December 2023 8 December 2023 31 March 2024 25 April 2024 1 May 2024 30 May 2024
Number of intervals: 1 or 2 (more frequently the year is divided in two semesters or three-month terms)	In general, the academic year is divided into two semesters or three-month periods; the duration of the breaks is around 1 to 2 weeks (maximum 3).

ROMANIA

Type of programme: All

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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	At the end of September.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	30 November 2023 1 December 2023 24 January 2024 1 May 2024 3 May 2024 6 May 2024 24 June 2024
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 [*Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj – Napoca*]:

First Semester:

Teaching activity: 02.10.2023 – 22.12.2023 (12 weeks)

Winter holidays: 25.12.2023 – 07.01.2024 (2 weeks)

Teaching activity: 08.01.2024 – 21.01.2024 (2 weeks)

Exams: 22.01.2024 – 11.02.2024 (3 weeks)

Holidays: 12.02.2024 – 18.02.2024 (1 week)

Second Semester:

Teaching activity: 26.02.2024 – 05.05.2024 (10 weeks)

Easter holidays: 06.05.2024 – 12.05.2024 (1 week)

Teaching activity: 13.05.2024 – 09.06.2024 (4 weeks)

Exams: 10.06.2024 – 30.06.2024 (3 weeks)

Holidays: 01.07.2024 – 07.07.2024 (1 week)

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

19.02.2024 – 25.02.2024 (1 week)

08.07.2024 – 14.07.2024 (1 week)

Practice period (where applicable):

15.07.2024 – 28.07.2024 (2 weeks)

Holidays:

29.07.2024 – 29.09.2024 (9 weeks)

References:

https://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/studenti/files/invatamant/Structura_anului_2023-2024_RO.pdf

SERBIA

Type of programme: ISCED 6 and 7

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 2023)
1st semester / teaching activity	From the beginning of October (usually between 1 October 2023 and 15 January 2024)
2nd semester / teaching activity	Usually from the end of February until the end of May (usually between 21 February and 31 May 2024)
Examinations	Every 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. The most common exam periods are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January-February (15 January to 18 February) • April (first half of the month) • June (usually the whole month) – beginning of July • September (usually 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 2024)
End of the academic year	Usually 30 September
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 November 2023 (national holiday) • 31 December 2023 – 2 January 2024 (New Year holiday) • 7 January 2024 – religious holiday (Christmas for Orthodox Christians) • 15-16 February 2024 (national holiday) • 3-6 May 2024 (religious holiday) (Easter for Orthodox Christians) • 1-2 May 2024 (International Workers' Day)
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, 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 Higher Education, article 79, the academic calendar is comprised of 30 working weeks.

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

Reference: Law on Higher Education, 2018 (*Zakon o visokom obrazovanju*, 2018). Link: <https://www.nat.rs/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Zakon-o-visokom-obrazovanju-2017-ENGL.pdf>

SLOVAKIA

Type of programme: All

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 2023
End of the academic year	31 August 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 September 2023 (Constitution Day) 15 September 2023 (Our Lady of Sorrows ' Day) 1 November 2023 (All Saints' Day) 17 November 2023 (Day of Freedom and Democracy) 24 December 2023 (Christmas Eve) 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2023 (2nd Day of Christmas / St. Stephen's Day) 1 January 2024 (Republic Day) 6 January 2024 (Epiphany) 29 March 2024 (Good Friday) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2024 (Labour Day) 8 May 2024 (Liberation Day) 5 July 2024 (St Cyril and St Methodius Day) 29 August 2024 (Slovak Uprising Day)
Number of intervals: 2-3	Length of intervals: The law does not specify the length of intervals, it is within the competence of the university.

SLOVENIA

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

The organisation of the academic year in higher education – 2023/2024	
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 2023
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 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2023 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2023 (Day of Remembrance for the Dead) 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2023 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 and 2 January 2024 (New Year's Days) 8 February 2024 (<i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2024 (Day of Uprising Against Occupation) 1 and 2 May 2024 (Labour Day) 25 June 2024 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2024 (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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023
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 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2023 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2023 (Day of Remembrance for the Dead) 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2023 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 and 2 January 2024 (New Year's Days) 8 February 2024 (<i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2024 (Day of Uprising Against Occupation) 1 and 2 May 2024 (Labour Day) 25 June 2024 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2024 (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 – 2023/2024 ^(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. The universities that have established it, vary from 1 September to 11 September 2023.
Beginning of the teaching activity	Bachelors: between 1 and 29 September 2023. Master's or PhD degrees: it ranges from the first week of September to 9 October 2023.
Teaching activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All universities continue their teaching activity after Christmas holidays on 8 January 2024. Those finishing their teaching activity before Christmas holidays do so on 15 December 2023 at the soonest (Comunidad Foral de Navarra) and 22 December 2023 at the latest, for almost all of them.
Examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The period for examinations can take between 2 and 4 weeks, depending on the autonomous community. The earliest starting date is 15 December 2023 (Asturias, La Rioja, Comunidad de Madrid, Región de Murcia) and the latest ending date is 6 February 2024 (Andalucía). <p>Particular features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Galicia and Illes Balears 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 2023 (1-10) in Extremadura.
Total number: Christmas holidays	All universities have Christmas holidays from 25 December 2023 to 7 January 2024 (14 days), except the autonomous community of Extremadura (22 December 2023 to 8 January 2024) and Cantabria (22 December 2023 to 7 January 2024).
Teaching activity	Between the end of the first examination period and between the start of May and the end of June: the average is mid-May (from 5 to 25 May 2024). Particular features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The earliest starting date is 20 January 2024 (Extremadura) and the latest starting date is 19 February 2024 (Andalucía). The earliest ending date is 3 May 2024 (Asturias) and the latest ending date is 28 June 2024 (Cataluña).
Total number: Easter holidays	Between 7 (Andalucía, Asturias, Canarias, Galicia) and 14 days (Región de Murcia), the earliest starting date being 21 March 2024 in Castilla y León and the latest ending day, 29 March 2024 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 – 2023/2024 ^(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 middle of May and the end of June. Comunidad de Madrid is the first one to start (10 May 2024) and Cataluña, the latest one to finish (28 June 2024).
Extraordinary examinations	1. Those universities scheduling extraordinary exams at the end of the second term start 4 June 2024 at the soonest, and 26 June 2024 at the latest, and spend between 6 days (Cantabria) and 4 weeks at the most (País Vasco). 2. Those examining in September allocate no more than 14 days at the beginning of September 2024.
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 2024/2025.
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 three universities are chosen. This is the list of the Universities depicted:

- Andalucía - Universidad de Córdoba, Universidad de Almería 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.
- Comunitat 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 and Universidad Rey Juan Carlos.
- 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. 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 – 2023/2024 ⁽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 2023
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 June.
Holidays	<p>Christmas: At least 2 weeks between 22 December 2023 and 8 January 2024.</p> <p>Easter: Between 5 and 14 days in the period between 18 March and 7 April 2024.</p> <p>Summer: 12 to 16 weeks, ranging from between the end of May and the beginning of September or the beginning of October 2024.</p> <p>Public holidays: 6 days plus some additional days that each school may establish ⁽³⁾.</p> <p>Particular feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (30 Oct – 5 Nov) and another break in February (12-18 Feb). Easter and Christmas are similar to the rest of autonomous communities.
Examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is organised individually for each training module. For those with an annual duration, a minimum of three evaluation sessions is usually held throughout the academic year, and a minimum of two in those modules taking a semester or shorter. The third evaluation, or the second in the case of non-annual modules, tends to coincide with the ordinary final evaluation. • When organised into 3 periods of examinations, the dates are usually before Christmas holidays, before Easter holidays and before summer holidays. Schools are free to fix examination dates within those periods. • When organised into 2 periods of examinations, the examinations usually take place at half period and at the end of the training module. Some of the final exams start in March and May continue until June, and some start in June.
Extraordinary examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the type of program and on the autonomous community, exams can take place during May 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 2024
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 6 September 2023 (Comunidad de Madrid) to 16 October 2023 (Illes Balears). 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, Comunidad Foral de 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 – 2023/2024	
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 (29 March 2024) and Easter Monday (1 April 2024), Labour Day (1 May 2024), around Ascension Day (9 May 2024) and National Day (6 June 2024)
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 – 2023/2024	
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 2023
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	18 September – 22 December 2023
Teaching activity spring semester	19 February – 31 May 2024
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 2024
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 August 2023 (National Day) 25 December 2023 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2023 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2024 (New Year's Day) 29 March 2024 (Good Friday) 1 April 2024 (Easter Monday) 9 May 2024 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2024 (Whit Monday) 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 – 2023/2024	
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 – 2023/2024	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Universities are autonomous. The autumn semester begins generally in September or October and the spring semester in February.
Teaching activity	Universities are free to determine their own periods of teaching activity. As a rule, each academic year is composed of two semesters that 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 2023 (1 day – Republic Day) 1 May 2024 (1 day – Labor and Solidarity Day) 23 April 2024 (1 day – National Sovereignty and Children's Day) 10-12 April 2024 (3 days – Ramadan holiday)
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 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)

Additional notes

The total number of school/academic days varies from one university to another. The total number of public/religious holidays is 6 days in the 2023/2024 academic year.

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The organisation of the academic year in Europe – 2023/2024

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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