



The Organisation of School Time in Europe

*Primary and General
Secondary Education*

2018/19

Eurydice – Facts and Figures





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INTRODUCTION

This report, based on national data, gives an overview on the length of the school year, the start and the end dates, the timing and length of school holidays and the number of school days. It covers both primary and general secondary education and key points are illustrated by comparative figures. The information is available for the 38 countries participating in the EU's Erasmus+ programme (28 Member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey). The reference year is 2018/19.

KEY POINTS

In the majority of countries, the school year starts at the beginning of September

Despite some differences, countries across Europe show many similarities regarding the structure of the school year. In 10 countries/regions, it generally starts in August. The countries where the school year begins the earliest are Denmark and Finland. In Germany, although there is an official starting date on 1st August, in reality schools in the different *Länder* begin between 6 August and 11 September. This year, in 19 European countries/regions, the school year starts on the 3rd of September. In some countries/regions, the starting date is usually around mid-September: this is the case in Southern Europe (e.g. Albania, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Turkey) but also in Bulgaria and Luxembourg. In Malta, children return to school at the end of September. In Austria, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland, the beginning and the end of the school year vary significantly according to the regions.

See Figure 1.

The most common range of number of school days is between 170 and 190 across Europe

The number of school days varies between 156 days in Albania and 200 days in Denmark and Italy. In around half the countries/regions, it is between 170 and 180 days; in 17 countries/regions, the number varies between 181 and 190 days. In general, the number of school days is the same in primary and secondary education, but there are a few exceptions: in France (upper secondary education), Greece (in secondary education, teaching days and exam days are included) and Serbia for example, the number of school days is higher in secondary education than in primary.

The opposite (fewer school days in secondary education than in primary education) is observed in Ireland, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Bosnia and Herzegovina ((Republika Srpska)). In countries where the number of school days varies according to the grade within a level, it is often the last grade that has the least number of school days.

See Figure 2.

The distribution and length of holidays during the school year varies between countries with the exception of the Christmas break

In addition to the summer break, there are four other main periods of school holidays across Europe: the autumn holidays, Christmas and New Year's, winter/Carnival holidays as well the spring/Easter holidays. With the exception of the Christmas/New Year's holiday, other school breaks differ both in length and timing. As some of these holidays are related to flexible calendar dates (Carnival and

Easter), their timing changes slightly from year to year. As well as these common holidays, all countries offer additional days of holiday for public or religious occasions.

In the autumn, children have one week of holidays in 19 countries/regions; in the other countries, it varies between two days (e.g. Czech Republic, Iceland and Serbia) to three weeks (Switzerland) or no holidays at all in 13 countries (e.g. Albania, Austria, Croatia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). At Christmas, nearly all countries offer two weeks of holidays; in a few countries, there is only one week (e.g. Poland and Slovenia) and up to three weeks in the case of Germany. The length of the winter/carnival holidays is one week in 21 countries and two weeks in France, Poland and Turkey. At the opposite, eight countries do not have holidays at that period (e.g. Albania, Cyprus and Greece).

The spring/Easter holidays last one or two weeks in most of the countries; in the others, between 4 days (e.g. Finland and Slovakia) to three weeks in Switzerland. No holidays at that period in Montenegro and Turkey.

See Figure 1.

Regional and local variations in school holidays exist within some countries

The periods and dates of school holidays may vary within a country. In some countries, such as Germany, Spain, Italy, Austria and Switzerland, regional authorities make these decisions. In Sweden and Norway, the responsibility lies with the municipalities. However, in general, the number of days of teaching is fixed at central level.

In the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia (for the winter holidays), Slovakia and Switzerland, the central authorities fix different dates for some periods of holidays according to the geographical area.

Despite some differences in the length of holidays, the pattern of holidays over the school year is similar for both primary and secondary education.

The length of the summer holidays varies a lot across Europe

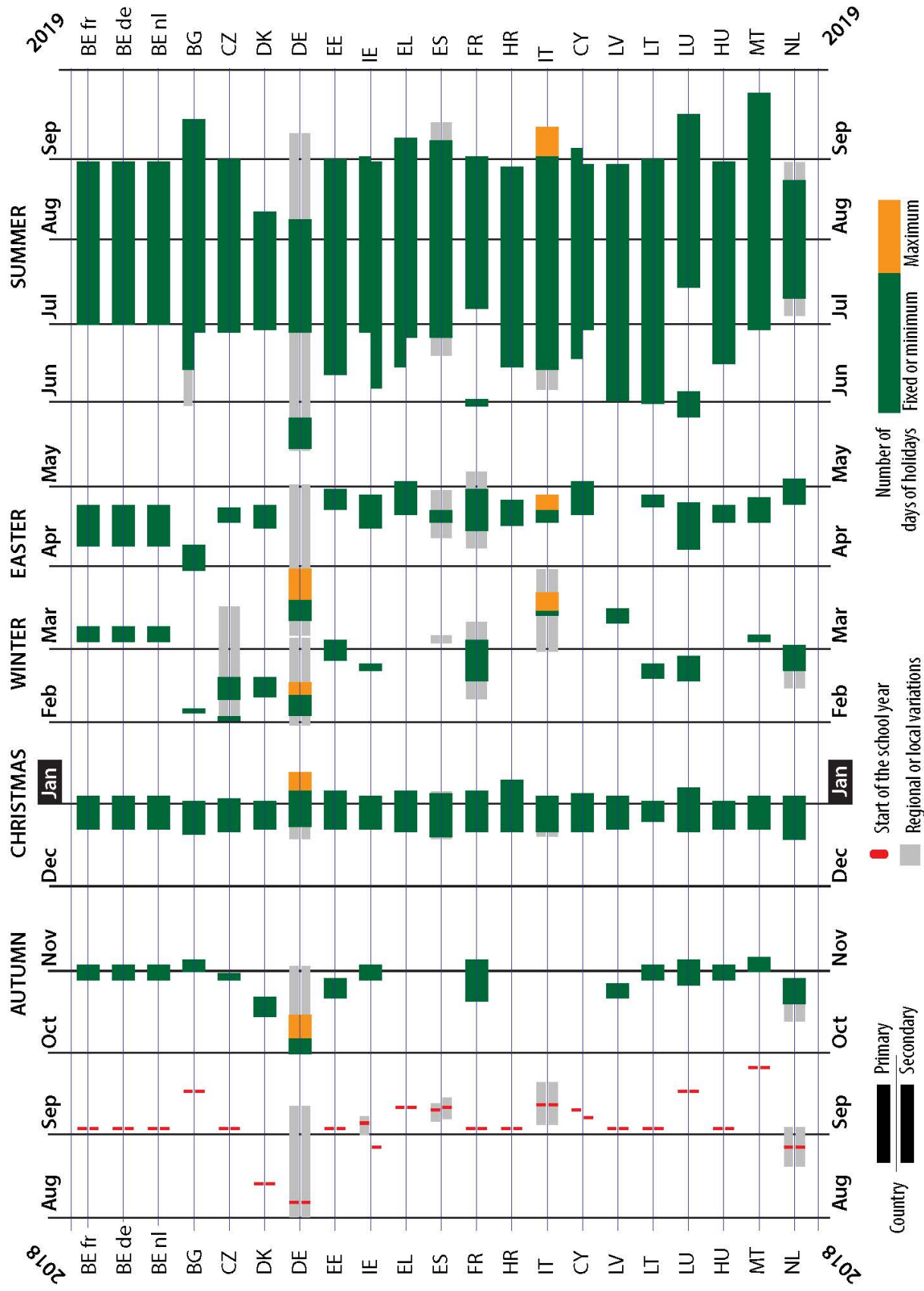
In Europe, the school year generally ends between the end of May and the second half of July. Mid-June is the time when the summer break begins in most countries. The length of the summer holidays varies significantly between countries: from 6 weeks in some German *Länder*, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom (England, Wales and Scotland) and Liechtenstein up to 13 weeks in Albania, Latvia, Portugal (secondary education), and Turkey, between 12 and 13 weeks in Italy and even 15 weeks in Bulgaria (for primary education).

Some countries show differences in the length of summer holidays depending on the level of education. In secondary education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska) and Iceland, students start the summer holidays earlier than in primary education.

At the opposite, in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania and Serbia, students in primary education begin their summer holidays before those in secondary education.

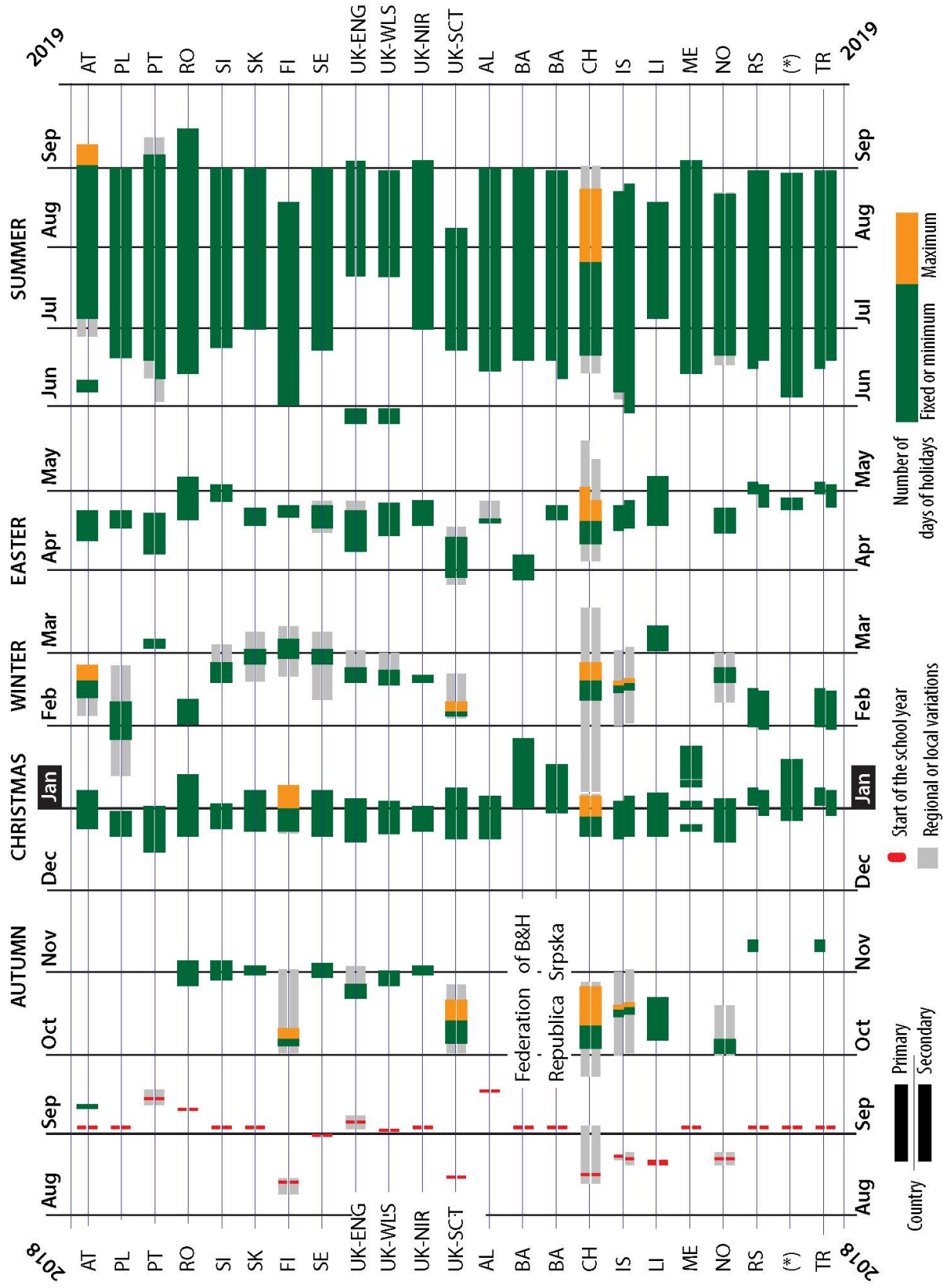
See Figure 3.

Figure 1: Length of the school year and distribution of holidays, general education, ISCED 1-3, 2018/19



NB: Denmark, Hungary and Latvia: The distinction is made between primary and lower secondary education (single structure) on one hand and upper secondary on the other hand..

Figure 1 (continued): Length of the school year and distribution of holidays, general education, ISCED 1-3, 2018/19



NB: Slovenia, Sweden, Serbia and Iceland: The distinction is made between primary and lower secondary education (single structure) on one hand and upper secondary on the other hand.

Figure 2: Number of school days in primary and general secondary education, 2018/19



Country-specific notes

Belgium (BE nl): Flanders has changed the methodology used to calculate the number of instruction days: a week now counts 4.5 days of instruction instead of 5 days – most schools do not have classes on Wednesday afternoon.

Bulgaria: The number of school days for secondary education is 183, except for the last grade (year XII) where the number is 156 because the end of this last students' school year is earlier – on 15 May.

Croatia: Legally prescribed minimum number of teaching days for ISCED 1-3 is 175, except for the final grades of upper secondary education for which minimum of 160 teaching days is prescribed.

Latvia: 166 days for grade 1; 181 days for grade 9; 186 days for grade 12.

Lithuania: 185 days for secondary education, except for the last grade (IV gymnasium grade), where it is 165 because of the examinations.

Hungary: Primary and lower secondary education: *Általános iskola*; upper secondary education: *Gimnázium*.

Portugal: The total number of instruction days varies between 175 and 180 days due to the fact that some grades have national exams between June and the end of July.

Slovenia: Primary and lower secondary: 181 days in the final grade; upper secondary education: 165 days in the final grade.

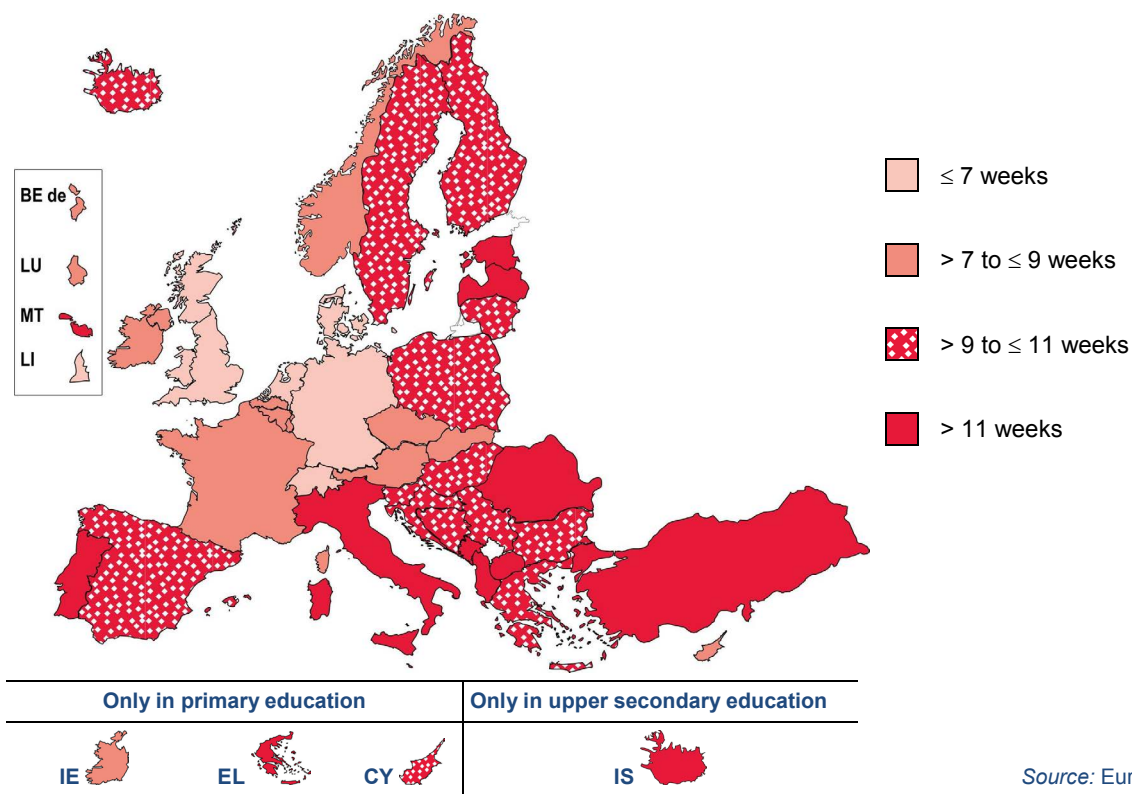
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Federation of B&H: Primary education: 170 days for the first and final grades; secondary education: 150 days for the final grade. **Republica Srpska:** Primary education: 179 days for the final grade; secondary education: 162 days for the final grade.

Montenegro: 166 days for the final year.

Serbia Primary education: 170 days in the final grade; upper secondary education: 165 days in the final grade.

(*): The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Secondary education: 166 days in the final grades (fourth grade general secondary education, third and four year vocational education, and fourth year artistic education).

Figure 3: Length of summer holidays (in weeks), primary and secondary general education, 2018/19



Source: Eurydice.

Country specific notes

Bulgaria: Between 11 and 15 weeks in primary education

Switzerland: Between 5 and 11 weeks in primary and secondary education. In most cantons, it's less than 7 weeks, but in Ticino it's 11 week.

ALBANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2018	17 September 2018
End of students' school year	13 June 2019 (Basic education)	20 June 2019
Christmas/New Year	22 December 2018 – 6 January 2019	22 December 2018 – 6 January 2019
Spring/Easter	21 and 28 April 2019	21 and 28 April 2019
Third term	28 April – 13 June 2019	28 April – 20 June 2019
Summer	13 June – 17 September 2019	20 June – 17 September 2019
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	8 October 2018 - National Youth Day 19 October 2018 - Mother Theresa sanctification day 28 November 2018 - Flag and Independence Day 29 November 2018 - Liberation Day 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019 - Christmas Holiday 13 March 2019 - Summer day 21 March 2019 - Novruz Day 21 April 2019 - Catholic Eastern 28 April 2019 - Orthodox Eastern 1 May 2019 - Labor Day 5 June 2019 - Fiter Bajram 21 August 2019 - Kurban Bajram	8 October 2018 - National Youth Day 19 October 2018 - Mother Theresa sanctification day 28 November 2018 - Flag and Independence Day 29 November 2018 - Liberation Day 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019 - Christmas Holiday 13 March 2019 - Summer day 21 March 2019 - Novruz Day 21 April 2019 - Catholic Eastern 28 April 2019 - Orthodox Eastern 1 May 2019 - Labor Day 5 June 2019 - Fiter Bajram 21 August 2019 - Kurban Bajram
Starting date of teachers' school year	17 September 2018	17 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	13 June 2019	13 June 2019

Source: Eurydice.

AUSTRIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 September 2018: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	3 September 2018: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 September 2018: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
End of students' school year	28 June 2019: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 5 July 2019: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	28 June 2019: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 5 July 2019: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 6 January 2019	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 6 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week 4-9 February 2019: Niederösterreich, Wien 11-16 February 2019: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 18-23 February 2019: Oberösterreich, Steiermark	1 week 4-9 February 2019: Niederösterreich, Wien 11-16 February 2019: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 18-23 February 2019: Oberösterreich, Steiermark
Spring/Easter	1 week 13-23 April 2019	1 week 13-23 April 2019
Third term	4 days 8-11 June 2019	4 days 8-11 June 2019
Summer	About 9 weeks 29 June – 1 September 2019: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July – 8 September 2019: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	About 9 weeks 29 June – 1 September 2019: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July – 8 September 2019: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2018 2 November 2018 8 December 2018 1 May 2019 30 May 2019 20 June 2019 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>)	1 November 2018 2 November 2018 8 December 2018 1 May 2019 30 May 2019 20 June 2019 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>)
Starting/End date of teachers' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year

BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	30 June 2019	30 June 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 4 November 2018	1 week 29 October – 4 November 2018
Christmas/New Year holidays	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 6 January 2019	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 6 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week 4-10 March 2019	1 week 4-10 March 2019
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 8-22 April 2019	2 weeks 8-22 April 2019
Third term	Between Easter holidays and Summer holidays	Between Easter holidays and Summer holidays
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2019	9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2019
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	1 and 2 November 2018 (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day) 11 November 2018 (Armistice Day) 22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 30-31 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 10 June 2019 (Whit Monday) + 4 days to be decided by the school	1 and 2 November 2018 (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day) 11 November 2018 (Armistice Day) 22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 30-31 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 10 June 2019 (Whit Monday) + 4 days to be decided by the school
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2018	1 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2019	30 June 2019

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	30 June 2019	30 June 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2018	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2018
Winter/Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019
Carnival	1 week 4-8 March 2019	1 week 4-8 March 2019
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 8-22 April 2019	2 weeks 8-22 April 2019
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2019	9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	27 September 2018 1 May 2019 30 May 2019 10 June 2019	27 September 2018 1 May 2019 30 May 2019 10 June 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019

Source: Eurydice.

BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	30 June 2019	30 June 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2018	1 week 29 October – 2 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week 4-8 March 2019	1 week 4-8 March 2019
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 8-22 April 2019	2 weeks 8-22 April 2019
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2019	9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	15 November 2018 22 April 2019 1 May 2019 30 May 2019 10 June 2019	15 November 2018 22 April 2019 1 May 2019 30 May 2019 10 June 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2018	1 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2019	30 June 2019

Additional notes

- During the last working days of August, secondary education teachers may be consigned to conduct exams of a second chance.
- A school year has a minimum of 180 and a maximum of 184 days of school days. In 2018/19, the school year will have 180 days.
- In the school-year 2018/19, there will be no compensation day(s) to be fixed by the schools.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	19 June 2019 (12 June 2019 for the first and final grade)	19 June 2019 (14 May 2019 for the final grade)
Winter holidays	3-28 January 2019	3-28 January 2019
Spring/Easter	30 March-7 April 2019	30 March-7 April 2019
Summer holidays	20 June – 31 August 2019	20 June – 31 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	Public holidays: 5 October 2018 (Teacher's Day) 25 November 2018 (Statehood Day) 1-2 January 2019 (New Year) 1 March 2019 (Independence Day) 1-2 May 2019 (International Labour Day) Religious holidays: 25 December 2018 (Catholic Christmas) 19 April 2019 (Pesah) 21 April 2019 (Catholic Easter) 28 April 2019 (Orthodox Easter) 4 June 2019 (Eid Al-Fitr)	
Starting date of teachers' school year	20 August 2018	20 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019

Additional notes

Religious holidays are celebrated depending on the religious community.

There are some differences between the cantons within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The given data are the most common for most cantons. Apart from these dates, each canton (ten in total) has established its own celebration day.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (CONTINUED)

Republika Srpska

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	21 June 2019 (7 June 2019 for the final grade)	14 June 2019 (17 May 2019 for the final grade)
Winter holidays	1-18 January 2019	1-18 January 2019
Spring/Easter	22-26 April 2019	22-26 April 2019
Summer holidays	22 June – 1 September 2019	15 June – 1 September 2019
Public/religious holidays	<p>Public holidays: 21 November 2018 (Day of establishing of General Framework Agreement for Peace) 1-2 January 2019 (New Year) 9 January (Day of Republic) 1-2 May 2019 (International Labour Day) 9 May 2019 (Day of victory over fascism)</p> <p>Religious holidays: 25 December 2018 (Catholic Christmas) 21 April 2019 (Catholic Easter) 28 April 2019 (Orthodox Easter)</p>	
Starting date of teachers' school year	20 August 2018	20 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019

Additional notes

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

BULGARIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2018/19 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2018	17 September 2018
End of students' school year	Year I-IV: 31 May 2019 Year V-VI: 14 June 2019 Year VII: 28 June 2019	Year VIII, IX, X, XI: 28 June 2019 Year XII: 15 May 2019
Autumn holidays	1- 4 November 2018	1-4 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	22 December 2018 – 2 January 2019	22 December 2018 – 2 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	5 February 2019	5 February 2019
Spring/Easter	30 March – 7 April 2019	30 March – 7 April 2019 Year XII: 5-7 April 2019
Summer	Year I-IV: 31 May – 15 September 2019 Year V-VI: 14 June – 15 September 2019 Year VII: 28 June – 15 September 2019	Year VIII, IX, X, XI: 28 June – 15 September 2019
Public/religious holidays	22 September 2018 24 December 2018 3 March 2019 1 May 2019 6 May 2019 24-25 May 2019	22 September 2018 24 December 2018 3 March 2019 1 May 2019 6 May 2019 24-25 May 2019
Other dates	21 May 2019 State graduation exam in Bulgarian language and literature 23 May 2019 Second state graduation exam 17 June 2019 National external assessment after Year 7 in Bulgarian language and literature 19 June 2019 National external assessment after year 7 in mathematics	
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional Notes	See Additional Notes
End of teachers' school year	See Additional Notes	See Additional Notes

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Teachers' school year: The length of the teachers' school year is defined at school level. The school head is responsible for setting and drawing up of the school's timetable. The most common situation is when teachers, on employment contract, are required to be present and at disposal at school at the beginning of September so that they can get prepared well in advance and deal with the school documentation for the new school year.

The end of the teachers' school year is also determined at school level. If teachers are needed to be at school in order to help, complete or close the school documentation, or if they are involved in other out-of-class activities, school projects, initiatives, etc., they usually are supposed to stay extra days after the beginning of the summer holidays for pupils.

CROATIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	14 June 2019 (22 May 2019 in the final year of general secondary education)
Winter holidays	24 December 2018 – 11 January 2019
Spring holidays	18-26 April 2019
Summer holidays	17 June – 30 August 2019 (estimated end date, see Additional notes)
Public/religious holidays	8 October 2018 (Independence Day) 1 November 2018 (All Saints Day) 1 May 2019 (International Labour Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not specified, see Additional notes.
End of teachers' school year	Not specified, see Additional notes.

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Article 48 of the Act on Education in Primary and Secondary Schools (*Zakon o odgoju i obrazovanju u osnovnoj i srednjoj školi*, Official Gazette 87/2008, 86/2009, 105/2010, 90/2011, 5/2012, 16/2012, 86/2012, 126/2012, 94/2013, 152/2014, 07/2017) stipulates that the school year starts at 1 September and ends at 31 August. The teaching activity is organized within two semesters. The time allocated to teaching in primary and secondary schools should not be less than 175 teaching days, or 35 teaching weeks and for the students in the final year of general secondary education the time allocated to teaching should not be less than 160 teaching days, or 32 teaching weeks. During the school year students have the right to winter, spring and summer holidays.

Starting from the school year 2010/11, counties, regional administrative units (in total 21) are allowed to request some modifications of the school calendar for the coming year (the date of the beginning of the school year and the duration of the winter break) which apply at the County level.

Summer holidays: Estimated end date of the summer holidays is set according to the cited Article 48 of the Act on Education in Primary and Secondary Schools and top-level decisions about previous school years (exact end date is not stated in the decision for school year 2018/19). Teaching activity in school year after the summer holidays generally starts on the first Monday in September.

Teachers' school year: The length of the teachers' school year is not defined by the top-level decisions or laws. Generally, teachers have to be present at the end of August for preparation of the beginning of the school year to mid-July for other activities at the end of the school year. According to the collective labour agreements for primary and secondary school teachers (*Kolektivni ugovor za zaposlenike u osnovnoškolskim ustanovama*, Official Gazette, 51/2018; *Kolektivni ugovor za zaposlenike u srednjoškolskim ustanovama*, Official Gazette, 51/2018), teachers' annual leave coincides with students' holidays and the total duration of the annual leave should not exceed 30 working days.

CYPRUS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year*	10 September 2018	7 September 2018 (see Additional notes)
End of students' school year*	19 June 2019	(see Additional notes)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 22 April – 3 May 2019	2 weeks 22 April – 3 May 2019
Summer	11 weeks 20 June – 6 September 2019	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	1 October 2018 13 November 2018 30 January 2019 11 March 2019 25 March 2019 1 April 2019 6 June 2019 11 June 2019 17 June 2019	1 October 2018 13 November 2018 30 January 2019 11 March 2019 25 March 2019 1 April 2019 11 June 2019 17 June 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year**	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of teachers' school year**	21 June 2019	28 June 2019

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Primary education

***Students:** In primary education, lessons begin on the second Monday of September and end on the Wednesday before the penultimate Friday of June. The total number of school days for the school year 2018/19 is 174 and for the holidays 86.

****Teachers:** Teachers in primary education need to be at school from the first Monday of September until the penultimate Friday of June. The official teachers' school year is longer than student's school year in primary education as it includes preparation of the school timetable, sorting out of classes and lessons, and a two-day teachers' professional learning programme. The total number of school days for the school year 2018/19 is 181 and for the holidays 79. In primary education, according to the Regulations for the Functioning of Primary Education Schools, the official school year is from 1 September each year until the 31 August next year (1 September 2018 – 31 August 2019).

Secondary Education

***Students:** In secondary education, lessons begin on the 5th working day of September. In lower secondary education, lessons end during the last week of May. A two-week examination period follows. In upper secondary education, lessons for students at the C' form (3rd grade of Lyceum) terminated during the first ten days of May and for those at A' & B' form (1st and 2nd grade of Lyceum), between 11 May and 20 May. Graduate or final examinations follow which last about 3 weeks. The Minister is granted the authority, under certain circumstances to set different days for lessons termination of the school year.

****Teachers:** The official teachers' school year is longer than students' school year in secondary education. In secondary general education, according to the law (Regulations for the Functioning of Secondary Education Schools), the official school year is from 1 September each year until 31 August next year (1 September 2018 – 31 August 2019).

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019
Autumn holidays	29-30 October 2018	29-30 October 2018
Christmas/New Year	22 December 2018 – 2 January 2019	22 December 2018 – 2 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 February 2019	1 February 2019
Spring/Easter	1 week between 4 February and 17 March 2019 depending on the region (spring holidays) 18-22 April 2019 (Easter)	1 week between 4 February and 17 March 2019 depending on the region (spring holidays) 18-22 April 2019 (Easter)
Summer holidays	29 June – 1 September 2019	29 June – 1 September 2019
Public/religious holidays	28 September 2018 28 October 2018* 17 November 2018* 1 May 2019 8 May 2019	28 September 2018 28 October 2018* 17 November 2018* 1 May 2019 8 May 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified
End of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified

SPECIFICATION OF TERMS FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS

Term 2019	Regions
4-10 February	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město, Prostějov
11-17 February	Praha 1-5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Karviná
18-24 February	Praha 6-10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přešov, Frýdek-Místek
25 February – 3 March	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
4-10 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
11-17 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

According to the Labour Code, the holiday for **teachers** at primary and secondary level is 8 weeks each calendar year. They take it primarily in the time of school holidays.

Education Act (No. 561/2004 Coll., Article 24) states that head teachers may, for serious reasons, in particular for organisational and technical reasons, during school lessons permit for pupils of maximum of five (5) days off within the school year. In practice, schools often take this opportunity during the school year.

CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

List of days considered holidays:

School year 2018/19

28 September	National holiday	1
29-30 October	Autumn holidays	2
28 October	National holiday	0 (Sunday)*
17 November	National holiday	0 (Saturday)*
22 December – 2 January	Christmas/New Year	12 (8+4)**
1 February	Winter/Carnival	1
4 February – 17 March	Spring holidays	7 (5+2)**
18-22 April	Easter	5 (3+2)**
1 May	National holiday	1
8 May	National holiday	1
29 June – 1 September	Summer holidays	65 (45+20)**

The total number of holidays: 95 days (67+28)**

Number of school days: 193

Days of weekends: 77***

* In the school year 2018/19, October 28 and November 17 fall on Sunday and Saturday, for this reason we do not count it as a holiday.

** The numbers in brackets represent Mondays to Fridays plus days of weekends.

*** This number does not include the holiday weekends listed in the note **.

DENMARK

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary and lower secondary education (<i>Folkeskole</i>)	General secondary education (<i>Gymnasium</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	13 August 2018	13 August 2018
End of students' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019
Autumn holidays	15-21 October 2018	15-21 October 2018
Christmas/New Year	24 December 2018 – 2 January 2019	24 December 2018 – 2 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	11-17 February 2019 (both days included)	11-17 February 2019 (both days included)
Spring/Easter	15-22 April 2019 (both days included)	15-22 April 2019 (both days included)
Summer	Starting on 29 June 2019	Starting on 29 June 2019
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2019* 17 May 2019 30-31 May 2019 (only 30 May is a public holiday) 5 June 2019** 10 June 2019	17 May 2019 30 May 2019 5 June 2019** 10 June 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools/institutions. In general, teachers start a few days before pupils/students.	
End of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.	

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

The above-mentioned dates for the *Folkeskole* are valid for the schools in Aarhus Municipality: <https://www.aarhus.dk/da/borger/familie-boern-og-unge/Skole/Ferier-og-fridage.aspx>. The number of holidays and public holidays in Aarhus Municipality in the school year 2018/19 (1 August to 2018 to 31 July 2019) is 166 days, including weekends and public holidays. This means that the number of school days is 200.

The dates for upper secondary education are taken from Slagelse Gymnasium: <http://www.slagelse-gym.dk/ferieplanen>. The number of school days in upper secondary education is also 200 per year and 166 days of holidays, public holidays and weekends.

The winter/carnival holiday can vary across the country as it depends on the municipality, which usually decides whether the winter holiday is in week 7 or 8.

Folkeskoler, i.e. schools offering comprehensive primary and lower secondary education, are free to decide on the number of holidays and their distribution, given that they offer a minimum of 200 school days each year. The Ministry of Education determines the last day of the school year, which is the case for both primary, lower secondary and general upper secondary education. In addition, the Ministry may also issue guidelines regarding the distribution of holidays.

* Some schools are closed on 1 May (Labour Day) while others are open.

** The Constitution Day (*Grundlovsdag*) 5 June is not a public holiday. However, some schools are closed on this day while others are open.

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2018	1 September 2018
End of students' school year	31 August 2019	31 August 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week 22-28 October 2018	1 week 22-28 October 2018
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 6 January 2019	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 6 January 2019
Winter	1 week 25 February – 3 March 2019	1 week 25 February – 3 March 2019
Spring	1 week 22-28 April 2019	1 week 22-28 April 2019
Summer	11.5 weeks 12 June – 31 August 2019	11.5 weeks 12 June – 31 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	24 February 2019 (Independence Day) 19 April 2019 (Good Friday) 1 May 2019 (May Day)	24 February 2019 (Independence Day) 19 April 2019 (Good Friday) 1 May 2019 (May Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	The beginning and the end of a teacher's school year depend on the individual school and teacher. According to the legislation, teachers have 56 days (8 weeks) of holidays. Generally, they take holidays in the middle of June and are back in the middle of August.	
End of teachers' school year		

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act (§24) stipulates that an academic year shall start on 1 September and a study period shall include not less than 175 days of study (35 weeks).

School holidays (and accordingly the end of the school year) are determined by a regulation of the Minister of Education and Research for every school year. On the basis of a proposal of the head of the school and with the approval of the board of trustees, the owner of a school may establish school holidays different from those established by the Minister, taking into account that during the academic year there are four school holidays with a total duration of at least 12 weeks, whereby the summer holiday lasts at least eight consecutive weeks.

FINLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 9 and 14 August 2018	Between 9 and 14 August 2018
End of students' school year	1-2 June 2019	1-2 June 2019
Autumn holidays	2-5 days in October 2019	2-5 days in October 2019
Christmas/New Year	1-2 weeks between 22 December 2018 and 7 January 2019	1-2 weeks between 22 December 2018 and 7 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 18 February and 8 March 2019	1 week between 18 February and 8 March 2019
Spring/Easter	4 days between 19 and 22 April 2019	4 days between 19 and 22 April 2019
Summer	10-11 weeks between 1 June to mid-August 2019	10-11 weeks between 1 June to mid-August 2019
Public/religious holidays	3 November 2018 (All Saints Day) 6 December 2018 (Independence Day) 24 December 2018 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2018 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2018 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2019 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2019 (Epiphany) 19 April 2019 (Good Friday) 21 April 2019 (Easter Day) 22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2019 (May Day) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 21 June 2019 (Midsummer Eve) (partly)	3 November 2018 (All Saints Day) 6 December 2018 (Independence Day) 24 December 2018 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2018 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2018 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2019 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2019 (Epiphany) 19 April 2019 (Good Friday) 21 April 2019 (Easter Day) 22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2019 (May Day) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 21 June 2019 (Midsummer Eve) (partly)
Starting date of teachers' school year ⁽¹⁾	Between 7 and 13 August 2018	Between 7 and 13 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	2 June 2019	2 June 2019

Source: Eurydice.

FINLAND (CONTINUED)

Additional notes

Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days (190 days) if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the school year 2018/19, the number of school days will consequently be 188.

(¹) There are no exact starting and ending dates of teachers' school year because their duties are regulated according to the collective agreement for teachers. In the agreement, the parties have agreed that the teachers have a calculatory holiday, which begins in mid-June and the length of holiday depends mainly on years in occupation. In practice, teachers' holidays coincide with students' holidays. However, teachers have their planning and INSET obligations, which they have to do both during and outside the school year. In general teachers start a school year a couple days before students.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	7 June 2019	*) 7 June 2019
Christmas/New Year	29 December 2018 – 20 January 2019	29 December 2018 – 20 January 2019
Spring/Easter	26-29 April 2019	26-29 April 2019
Third term	10-17 June 2019: Additional classes for students with low attainment in primary schools 12-16 August 2019: Preliminary classes for students who will take remedial exams or exams for faster progress	10-17 June 2019: Additional classes for students with low attainment 12-16 August 2019: Preliminary classes for students who will take remedial exams or exams for faster progress
Summer	8 June – 31 August 2019	8 June – 31 August 2019
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	8 September 2018 (Independence Day) 11 October 2018 (Uprising Day) 23 October 2018 (Day of the Revolutionary Struggle) 8 December 2018 (St. Clement Day) 26-29 April 2019 (Orthodox Easter) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 24 May 2019 (St. Cyril and Methodius Day) 4 June 2019 Ramadan	8 September 2018 (Independence Day) 11 October 2018 (Uprising Day) 23 October 2018 (Day of the Revolutionary Struggle) 8 December 2018 (St. Clement Day) 26-29 April 2019 (Orthodox Easter) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 24 May 2019 (St. Cyril and Methodius Day) 4 June 2019 Ramadan
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2019	31 August 2019

Source: Eurydice.

*) *The end of the school year for the fourth grade students in the general secondary schools, third and fourth grade students in vocational secondary schools, and the students of the fourth grade in the artistic vocational schools will be 17 May 2019.*

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Dates or periods
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	6 July 2019
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 21 October – 4 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2018 – 6 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 17 February – 3 March 2019 (zone A) 10-24 February 2019 (zone B) 24 February – 10 March 2019 (zone C)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 14-28 April 2019 (zone A) 7-22 April 2019 (zone B) 21 April – 5 May 2019 (zone C)
Additional holiday for 2018/19	31 May and 1 June 2019
Summer	8 weeks 7 July 2019 – 1 September 2019
Public holidays (national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 November 2018 (All Saints' Day) * 11 November 2018 (1918 Armistice Day) * 25 December 2018 (Christmas) * 1 January 2019 (New Year) * 22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) * 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) ** 8 May 2019 (end of WWII in Europe) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) * 14 July 2019 (National holiday) * 15 August 2019 (Assumption Day) * * Days already included in 2018/19 school holidays or weekends ** Day already included in 2018/19 school holidays for zone C
Starting date of teachers' school year	31 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	6 July 2019

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Zone A: Besançon, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand, Dijon, Grenoble, Limoges, Lyon, Poitiers

Zone B: Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Caen, Lille, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Reims, Rennes, Rouen, Strasbourg

Zone C: Créteil, Montpellier, Paris, Toulouse, Versailles

FRANCE (CONTINUED)

	Primary education	General secondary education
Total number of academic/school days	36 weeks (including public/religious holidays) <i>ISCED 1: 162 days (4.5 days/week)¹</i>	36 weeks (including public/religious holidays) <i>ISCED 24: 162 days (4.5 days/week)¹</i> <i>ISCED 34: 180 days (5 days/week)¹</i>
Total number of holidays	16 weeks	16 weeks

Additional notes

¹ The annual hours of instruction, set by the curriculum for each subject and for each level of education, must be respected regardless of the number of public holidays within a week. **The school year is not set in terms of days but in weeks.** It consists of 36 weeks of work; the public holidays included in the current school year are not deducted. (cf. [Code de l'éducation](#), Article L521-1)

Primary education

The school week includes for all students twenty-four hours of instruction, spread over nine half-days.

Instruction time is provided 4,5 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, all day, and on Wednesday morning), with a maximum of 24 hours of instruction per week, 5 1/2 hours of instruction maximum per day and 3 1/2 hours maximum per half-day. Lunchtime break cannot be shorter than one hour and a half.

Since September 2017, by way of derogation (¹) from this general framework, public primary schools have been allowed to set up 3 other types of organization of the school week and distribute the 24 hours of weekly instruction:

- over 4,5 days (Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri, all day, and on Saturday morning, instead of Wednesday morning); or
- over 8 half-days which should include 5 mornings. In this case, extra-curricular activities are gathered together in one afternoon; or
- over 4 days (Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri) – instead of four and a half – as long as instruction time does not exceed six hours per day and three and a half hours per half day. Moreover, it is possible to shorten holidays to compensate for the reduced weekly instruction time.

Secondary education

A 4.5-day week (Monday to Friday) is most commonly practiced. At the upper secondary level, students often have school on Saturday morning.

(¹) Source: Décret n° 2017-1108 du 27 juin 2017 relatif aux dérogations à l'organisation de la semaine scolaire dans les écoles maternelles et élémentaires publiques:
<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2017/6/27/MENE1716127D/jo/texte>

GERMANY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

Starting date of students' school year	1 August 2018 begin of official school year (for details see table I)
End of students' school year	31 July 2019 end of official school year (for details see table I)
Autumn holidays	5 to 15 days staggered between 1 October and 2 November 2018 (for details see table II)
Christmas/New Year	10 to 17 days staggered between 19 December 2018 and 12 January 2019 (for details see table II)
Winter/Carnival	0 to 13 days staggered between 31 January and 5 March 2019 (for details see table II)
Spring/Easter	5 to 18 days staggered between 4 March and 30 April 2019 (for details see table II)
Third term	0 to 11 days staggered between 13 May and 21 June 2019 (for details see table II)
Summer	6 weeks staggered between 20 June and 10 September 2019 (for details see table I)
Public/religious holidays	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2018 (official date)
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2019 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

TABLE I: Specification for starting/end of students' school year and summer holidays

	Beginning of students' school year 2018/19	End of students' school year 2018/19	Summer holidays 2019
Hamburg	16 August 2018	26 June 2019	27 June – 7 August
Berlin	20 August 2018	19 June 2019	20 June – 2 August
Brandenburg	20 August 2018	19 June 2019	20 June – 3 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Schleswig-Holstein	20 August 2018	28 June 2019	1 July – 10 August
Bremen / Niedersachsen	9 August 2018	3 July 2019	4 July – 14 August
Rheinland-Pfalz / Hessen / Saarland	6 August 2018	28 June 2019	1 July – 9 August
Sachsen / Thüringen	13 August 2018	5/6 July 2019	8 July – 16/17 August
Sachsen-Anhalt	9 August 2018	3 July 2019	4 July – 14 August
Nordrhein-Westfalen	29 August 2018	12 July 2019	15 July – 27 August
Baden-Württemberg	10 September 2018	26 July 2019	29 July – 10 September
Bayern	11 September 2018	26 July 2019	29 July – 9 September

GERMANY (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Land	Autumn 2018	Christmas / New Year 2018/19	Winter 2019	Spring / Easter 2019	3rd term 2019
Baden- Württemberg	29 Oct. - 2 Nov.	24 Dec. - 5 Jan.	–	15-27 April	11-21 June
Bayern	29 Oct. - 2 Nov.	22 Dec. - 5 Jan.	–	4-8 March / 15-27 April	11-21 June
Berlin	22 Oct. - 2 Nov.	22 Dec. - 5 Jan.	4-9 February	15-26 April	31 May/11 June
Brandenburg	22 Oct. - 2 Nov.	22 Dec. - 5 Jan.	4-9 February	15-26 April	–
Bremen	1-13 October	24 Dec. - 4 Jan.	31 Jan. - 1 Febr.	6-23 April	31 May/11 June
Hamburg	1-12 October	20 Dec. - 4 Jan.	1 February	4-15 March	13-17/31 May
Hessen	1-13 October	24 Dec. - 12 Jan.	–	15-27 April	–
Mecklenburg- Vorpommern	8-13 October	24 Dec. - 5 Jan.	4-15 February	15-24 April	7-11 June
Niedersachsen	1-12 October	24 Dec. - 4 Jan.	31 Jan. - 1 Febr.	8-23 April	31 May/11 June
Nordrhein- Westfalen	15-27 October	21 Dec. - 4 Jan.	–	15-27 April	11 June
Rheinland-Pfalz	1-12 October	20 Dec. - 4 Jan.	25 Febr. - 1 Mar.	23-30 April	–
Saarland	1-12 October	20 Dec. - 4 Jan.	25 Febr. - 5 Mar.	17-26 April	–
Sachsen	8-20 October	22 Dec. - 4 Jan.	18 Febr. - 2 Mar.	19-26 April	31 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	1-12 October	19 Dec. - 4 Jan.	11-15 February	18-30 April	31 May - 1 June
Schleswig- Holstein	1-19 October	21 Dec. - 4 Jan.	–	4-18 April	31 May
Thüringen	1-13 October	21 Dec. - 4 Jan.	11-15 February	15-27 April	31 May

Source: Eurydice.

Additional note

In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonisation in the school system, the school year begins on 1 August and ends on 31 July. The actual beginning and end depend on the dates of the summer holidays which vary from one year to the other.

GREECE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	11 September 2018	11 September 2018
End of students' school year	14 June 2019	The teaching of subjects is conducted in two periods, called quarters. It lasts until the last week of May which is set by Ministerial Decision (issued by 30 April) every year. At the end of the teaching of subjects, school exams follow. All procedures are completed until 28 June.
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 7 January 2019	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 7 January 2019
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 22 April – 3 May 2019	2 weeks 22 April – 3 May 2019
Summer	Around 12 weeks 17 June – 10 September 2019	Around 10 weeks 1 July - 10 September 2019
National/religious holidays	28 October 2018 (National holiday, however Sunday this year) 17 November 2018 (National school celebration, however Saturday this year) 30 January 2019 (Religious school celebration) 11 March 2019 (Religious Holiday) 25 March 2019 (National holiday) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) and some local holidays	28 October 2018 (National holiday, however Sunday this year) 17 November 2018 (National school celebration, however Saturday this year) 30 January 2019 (Religious Holiday) 11 March 2019 (Religious Holiday) 25 March 2019 (National holiday) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 17 June 2019 (Religious holiday) and some local holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	21 June 2019	28 June 2019

Additional notes

The official school year for both primary and secondary education lasts from 1 September 2018 until 31 August 2019. At **primary** level, the didactic year lasts from 1 September until 21 June of the following year (Presidential Decree 79/2017).

At **secondary** level, the didactic year lasts from 1 September until 30 June of the following year (Ministerial Decision 10645/ΓΔ4/2018).

For school year 2018/19, in primary schools the school days amount to 176 days, whereas in general secondary education the school days (teaching days and exam days) amount to 185 days.

In primary schools, the holidays (Summer, Christmas, Easter) amount to 16 weeks, whereas in general secondary education they amount to 14 weeks.

HUNGARY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	14 June 2019	14 June 2019
Autumn holidays	29 October – 2 November 2018	29 October – 2 November 2018
Christmas/New Year holidays	24 December 2018 – 2 January 2019	24 December 2018 – 2 January 2019
Spring/Easter holidays	18-23 April 2019	18-23 April 2019
Summer holidays	11 weeks 17 June – 31 August 2019	11 weeks 17 June – 31 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	23 October 2018 (Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956) 15 March 2019 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 10 June 2019 (Whit Monday)	23 October 2018 (Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956) 15 March 2019 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 10 June 2019 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*.	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*.
End of teachers' school year	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*.	Institutional autonomy takes into account the concerning legal provision*.

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

According to the Act on Public Education, the minister responsible for education specifies the schedule of the school year in a ministerial decree. The Act stipulates that the school year starts on the first working day of September every year and finishes on the last working day prior to 16 June.

Thus schools have no autonomy in changing the first and last day of the school year but they have some autonomy in giving extra holidays before or after public holidays or school holidays for practical reasons (e.g. if a public holiday falls on a Thursday, the school may give Friday as holiday) if they provide teaching on a regular resting day (weekend) instead.

In addition to compulsory school days, schools also have five (in basic schools) or six (in upper-secondary schools) non-teaching days for educational purposes.

Holidays at schools providing minority education may differ from the above described school holidays to celebrate national traditions.

* Act No. CXC of 2011 Public Education Act, Act No. XXXIII of 1992 on the legal status of public servants and the Government Decree No. 326/2013 stipulate that the holidays of teachers primarily have to be given during the summer holiday. If not all days can be taken during that, the rest has to be provided during the autumn, winter or spring holidays or teaching days. (For teachers the autumn, winter and spring holidays are regarded as workdays without teaching).

ICELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 22 and 23 August 2018	Between 20 and 24 August 2018
End of students' school year	Between 4 and 7 June 2019	Between 22 and 24 May 2019
Autumn holidays	2-3 days in October 2018	2-3 days in October 2018
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 21 December 2018 – 3 January 2019	2 weeks 21 December 2018 – 4 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	2-3 days in February 2019	2-3 days in February 2019
Spring/Easter	8 days 15-23 April 2019	8 days 15-24 April 2019
Summer	11 weeks Between 4-7 June and 21 August 2019	12 weeks Between 29 May and 23 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	18 April 2019 19 April 2019 21 April 2019 22 April 2019 25 April 2019 1 May 2019 30 May 2019	18 April 2019 19 April 2019 21 April 2019 22 April 2019 25 April 2019 1 May 2019 30 May 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 13 and 22 August 2018	Between 16 and 23 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	Between 7 and 12 June 2019	Between 30 May and 5 June 2019

Additional notes

According to the Icelandic Teachers' Union collective agreement between The Association of Teachers in Primary and Lower Secondary Schools and Icelandic Association of Local Authorities, compulsory school teachers shall have 8 days accumulatively for preparation before the formal school year commences and after formal school year ends. Furthermore, teachers shall have 5 preparation days during the year. Upper secondary school teachers have a total of 4 working days before the beginning and/or the end of the school year. Total of school days for primary and lower secondary education are 180 per school year. For general upper secondary education, there should be 175 days in the period of 9 months plus 4 extra days outside regular 9 months period.

IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	First week of September 2018 ⁽¹⁾	Circa 27 August 2018
End of students' school year	End of June 2019 ⁽²⁾	End of State Examinations in June 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October 2018 – 2 November 2018 (inclusive)	1 week 29 October 2018 – 2 November 2018 (inclusive)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019 (inclusive)	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019 (inclusive)
Winter/Carnival	2 days 21-22 February 2019 ⁽³⁾	1 week 18-22 February 2019 (inclusive)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 15-26 April 2019 (inclusive)	2 weeks 15-26 April 2019 (inclusive)
Summer	About 9 weeks End of June until week of 1 September 2019	About 12 weeks June, July and most of August 2019
Public/religious holidays	17 March 2018 18 March 2018 St Patrick's Day observed 6 May 2018 3 June 2018 and some religious holidays	17 March 2018 18 March 2018 St Patrick's Day observed 7 May 2018 4 June 2018 and some religious holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2018	1 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2019	31 August 2019

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Primary Education

⁽¹⁾ In order to meet the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, the school year will normally commence during the week in which 1st September falls. The exact date is determined locally at Board of Management level.

⁽²⁾ School may use their own discretion to determine the precise ending of the school year in June, providing it has met the overall requirement of 183 days.

⁽³⁾ Primary school may use 3 discretionary days to extend their Winter/Carnival break to an alternative option of a 5 day break.

Circular 0009/2017 sets out the standardised school breaks at primary and post-primary level for the school years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

IRELAND (CONTINUED)

The arrangements for standardised closure at primary level (Circular 0009/2017) are agreed without prejudice to closure on specific days, within the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, dictated by religious observance that is required in schools under patronage of different denominations or faiths. In the absence of an adequate number of discretionary days a school authority may choose to utilise a religious observation day for non-tuition purpose when planning the school year.

The existing arrangements for school breaks may provide some limited flexibility to schools on certain other days outside of the defined periods. The scheduling of such days must not be used to extend or modify the period set out above in respect of mid-term, Christmas and Easter breaks save where a school has been affected by extensive or prolonged school closures or religious observance requirements of a school under a particular patronage makes this necessary.

It was not a requirement of this agreement that the commencement or end of the school year either at primary or post primary level should be standardised.

General Secondary

In accordance with Circular M29/95, the minimum number of teaching days per post-primary school will be 167. In addition and in accordance with Circular 0009/2017, holiday periods during the school year have been standardised, i.e. midterm breaks, Christmas and Easter holidays. Traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday. In order for schools to meet their requirement to be open for 167 days during 2018/19 school year, it is expected that post-primary schools will be open circa the 27 August 2018.

The above holidays are standardised in accordance with Circular 0009/2017. Since the introduction of the standardised school calendar, many schools which would have traditionally opened on the 1st September are now opening in late August in order to meet their full complement of days.

ITALY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 5 and 20 September 2018	Between 5 and 20 September 2018
End of students' school year	Between 7 and 15 June 2019	Between 7 and 15 June 2019
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	12 to 14 days between 22-24 December 2018 and 5 January 2019	12 to 14 days between 22-24 December 2018 and 5 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1-6 days in March	1-6 days in March
Spring/Easter	4-9 days between 18 and 27 April 2019, for all regions	4-9 days between 18 and 27 April 2019, for all regions
Third term	–	–
Summer	12-13 weeks between June and September 2019	12-13 weeks between June and September 2019
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2018 25 April 2019 1 May 2019 2 June 2019 (and Saints' days depending on the regions)	1 November 2018 25 April 2019 1 May 2019 2 June 2019 (and Saints' days depending on the regions)
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2018	1 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2019	31 August 2019

Source: Eurydice.

ITALY (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2018/19		
Primary and general secondary education		
	Beginning 2018	End 2019
Abruzzo	10 September	8 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	5 September (5-day weeks) 5 September (6-day weeks)	15 June (5-day weeks) 15 June (6-day weeks)
Basilicata	10 September	12 June
Calabria	17 September	8 June
Campania	12 September	8 June
Emilia-Romagna	17 September	7 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	10 September	12 June
Lazio	17 September	8 June
Liguria	17 September	11 June
Lombardia	12 September	8 June
Marche	17 September	8 June
Molise	13 September	8 June
Piemonte	10 September	8 June
Puglia	20 September	12 June
Sardegna	17 September	8 June
Sicilia	12 September	11 June
Toscana	17 September	10 June
Trentino (Trento)	12 September	8 June
Umbria	12 September	8 June
Valle d'Aosta	12 September	12 June
Veneto	12 September	8 June

Additional notes

Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the PTOF's requirements (the PTOF is the basic document of the cultural and planning identity of each school. It defines every three years the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school). Schools can organise in a flexible way the overall and single-subject timetable, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. The school year begins between the 1st and the 3rd week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June. The school adaptations of the school time should guarantee at least 200 days of lesson in the school year.

According to school autonomy, schools have up to 5 or 6 days available, which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

LATVIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Integrated primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	31 May 2019	31 May 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week 22-26 October 2018	1 week 22-26 October 2018
Winter holidays (Christmas/New Year)	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019	2 weeks 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019
Spring/Easter	1 week 11-15 March 2019	1 week 11-15 March 2019 18-22 March 2019 (for the 12th class)
Summer	13 weeks 3 June – 30 August 2019	13 weeks 3 June – 30 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	18 November 2018 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) – holiday transferred to 19 November 19-22 April 2019 (Easter) 1 May 2018 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day) 4 May 2019 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia) - holiday transferred to Monday, 6 May	18 November 2018 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) – holiday transferred to 19 November 19-22 April 2019 (Easter) 1 May 2018 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day) 4 May 2019 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia) – holiday transferred to Monday, 6 May
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Single structure compulsory education (integrated primary and lower-secondary education (*pamatizglītība*)): end of the school year for the 9th class: 14 June 2019.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12th class: 21 June 2019.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 3 September to 21 December 2018 and the second from 7 January to 31 May 2019 (and to 14 June for the 9th class and 21 June for the 12th class).

Education institutions decide when to carry out an additional 1 week long holidays in the second semester for the 1st class.

Education institutions decide when to carry out a 1 week long project week in the second semester.

Extension of the school year for classes 1-8 and 10-11 may be made if specific circumstances hindering education process arise during the school year (e.g. extreme temperature, strike, emergency situation in school, etc.).

Holidays (summer 2018): These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11.

Public holidays: 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.

Teachers: The teachers' school year concurs fully with students' year, but normally is longer and starts earlier, though the end and the start date is not defined officially. Teachers have the right to receive 8 weeks of paid annual leave in summer.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	20 August 2018
End of students' school year	5 July 2019
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 6-21 October 2018
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2018 – 6 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week 2-10 March 2019
Spring/Easter	2.5 weeks 18 April – 5 May 2019
Summer	6 weeks 6 July – 18 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	8 September 2018 – Birth of the Blessed Virgin Marie (<i>Mariä Geburt</i>) 1 November 2018 – All Saints Day (<i>Allerheiligen</i>) 8 December 2018 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception (<i>Mariä Empfängnis</i>) 2 February 2019 – Candlemas (<i>Maria Lichtmess</i>) 19 March 2019 – St. Josephs Day (<i>Josefitag</i>) 21-22 April 2019 – Easter Sunday/Easter Monday (<i>Ostern/Ostermontag</i>) 1 May 2019 – Labour Day (<i>Tag der Arbeit</i>) 30-31 May 2019 – Ascension Day (<i>Auffahrt</i>) 9-10 June 2019 – Whitsuntide/Whit Monday (<i>Pfingsten/Pfingsmontag</i>) 20-21 June 2019 – Corpus Christi (<i>Fronleichnam</i>)
Starting date of teachers' school year	20 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	5 July 2019

Source: Office of Education Liechtenstein.

Nation School Calendar 2017/18 – 2019/20: <https://www.llv.li/files/sa/schulamt-kalender2017.pdf>

LITHUANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2018	1 September 2018
End of students' school year	*	**
Autumn holidays	29 October – 2 November 2018	29 October – 2 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	27 December 2018 – 2 January 2019	27 December 2018 – 2 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	18-22 February 2019	18-22 February 2019
Spring/Easter	23-26 April 2019	23-26 April 2019
Summer	***	***
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2018 16 February 2019 11 March 2019 1 May 2019	1 November 2019 16 February 2019 11 March 2019 1 May 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher
End of teachers' school year	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher****	Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher****

Source: General Teaching Plans of Primary Education Curricula for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, No V-446, 2 June 2017. General Teaching Plans of Basic and Upper-Secondary Education Curricula for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, No V-442, 2 June 2017.

Additional note

* The duration of the education process for primary education – 175 days of education.

** The duration of the education process for 5-10 grade students and for the I-III gymnasiums class – 185 days of education, for the pupils of the IV gymnasium class – 165 days of education.

*** The beginning of summer holidays is determined by the head of the school, in agreement with the school council and the owner of the institution. Summer holidays for students of IV gymnasiums class start after the end of the matura examination session set by the Minister of Education and Science.

**** Since 1 July 2017, the new Labour Code was approved in Lithuania. According to it, the annual amount of leave for teachers is legislated as 40 work days. Normally, it is recommended that teachers take their annual leave during school summer holidays (i.e. teachers' leave is normally determined by the school calendar).

LUXEMBOURG

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2018	17 September 2018
End of students' school year	12 July 2019	12 July 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week 27 October – 4 November 2018	1 week 27 October – 4 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 22 December 2018 – 6 January 2019	2 weeks 22 December 2018 – 6 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week 16-24 February 2019	1 week 16-24 February 2019
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 6-22 April 2019	2 weeks 6-22 April 2019
Third term	1 week 25 May – 2 June 2019	1 week 25 May – 2 June 2019
Summer	8 weeks 13 July – 15 September 2019	8 weeks 13 July – 15 September 2019
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2018 (All Saints' Day) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 25 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 10 June 2019 (Whit Monday) 23 June 2019 (National Holiday)	1 November 2018 (All Saints' Day) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 25 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 10 June 2019 (Whit Monday) 23 June 2019 (National Holiday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	17 September 2018	17 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	12 July 2019	12 July 2019

Total number of school days from 17 September to 12 July: 177 days (weekends not included)

Total number of holidays from 17 September to 12 July: 61 days (the summer break not included)

MALTA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	26 September 2018	26 September 2018
End of students' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019
Autumn holidays	1, 2, 5 November 2018	1, 2, 5 November 2018
Christmas / New Year	24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019	24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019
Winter / Carnival	4, 5 March 2019	4, 5 March 2019
Spring / Easter	17-25 April 2019	17-25 April 2019
Third term	26 April – 28 June 2019	26 April – 28 June 2019
Summer	29 June – 25 September 2019	29 June – 25 September 2019
Public / religious holidays falling on week days	13 December 2018 19 March 2019 1 May 2019 7 June 2019	13 December 2018 19 March 2019 1 May 2019 7 June 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	24 September 2018	24 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	5 July 2019	5 July 2019

Additional notes

Half-yearly examinations take place from 12 February till 26 February 2019 for pupils in Year 9 and 10. During this period annual exams are held for Year 11, the last year of compulsive general secondary education.

The annual examinations for primary school pupils take place from 24 June till 28 June 2019 and for 12 June till 28 June 2019 for secondary school students from Year 7 till Year 10.

Year 6 students in primary schools sit for the End-of-Primary Benchmark Assessments held between the 24 and 31 May 2019.

During the month of June schools are on half-days.

Total number of school days in the primary and general secondary education including exam days is 172 days and total number of holidays is 26 days.

MONTENEGRO

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	12 June 2019 17 May 2019 (in the final year)	12 June 2019 17 May 2019 (in the final year)
Christmas/New Year/Winter	25-26 December 2018 1-2 January 2019 7-8 January 2019	25-26 December 2018 1-2 January 2019 7-8 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	29 December 2018 – 20 January 2019	29 December 2018 – 20 January 2019
Summer	13 June – 1 September 2019 18 May – 1 September 2019 for students of the final grade	13 June – 1 September 2019 18 May 2019 for students of the final grade Note: for the students in vocational education who have professional internship (10- 15 days), the summer vacation begins after the end of the internship.
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	1-2 January 2019 (New Year's Day) 1-2 May 2019 (International Labour Day) 21-22 May 2019 (Independence Day) 13-15 July 2019 (Statehood Day)	1-2 January 2019 (New Year's Day) 1-2 May 2019 (International Labour Day) 21-22 May 2019 (Independence Day) 13-15 July 2019 (Statehood Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	13 August 2018	13 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	5 July 2019	5 July 2019

Additional notes

Total number of teaching days for students of primary and secondary school is 182, while for the final year students of primary and secondary school total number of teaching days is 166.

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

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

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

Holidays are non-working days.

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

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

Religious holidays are non-working days.

Source: Eurydice.

THE NETHERLANDS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Northern region: 3 September 2018 Central region: 27 August 2018 Southern region: 20 August 2018	Northern region: 3 September 2018 Central region: 27 August 2018 Southern region: 20 August 2018
End of students' school year	Northern region: 20 July 2019 Central region: 13 July 2019 Southern region: 6 July 2019	Northern region: 20 July 2019 Central region: 13 July 2019 Southern region: 6 July 2019
Autumn holidays*	Northern region: 20-28 October 2018 Central region: 20-28 October 2018 Southern region: 13-21 October 2018	Northern region: 20-28 October 2018 Central region: 20-28 October 2018 Southern region: 13-21 October 2018
Christmas/New Year holidays	22 December 2018 to 6 January 2019	22 December 2018 to 6 January 2019
Winter/Carnival* (Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday)	Northern region: 16-24 February 2019 Central region: 23 February to 3 March 2019 Southern region: 23 February to 3 March 2019	Northern region: 16-24 February 2019 Central region: 23 February to 3 March 2019 Southern region: 23 February to 3 March 2019
Spring/Easter* (May Holiday)	27 April – 5 May 2019	27 April – 5 May 2019
Summer	Northern region: 13 July – 25 August 2019 Central region: 20 July – 1 September 2019 Southern region: 6 July – 18 August 2019	Northern region: 13 July – 25 August 2019 Central region: 20 July – 1 September 2019 Southern region: 6 July – 18 August 2019
Public holidays (national/religious/occasional)	22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2019 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2019 (Liberation day) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 10 June 2019 (Whit Monday)	22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2019 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2019 (Liberation day) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 10 June 2019 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See Additional notes	See Additional notes

THE NETHERLANDS (CONTINUED)

Additional notes

The school year officially runs from 1 August to 31 July of the following year. The start and end of the school year of the individual schools is according to the region (Northern, Central and Southern region).

Dates for the **summer holidays** are decided by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); also dates for **Christmas holidays** and **May holidays (one week)** are decided by the Ministry; other holidays are recommended by the Ministry. The dates of the autumn and spring holidays are decided by the competent authority of the school (school board), although the Ministry does publish advisory dates.

A balanced distribution of teaching time is important in the Netherlands. Schools have the opportunity to deviate from the recommended data, but they have to take into account the wishes and expectations of the parents/caregivers. The Primary Education Act requires schools to provide at least 7 520 teaching hours over the eight years that children attend school.

- In the Netherlands Carnival holiday is called Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday
- If the recommended period for the Spring Holiday does not fit with Carnival week; it can be expected that schools, especially in the Southern areas of the Netherlands, will not follow the recommendations and will close for Carnival.

The **teachers'** school year is similar to the students' school year. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether teachers are expected to end or start later (in order to attend meetings, for preparation of timetable, other non-teaching activities etc.)

School days 2018/19

The Primary Education Act requires schools to provide at least 7 520 teaching hours over the eight years that children attend school. That's an average of 940 hours per year. It is not really possible to provide a number of school days, because schools are free to decide this (but they have to meet the 7 520 teaching hours over eight years). There are differences between schools, it is up to the schools autonomy.

For secondary education the amount of teaching hours is as follows:

- 3700 hours for VMBO (over 4 years)
- 4700 hours for HAVO (over 5 years)
- 5700 hours for VWO (over 6 years)

Schools can choose how they organize their curriculum. As long as each student has the opportunity to follow a program that meets the statutory hours norm. And as long as students receive at least 189 days a year teaching (schooldays).

Holidays 2018/19

Secondary education: Per school year there is a maximum of up to 71 free days of school: 55 holidays, 4 public holidays and 12 rostered days off.

So there is also a lot of autonomy for schools.

NORWAY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education See additional note 1	General secondary education See additional note 1
Starting date of students' school year	Between 20 and 24 August 2018	Between 20 and 24 August 2018
End of students' school year	Between 17 and 21 June 2019	Between 17 and 21 June 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week (some only 2-3 days) between 30 September – 18 October 2018 (week 40, 41 or 42)	1 week (some only 2-3 days) between 30 September – 18 October 2018 (week 40, 41 or 42)
Christmas/New Year	Around 2 weeks between 20 December 2018 until week 1 in January 2019.	Around 2 weeks between 20 December 2018 until week 1 in January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 10 February and 28 February 2019 (Week 7, 8 or 9)	1 week between 10 February and 28 February 2019 (Week 7, 8 or 9)
Spring/Easter	Between 15-23 April 2019	Between 15-23 April 2019
Third term	–	–
Summer	Around 8 weeks Starts between 18-22 June until 21-22 August 2019	Around 8 weeks Starts between 18-22 June until 21-22 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 17 May 2019 (National Day) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 10 June 2019 (White Monday)	1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 17 May 2019 (National Day) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 10 June 2019 (White Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See Additional note 2.	See Additional note 2.
End of teachers' school year	See Additional note 2.	See Additional note 2.

Additional notes

Note 1: According to The Education Act § 2.2 (primary and lower secondary schools) and 3.2 (upper secondary schools): the municipality/county issues regulations concerning school days and holidays for the pupils during the school year. These regulations shall be adapted to national tests and examinations.

The time allocated to teaching in school shall not be less than 38 school weeks within a framework of 45 consecutive weeks during the school year. Within these limits, there are normally 190 days with teaching.

Note 2: The teachers' working hours are 1 300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1 225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1 150 hours for upper secondary education (ISCED 3). The teachers must work minimum 6 days more than the pupil's school year, for planning, evaluation, competence development, cooperation with colleagues, e.g.

Teacher working time is negotiated between teacher organisations and the organisation of local government (KS.no) and is described in a common agreement <http://www.ks.no/globalassets/blokker-til-hvert-fagomrade/arbeidsgiver/tariff-lov--og-avtaleverk/b-rundskriv-9-2014---undervisningspersonalet---arbeidstid-og-diverse-bestemmelser.pdf>

POLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	21 June 2019	21 June 2019
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	23-31 December 2018	23-31 December 2018
Winter	<p>2 weeks as specified for the following regions:</p> <p>14-27 January 2019 kujawsko-pomorskie lubuskie małopolskie świętokrzyskie wielkopolskie</p> <p>21 January – 3 February 2019 podlaskie warmińsko-mazurskie</p> <p>28 January – 10 February 2019 dolnośląskie mazowieckie opolskie zachodniopomorskie</p> <p>11-24 February 2019 lubelskie łódzkie podkarpackie pomorskie śląskie</p>	<p>2 weeks as specified for the following regions:</p> <p>14-27 January 2019 kujawsko-pomorskie lubuskie małopolskie świętokrzyskie wielkopolskie</p> <p>21 January – 3 February 2018 podlaskie warmińsko-mazurskie</p> <p>28 January – 10 February 2019 dolnośląskie mazowieckie opolskie zachodniopomorskie</p> <p>11-24 February 2019 lubelskie łódzkie podkarpackie pomorskie śląskie</p>
Spring/Easter	18-23 April 2019	18-23 April 2019
Third term	–	–
Summer	22 June – 31 August 2019	22 June – 31 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2018 1 January 2019 1, 3 May 2019 20 June 2019	1 November 2018 1 January 2019 1, 3 May 2019 20 June 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	21 June 2019	21 June 2019

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

In addition, the school head has the possibility to determine some extra days off (e.g. 8 for primary, 10 for upper secondary schools) that may be devoted to external tests and exams and/or religious festivals not being registered as official public holidays.

PORTUGAL

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 12 and 17 September 2018	Between 12 and 17 September 2018
End of students' school year*	14 June 2019 – grades 5 and 6 21 June 2019 – grades 1 to 4	5 June 2019 – grades 9, 11 and 12 14 June 2019 – grades 7, 8 and 10
First term	12/17 September – 14 December 2018	12/17 September – 14 December 2018
Christmas/New Year	17 December 2018 to 2 January 2019	17 December 2018 to 2 January 2019
Second term	3 January – 5 April 2019	3 January – 5 April 2019
Winter/Carnival	4 to 6 March 2019	4 to 6 March 2019
Spring/Easter	8 to 22 April 2019	8 to 22 April 2019
Third term*	23 April 2019 – 14 June 2019 for grades 5 and 6 21 June 2019 for grades 1 to 4	23 April 2019 – 5 June 2019 for grades 9, 11 and 12 14 June 2019 for grades 7, 8 and 10
Summer*	About 11-12 weeks	About 12-13 weeks
Public/religious holidays	5 October 2018 1 November 2018 25 April 2019 1 May 2019 10 June 2019 20 June 2019	5 October 2018 1 November 2018 25 April 2019 1 May 2019 10 June 2019 20 June 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year**	See Additional notes	See Additional notes
End of teachers' school year**	See Additional notes	See Additional notes

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

The total number of instruction days varies between 175 and 180 days.

* National exams occur until the end of July.

** The official teachers' school year lasts from 1 September to 31 August. Teachers have the right to take summer holidays between the end of pupils' school year and the beginning of the following school year.

ROMANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	10 September 2018	10 September 2018
End of students' school year	14 June 2019	14 June 2019
Autumn holidays	27 October – 4 November 2018	–
Christmas/New Year	22 December 2018 – 13 January 2019	22 December 2018 – 13 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	2-10 February 2019	2-10 February 2019
Spring/Easter	20 April – 5 May 2019	20 April – 5 May 2019
Summer	15 June – 15 September 2019	15 June – 15 September 2019
Public/religious holidays	30 November 2018 24 January 2019 26 April 2019 29 April 2019 1 May 2019	30 November 2018 24 January 2019 26 April 2019 29 April 2019 1 May 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2018	1 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2019	31 August 2019

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

1. The schools and the School Inspectorates will mark with specific events the following days:

- 5 October 2018 = World Teachers' Day
- 5 June 2019 = Primary Teacher's Day
- 1 June 2019 = International Children's Day

2. One week (5 consecutive working days) is dedicated to extracurricular and extra-school activities, within the National Programme *Other kind of school* [*Școala altfel*], with a specific timetable.

3. In exceptional situations, depending on the local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the organisation of the school year can be modified at the request of schools, approved by the regional education authorities (County School Inspectorate). Approval is given if the number of 168 school days (34 weeks) is maintained and all pupils may participate without restrictions in national examinations.

SERBIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary and lower secondary education (primary school)	Upper secondary education (secondary school)
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	
End of students' school year	Final (8th) grade: 31 May 2019 Other grades: 14 June 2019	Final (4th) grade in grammar schools: 24 May 2019 Final (3rd or 4th) grade in vocational secondary schools: 31 May 2019 Other grades: 21 June 2019
Autumn holidays	9 to 12 November 2018	n/a
Christmas/New Year	3-8 January 2019	31 December 2018 – 8 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1-14 February 2019	
Spring/Easter	30 April – 3 May 2019	26 April – 3 May 2019
Summer	17 June – 30 August 2019	21 June – 31 August 2018
Public/religious holidays	<p>21 October 2018 – public (working) holiday (falls on Sunday) 11-12 November 2017 – national holiday (falls on Sunday-Monday) 1-2 January 2019 – New Year holiday 7 January 2019 – religious holiday (Christmas for Orthodox Christians – falls on Monday) 27 January 2019 – religious (working) holiday (St Sava's Day / all schools Saint patron's day, falls on Sunday) 15-16 February 2019 – national holiday (falls on Friday – Saturday) 26-29 April 2019 – religious holiday (Easter for Orthodox Christians) 1-2 May 2019 – national holiday 22 April 2019 – public (working) holiday (falls on Sunday) 9 May 2019 – public (working) holiday 28 June 2018 – public (working) holiday</p> <p><i>Orthodox Christians are also entitled to one day off for the saint patron's day (so called Slava).</i></p> <p>Note <i>In addition to the religious holidays mentioned above which are related to the majority Orthodox Christians religious community, the members of other large religious communities in the country are entitled to have non-working days for their most important religious holidays:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Islam religious community – 21 August 2018 (Curban Bayrami) and 4 June 2019 (Ramadan)</i> • <i>Jewish religious community – 19 September 2018 (Yom Kippur)</i> • <i>Catholic and Protestant religious community – 25 December 2018 (Christmas) and 19 March to 22 April 2018 (Easter)</i> 	
Starting date of teachers' school year	Exact starting date of teachers' school year is determined at institutional (school) level. As required at central level, teachers have vacation days as any other employees (minimum is 20 days per year for teachers entering the profession), which they have to use during the school holidays. Teachers usually start the school year a couple of weeks before students (mid-August).	
End of teachers' school year	Exact end date of teachers' school year is determined at institutional (school) level. As required at central level, teachers have vacation days as any other employees (minimum is 20 days per year for teachers entering the profession), which they have to use during the school holidays. Teachers usually end the school year several weeks after students (mid-July).	

Source: Eurydice.

SERBIA (CONTINUED)

Additional notes

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia issues the Regulations on school calendar for primary and secondary education each year for the forthcoming school year.

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Pravilnik-ŠK-za-osnovne-škole.pdf>

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Tabelarni-pregled-kalendara-za-OS-za-RS-1819-14-05-18.pdf>

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Pravilnik-SS-kalendar-4.pdf>

<http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Tabelarni-pregled-kalendara-za-SS-za-RS-1819-25-05-18.pdf>

Final grade students in both primary and secondary education finish the school year earlier in order to prepare for final and entrance exams.

Primary and lower secondary education (primary school): the school calendar for 2018/19 for grades 1 to 7 has a total of 36 working weeks (180 school working days). School calendar for the 8th (final) grade comprised 34 working weeks (170 school working days).

Upper secondary education (secondary school): In general upper secondary education, there are 37 working weeks (185 school working days) in grades 1 to 3, and 33 working weeks (165 school working days) in the final (4th) grade. In vocational upper secondary education, the calendar for all grades except the final comprised 37 working weeks (185 school working days), while the final grade's calendar (3rd or 4th) consists of 34 working weeks (170 school working days).

Holidays can be national (which are always non-working), public and religious (working or non-working). All in all, according to the school calendar, there are 11 holidays. In addition, both students and education staff who belong to different religious communities are allowed to be absent from school during religious holidays specific for their community (enumerated above).

SLOVAKIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019
Autumn holidays	3 days 31 October – 2 November 2018	3 days 31 October – 2 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	24 December 2018 – 7 January 2019	24 December 2018 – 7 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 day 1 February 2019 1 week according to regions: 18-22 February 2019 Košice, Prešov 25 February – 1 March 2019 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 4-8 March 2019 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín	1 day 1 February 2019 1 week according to regions: 18-22 February 2019 Košice, Prešov 25 February – 1 March 2019 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 4-8 March 2019 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín
Spring/Easter	4 days (Easter holidays) 18-23 April 2019	4 days (Easter holidays) 18-23 April 2019
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2019	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2019 8 May 2019	1 May 2019 8 May 2019
Starting date of teachers' school year	Usually one week before the beginning of the school year	Usually one week before the beginning of the school year
End of teachers' school year	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Official school year lasts from 1 September to 31 August. If 2 September falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday starting date of school year is next Monday.

Total number of school/academic days: 187 days

Total number of holidays: 94 days (includes 60 working days, 23 weekends, 11 public/religious holidays)

According to the Labour Code, teachers and school heads at primary and secondary levels have 8 weeks of holidays per calendar year. They take it during the holidays. Usually, teachers work one week after beginning of summer holidays and one week before the beginning of the school year.

SLOVENIA

Organisation of school time in single structure education and general upper secondary education – 2018/19

	Single structure education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	24 June 2019 14 June 2019 (final grade)	24 June 2019 20 May 2019 (final grade)
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 4 November 2018	1 week 29 October – 4 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	1 week 25 December 2018 – 2 January 2019	1 week 25 December 2018 – 2 January 2019
Prešeren Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday	8 February 2019	8 February 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week 18-24 February 2019 (Eastern region) 25 February – 3 March 2019 (Western region)	1 week 18-24 February 2019 (Eastern region) 25 February – 3 March 2019 (Western region)
Spring holidays	1 week 27 April – 2 May 2019	1 week 27 April – 2 May 2019
Summer holidays	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2019	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	22 April 2019 (Easter Monday)	22 April 2019 (Easter Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	10-15 days before students start school	10-15 days before students start school
End of teachers' school year	Beginning to mid-July 2019	Beginning to mid-July 2019

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Slovenia has a single structure compulsory school of nine years.

For pupils and upper-secondary students, the school year officially begins on 1 September and ends on 31 August, however, the lessons end in June.

For teachers, the school year begins 10 to 15 days before the students start school, i.e. mid-August and ends in the beginning or mid-July. The exact duration depends on the days of annual leave allocated to an individual (22 to 35 days) and tasks and obligations appointed by the school head.

SPAIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19 ^(1, 2)

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 6 and 12 September 2018	Between 7 and 14 September 2018
End of students' school year	Between 19 and 28 June 2019	Between 18 and 26 June ⁽³⁾ 2019
Christmas/New Year	At least 2 weeks between 21 December 2018 and 7 January 2019	At least 2 weeks between 21 December 2018 and 7 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	Between 2 and 3 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾	Between 2 and 3 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾
Spring/Easter	About 10 days in the period between 12 and 29 April 2019	About 10 days in the period between 12 and 29 April 2019
Summer	11 weeks between late June and mid-September	11 weeks between late June and mid-September
Public/religious holidays	Between 8 and 14 (5 of them common throughout the country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).	Between 8 and 14 (5 of them common throughout the country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019 ⁽⁵⁾

Additional notes

⁽¹⁾ Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities, see the table below.

⁽²⁾ The total minimum number of school days is 175 in compulsory education in all Autonomous Communities, although there are some additional days in several Communities.

⁽³⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes finish two, three or four weeks earlier than in other stages. This time is meant for preparing entrance examinations to universities and the final evaluation of *Bachillerato*, among others.

⁽⁴⁾ The Autonomous Communities of Castilla y León, Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura will allocate two days for Carnival. In the case of Galicia and Asturias it will be three days.

⁽⁵⁾ The management team of schools must stay in the school until 31 July.

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the starting and the end of students' school year 2018/19 in the different Autonomous Communities

	Primary education		General secondary education ⁽¹⁾	
	Beginning (2018)	End (2019)	Beginning (2018)	End (2019)
Andalucía	10 September	21 June	17 September	25 June
Aragón	10 September	20 June	13 September	24 June
Principado de Asturias	10 September	19 June	14 September	25 June
Baleares	12 September	21 June	12 September	21 June
Canarias	10 September	21 June	12 September	21 June
Cantabria ⁽²⁾	7 September	21 June	14 September	27 June
Castilla y León	10 September	21 June	17 September	21 June
Castilla-La Mancha	10 September	21 June	13 September	26 June
Cataluña	12 September	21 June	12 September	21 June
Ceuta	11 September	21 June	11 September	21 June
Extremadura	12 September	21 June	12 September	21 June
Galicia	12 September	21 June	17 September	21 June
La Rioja	6 September	21 June	7 September	24 June
Madrid	7 September	21 June	10 September	21 June
Melilla	11 September	21 June	11 September	21 June
Región de Murcia ⁽³⁾	Between 4 and 10 September	Between 21 and 28 June	Between 12 and 18 September	Between 18 and 26 June
Comunidad Foral de Navarra ⁽⁴⁾	Not before 6 September	No later than 21 June	Not before 7 September	No later than 18 June
País Vasco ⁽⁴⁾	Not before 7 September	No later than 21 June	Not before 7 September	No later than 19 June
C. Valenciana	10 September	20 June	10 September	18 June

Additional notes

⁽¹⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes end up to two, three or four weeks earlier than in the rest of stages. This time is used to prepare the university admission examinations (and final evaluation of *Bachillerato*, among others).

⁽²⁾ In the Autonomous Community of Cantabria the school calendar follows a special pattern which differs from the rest of the country. There is a break of one week in October (29 Oct – 2 Nov) and another break of 5 days at the end of February (28 Feb – 4 Mar). Easter and Christmas are similar to the rest of Autonomous Communities.

⁽³⁾ In the Autonomous Community of Región de Murcia: the beginning and end periods vary according to municipalities. Consequently, there is a range of days for such municipalities to establish their own starting and end dates of the school year in the different levels of education.

⁽⁴⁾ Autonomous Communities of Navarra and País Vasco: schools are free to establish their own calendar taking into account the limit starting and ending dates established by the educational authorities.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in compulsory education (*grundskola*) and in general upper secondary education (*gymnasieskola*) – 2018 /19

	Single structure compulsory education (<i>grundskola</i>)	General upper secondary education (<i>gymnasieskola</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	Late in August	Late in August
End of students' school year	Mid-June	Mid-June
According to the School Ordinance and the Upper Secondary School Ordinance, a school year consists of at least 178 school days and at least 12 holidays – the exact dates vary on regional and municipality level. In addition to the school days and the holidays, schools are able to conduct five in-service training days (at most) for the staff.		
Autumn holidays	30 October – 3 November 2018	30 October – 3 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	Starts 22 December 2018 Ends 7 January 2019	Starts 22 December 2018 Ends 7 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 11 February – 8 March 2019	1 week between 11 February – 8 March 2019
Spring/Easter	1 week between 15-26 April 2019	1 week between 15-26 April 2019
Summer	About 10 weeks	About 10 weeks
Public/religious holidays	19 April 2019 (Good Friday) 22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2019 (National Day)	19 April 2019 (Good Friday) 22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2019 (National Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August	Mid-August
End of teachers' school year	Mid-June	Mid-June

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Sweden has a single structure compulsory school (9 years) with no differences between stages. Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels, dates here are indicative.

Teachers usually start their work earlier for planning etc. Continuous professional development (CPD) is the responsibility of the employer and it can take place when the pupils are in school or not.

SWITZERLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Staggered between 13 August and 3 September 2018	Staggered between 13 August and 3 September 2018
End of students' school year	Staggered between 14 June and 12 July 2019	Staggered between 14 June and 12 July 2019
Autumn holidays	Between 1 and 3 weeks staggered between 22 September and 27 October 2018	Between 1 and 3 weeks staggered between 22 September and 27 October 2018
Christmas/New Year	Between 1.5 and 2 weeks staggered between 22 December 2018 and 6 January 2019	Between 1.5 and 2 weeks staggered between 22 December 2018 and 6 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	Between 1 and 2 weeks staggered between 7 January and 17 March 2019	Between 1 and 2 weeks staggered between 7 January and 17 March 2019
Spring/Easter	Between 1 and 3 weeks staggered between 4 April and 19 May 2019	Between 1 and 2 weeks staggered between 4 April and 12 May 2019
Third term	–	–
Summer	Between 5 and 11 weeks staggered between 15 June and 1 September 2019	Between 5 and 11 weeks staggered between 15 June and 1 September 2019
Public/religious holidays	10 May 2019 (Whit Monday) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day)	10 May 2019 (Whit Monday) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2018	1 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2019	31 July 2019

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes

According to Switzerland's federal structure, the starting date/end of students' school year (for details see table I) and school holidays vary between cantons, in some cantons even between municipalities (for details see table II).

With a few exceptions the teachers' official school year starts 1st August and ends on 31 July. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether teachers are expected to start or end later (in order to attend meetings, to prepare for teaching, etc.).

The only national holiday is 1st August (National Day). All other public and religious holidays are fixed by the cantons. New Year's Day, Ascension and Christmas Day are the only holidays all cantons have in common. In most cantons Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday and Boxing Day are also official holidays.

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE I: Specification for starting/end of students' school year and summer holidays

Canton	Beginning of students' school year 2018/19	End of students' school year 2018/19	Summer holidays 2019
Aargau	13 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 11 August
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	13 August 2018	28 June 2019	29 June – 11 August
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	13 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 11 August
Bern*	13 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 11 August
Basel-Landschaft	13 August 2018	28 June 2019	29 June – 11 August
Basel-Stadt	13 August 2018	28 June 2019	29 June – 11 August
Fribourg*	23 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 28 August
Geneva	27 August 2018	28 June 2019	29 June – 25 August
Glarus	13 August 2018	28 June 2019	29 June – 11 August
Graubünden*	13 August 2018	28 June 2019	29 June – 18 August
Jura	20 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 18 August
Lucerne*	20 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 18 August
Neuchâtel	20 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 18 August
Nidwalden*	20 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 18 August
Obwalden*	20 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 18 August
St. Gallen	13 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 11 August
Schaffhausen	13 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 11 August
Solothurn	13 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 11 August
Schwyz*	20 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 18 August
Thurgau	13 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 11 August
Ticino	3 September 2018	14 June 2019	15 June – 1 September
Uri*	20 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 18 August
Vaud	27 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 25 August
Valais*	20 August 2018	19 June 2019	20 June – 18 August
Zug	20 August 2018	5 July 2019	6 July – 18 August
Zurich*	20 August 2018	12 July 2019	13 July – 18 August

* with variation between regions/municipalities

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Canton	Autumn 2018	Christmas / New Year 2018/19	Winter 2019	Spring / Easter 2019
Aargau*	1-14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	variable	13-28 April
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	6-21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	1-10 March	6-22 April
Appenzell Ausserrhoden*	29 Sept. – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	variable	6-22 April
Bern*	22 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	variable	6-22 April
Basel-Landschaft*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 2 Jan.	2-17 March	13-28 April
Basel-Stadt	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2-17 March	13-28 April
Fribourg*	13-28 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2-10 March	13-28 April
Geneva	20-28 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	16-24 Feb.	4-22 April
Glarus	6-21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	26 Jan. – 3 Feb.	30 March – 15 April
Graubünden*	6-21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	25 Feb. – 3 March	13-28 April
Jura	6-21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	16-24 Feb.	13-28 April
Lucerne*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 10 March	19 April – 5 May
Neuchâtel	6-21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 3 March	13-28 April
Nidwalden*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 10 March	19 April – 5 May
Obwalden*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 10 March	19 April – 5 May
St. Gallen	29 Sept. – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	variable	6-22 April
Schaffhausen	29 Sept. – 21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 2 Jan.	26 Jan. – 10 Feb.	13-28 April
Solothurn*	29 Sept. – 21 Oct.	25 Dec. – 6 Jan.	4-17 Feb.	6-22 April
Schwyz*	29 Sept. – 14 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 3 March	27 April – 12 May
Thurgau	6-21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	26 Jan. – 3 Feb.	19-28 April
Ticino	27 Oct. – 4 Nov.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2-10 March	30 March – 8 April
Uri*	6-21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 10 March	19 April – 5 May
Vaud	13-28 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	23 Feb. – 3 March	13-28 April
Valais*	20 Oct. – 4 Nov.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2-10 March	19-28 April
Zug	6-21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	2-17 March	13-28 April
Zurich*	6-21 Oct.	22 Dec. – 6 Jan.	9-24 Feb.	19 April – 5 May

* with variation between regions/municipalities

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 September 2018 (1st grade – 10 September 2018)	17 September 2018 (1st grade – 10 September 2018)
End of students' school year	14 June 2019	14 June 2019
Christmas/New Year	1 January 2019	1 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 18 January – 1 February 2019	2 weeks 18 January – 1 February 2019
Summer	13 weeks 14 June – 16 September 2019	13 weeks 14 June – 16 September 2019
Public/religious holidays	29 October 2018 (No holiday – Republic Day) 23 April 2019 (1 day – Children's Day) 1 May 2019 (1 day – Labour Day) 19 May 2019 (No holiday – Youth and Sport Day)	29 October 2018 (No holiday – Republic Day) 23 April 2019 (1 day – Children's Day) 1 May 2019 (1 day – Labour Day) 19 May 2019 (No holiday – Youth and Sport Day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Beginning September	Beginning September
End of teachers' school year	Beginning July	Beginning July

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

In primary and general secondary education, a school year must contain at least 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June. The total number of public/religious holidays is only 2 days. A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-week holiday, called mid-school year holiday. The summer holidays are between June and September. Decisions on ending/starting semester dates are made by the Ministry.

Source: The work schedule of Ministry of National Education.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	First week of September 2018	First week of September 2018
End of students' school year	Mid-end July 2019	Mid-end July 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week 22 to 26 October <i>or</i> 29 October to 2 November 2018	1 week 22 to 26 October <i>or</i> 29 October to 2 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks between 20 December 2018 and 4 January 2019	2 weeks between 20 December 2018 and 4 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week 18 to 22 February <i>or</i> 25 February to 1 March 2019	1 week 18 to 22 February <i>or</i> 25 February to 1 March 2019
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 8 to 22 April <i>or</i> 15 to 26 April 2019	2 weeks 8 to 22 April <i>or</i> 15 to 26 April 2019
Third term	1 week 27 to 31 May 2019	1 week 27 to 31 May 2019
Summer	6 weeks between mid-July and first week of September 2019	6 weeks between mid-July and first week of September 2019
Public/religious holidays	6 May 2019 – early May bank holiday (see Additional notes) 27 May 2019 – late May bank holiday (within third term holiday)	6 May 2019 – early May bank holiday (see Additional notes) 27 May 2019 – late May bank holiday (within third term holiday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	First week of September 2018	First week of September 2018
End of teachers' school year	Mid-end July 2019	Mid-end July 2019

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

The school year is normally divided into three terms, each of which is divided into two half terms separated by a half term holiday. Students have a total of around 14 weeks' holiday per year. The dates of school holidays take into account and cover most public holidays including Easter.

The table shows the typical patterns for maintained community and voluntary-controlled schools, for which term dates are determined by the local authority. For foundation and voluntary-aided schools (other categories of maintained school), term dates are determined by the school governing body. For academies (which constitute the majority of secondary schools and a large minority of primary schools), there are no regulations; the academy trust determines the number of school sessions and the term dates.

Maintained schools are required to be open for a minimum of 380 half-day sessions each year, in accordance with the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999, as amended. Teachers are required to be available for five additional days when pupils are not present, i.e. for 195 days in total. These days are used for staff training and development. Individual schools can decide when to schedule these days within term-time and many schools schedule some or all of these days either at the start or end of term.

Schools with a significant number of pupils who will be celebrating non-Christian religious festivals (for example Eid-UI-Adha, Eid-UI-Fitr, Guru Nanak's birthday, Diwali) may consider making these optional closure days.

UNITED KINGDOM – WALES

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	22 July 2019	22 July 2019
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October to 2 November 2018	1 week 29 October to 2 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2018 to 4 January 2019	2 weeks 24 December 2018 to 4 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	1 week 18 to 22 February 2019 (Group B) <i>or</i> 25 February to 1 March 2019 (Group A). See Additional Notes	1 week 18 to 22 February 2019 (Group B) <i>or</i> 25 February to 1 March 2019 (Group A). See Additional Notes
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 15 to 26 April 2019	2 weeks 15 to 26 April 2019
Third term	1 week 27 to 31 May 2019	1 week 27 to 31 May 2019
Summer	6 weeks 22 July to 30 August 2019	6 weeks 22 July to 30 August 2019
Public/religious holidays	6 May 2019 – early May bank holiday (see Additional notes) 27 May 2019 – late May Bank Holiday (within third term holiday)	6 May 2019 – early May bank holiday (see Additional notes) 27 May 2019 – late May Bank Holiday (within third term holiday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	First week of September 2018	First week of September 2018
End of teachers' school year	Third week of July 2019	Third week of July 2019

Source: [Cabinet Secretary for Education's Written Statement – School Term Dates 2018/19](#)

Additional notes

Traditionally, the school year is divided into three terms, each of which is divided into two half terms separated by a half term holiday. Students have approximately 14 weeks' holiday per year. The dates of school holidays are normally planned to take into account and cover most national public holidays including Easter.

The Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (as amended), require schools to be open for a minimum of 380 half-day sessions each year. Teachers are required to be available for training and development purposes for five additional days when pupils are not present, i.e. for 195 days in total.

Under the Education (Wales) Act 2014, local authorities (LAs) and the governing bodies of voluntary aided and foundation schools are under a duty to co-operate and co-ordinate with each other to ensure that term dates are the same or as similar as possible. For 2018/19, consistent dates have been agreed by most LAs and voluntary aided and foundation schools (Group A). Five LAs, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen (Group B) have chosen different dates for the Winter/Carnival half term holiday only. For further information, see the Cabinet Secretary for Education's written statement on school term dates [2018/19](#).

UNITED KINGDOM – NORTHERN IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019
Autumn holidays	3 days 31 October to 2 November 2018	3 days 31 October to 2 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	7 days 24 December 2018 to 1 January 2019	7 days 24 December 2018 to 1 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	2 days 18 to 19 February 2019	2 days 18 to 19 February 2019
Spring/Easter	7 days 18 to 26 April 2019	7 days 18 to 26 April 2019
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks Between 1 July and first week of September 2019	9 weeks Between 1 July and first week of September 2019
Public/religious holidays	6 May 2019 – early May bank holiday 27 May 2019 – late May bank holiday	6 May 2019 – early May bank holiday 27 May 2019 – late May bank holiday
Starting date of teachers' school year	3 September 2018	3 September 2018
End of teachers' school year	28 June 2019	28 June 2019

Source: Department of Education (DE) School holidays [article](#)

Additional notes

Schools are required to be in operation for 200 days. The number of days that pupils are taught in the classroom may vary from 185 to 190 days when optional closing days, teacher training days and School Development Days (SDDs) are taken into account. Students have approximately 14 weeks' holiday per year.

The five optional closing days may be taken as an extension to the Easter, Christmas or summer holidays or to cover closure in exceptional circumstances, for example, the death of someone connected with the school or a planned event such as a move to new premises/building work or a religious holiday.

Teachers are required to be available for work on 195 days, of which no more than 190 days should involve teaching children in the classroom. The remaining five non-contact days are used for training purposes. Schools may also avail themselves of up to five School Development Days (SDDs) for the purpose of school improvement and school/staff development. Decisions on when to take these days are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education Authority or board of governors. For further information, see Circular [2017/14](#).

St. Patrick's Day 2019 – Most years, some schools close on St. Patrick's Day, which is a public holiday. In 2019, St. Patrick's Day falls on Sunday 17 March. While the public holiday moves to Monday 18 March, this date is not included as a set day of closure in the Department of Education (DE) [article](#) on school holidays.

UNITED KINGDOM – SCOTLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Mid-August 2018	Mid-August 2018
End of students' school year	End June/early July 2019	End June/early July 2019
Autumn holidays	All schools will take 1 to 2 weeks between 1 and 26 October 2018. Some will also take 1 to 2 days in September 2018 and/or November 2018.	All schools will take 1 to 2 weeks between 1 and 26 October 2018. Some will also take 1 to 2 days in September 2018 and/or November 2018.
Christmas/New Year	Around 2 weeks between 21 December 2018 to 8 January 2019	Around 2 weeks between 21 December 2018 to 8 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	From 1 day to 1 week between 4 and 26 February 2019	From 1 day to 1 week between 4 and 26 February 2019
Spring/Easter	About 2 weeks between 1 and 22 April 2019	About 2 weeks between 1 and 22 April 2019
Summer mid-term holidays	Schools will take at least one day between 4 and 28 May 2019, but some take up to 4 days during this period	Schools will take at least one day between 4 and 28 May 2019, but many take up to 4 days during this period
Summer	End June/early July 2019	End June/early July 2019
Public/religious holidays	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August 2018	Mid-August 2018
End of teachers' school year	End June/early July 2019	End June/early July 2019

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year, and have 71 holiday days. The teachers' school year is longer by 5 in-service days (195 days). There are around 30 holiday days during term time (i.e. excluding summer holidays and weekends). With the summer holidays it would be closer to 65 days in total, however this varies between schools due to different start and end dates.

As school holidays (and in-service days) are not fixed nationally, but by each of the 32 local education authorities, term dates vary from one authority to another. There are no differences between primary and secondary schools.

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The Organisation of School Time in Europe. Primary and General Secondary Education – 2018/19

The school calendar contains national data on the length of the school year, the start and the end dates of each school year, the timing and length of school holidays and the number of school days. Key points are illustrated by comparative figures. The information is available for 38 countries covering both primary and general secondary education.

The Eurydice network's task is to understand and explain how Europe's different education systems are organised and how they work. The network provides descriptions of national education systems, comparative studies devoted to specific topics, indicators and statistics. All Eurydice publications are available free of charge on the Eurydice website or in print upon request. Through its work, Eurydice aims to promote understanding, cooperation, trust and mobility at European and international levels. The network consists of national units located in European countries and is coordinated by the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. For more information about Eurydice, see <http://ec.europa.eu/eurydice>.

