



The Organisation of the Academic Year in Europe

2014/15

Eurydice – Facts and Figures

*Education
and Training*

AUSTRIA

Type of programme: Universities

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2014
Teaching activities and holiday periods	The academic year consists of the winter semester, the summer semester and the periods during which no courses are held. (The so-called 'lecture-free' time is comparable to the summer holidays of schools.) Christmas (2 weeks), Semester holidays (February), Easter (2 weeks); summer holidays (July to September); no more detailed information available. All holiday periods are set by the university's senate.
Examinations	No centrally set dates but most of examinations are carried out in January, March, June and October.
End of the academic year	30 September 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	26 October 2014 1 November 2014 8 December 2014 25-26 December 2014 1 January 2015 6 January 2015 21 April 2015 1 May 2015 25 May 2015 4 June 2015 14 June 2015 15 August 2015
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of periods: about 4 months winter semester, about 4 months summer semester.

AUSTRIA (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Starts generally between 1 September and 10 October.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by the institutions. Usually teaching activities last 15-20 weeks (mostly 15 weeks for full-time programmes, 18-20 weeks mainly for part-time programmes). Usually there are: Christmas holidays (around 2 weeks), Easter holidays (1-2 weeks) and the periods between the semesters.
Examinations	Institutions are free to fix examination dates.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year usually ends at the date the new one begins.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	26 October 2014 1 November 2014 8 December 2014 25-26 December 2014 1 January 2015 6 January 2015 6. April 2015 1 May 2015 25 May 2015 4 June 2015 14 June 2015 15 August 2015
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of semesters is fixed by institutions autonomously. The Law on <i>Fachhochschulen</i> does not state details on 'semesters'. Winter semester: between 4 and 6 months Summer semester: between 4 and 6 months

AUSTRIA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: *Pädagogische Hochschulen* (University Colleges of Teacher Education): bachelor-programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2014
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The academic year consists of the winter semester, the summer semester and the periods during which courses are not held (so-called 'lecture-free' time; § 2 (1) <i>Hochschul-Zeitverordnung</i>).</p> <p>The study commission may state that – due to organisational reasons – studies, examinations and traineeship (<i>Praktikum</i>) have to take place also during the lecture-free time (see § 3 (2) <i>Hochschul-Zeitverordnung</i>).</p>
Examinations	<p>Examinations and traineeship (<i>Praktikum</i>) have to take place generally during the winter semester or during the summer semester.</p> <p>Necessary examinations may also be arranged during the lecture-free time (on decision of the respective study commission; see § 3 (2) <i>Hochschul-Zeitverordnung</i>).</p>
End of the academic year	30 September 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Christmas: about 2 weeks, semester holidays: 1 week, Easter (Saturday before Palm Sunday until Tuesday after Easter); summer holidays (1 July-30 September 2014).</p> <p>There is a certain amount of autonomy in deciding upon the lecture-free time (For example: semester holidays may be the 1st; 2nd or 3rd week of February; set by the respective study commission).</p>
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	<p>Winter semester: 4 months</p> <p>Summer semester: 5 months</p>

BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	At the earliest 1 September and at the latest 1 October. Occurs generally between 15 September and 1 October.
Teaching activities (1 st semester)	From the beginning of the academic year until 20 December
Holidays	Two weeks around Christmas and New Year
Examinations	3-4 weeks in January
Teaching activities (2 nd semester)	Start first week of February until the end of the 3rd or 4th week of May. There is an Easter holiday break of two weeks.
Examinations	Last week of May until the end of the last week of June or the 1st week of July
Holidays	From the beginning (1st or 2nd week) of July until next academic year
Examinations	From about 17 August until the end of the third week of September
End of the academic year	The day before the start of the new academic year. For most students the academic year ends de facto after the last examination.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 and 2 November 2014 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2014 (Armistice Day) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14-15 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday) 21 July 2015 (National Holiday) 15 August 2015 (Assumption Day)

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

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

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

BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	<p>The legal act of 7 November 2013 fixes annually the beginning and end of each four-month term.</p> <p>The academic year is a one-year period beginning on 15 September 2015.</p> <p>In practice, teaching activities begin around 15 September in most institutions. In order to encourage student and staff mobility within the French Community, the government may lay down further conditions when determining this academic calendar.</p> <p>(Relative) institutional autonomy.</p>
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The first term starts on 15 September 2014; the second on 1 February 2015; the third on 1 July 2015.</p> <p>The two first terms include at least 12 weeks of teaching activity.</p> <p>Teaching activity starts on the first Monday of the term.</p> <p>For purposes of curricular organisation, each of the three four-month terms includes assessment and holiday periods.</p> <p>Institutional autonomy</p>
Examinations	<p>Curricular activities leading to an academic qualification in the first or second cycle are spread over the first two four-month terms in the academic year (with the exception of certain forms of assessment or professional integration activity). Each of these first two terms involves at least 12 weeks of activity and may not exceed four months. A period of assessment occurs at the end of each term.</p> <p>The third term includes assessment periods (as well as professional integration or personal project activity).</p> <p>Institutional autonomy</p>
End of the academic year	Le 13 septembre de l'année suivante
Holidays	<p>Winter holidays: 22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015</p> <p>Spring holidays: 6 – 17 April 2015</p> <p>Summer holidays: 7 weeks after the first session</p>

BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Legal public holidays for the 2014/15 academic year are:</p> <p>27 September 2014 (Festival of the French Community) 1 November 2014 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2014 (1918 Armistice Day) 6 April 2015 (Easter) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Pentecost)</p> <p>The authorities of higher education institutions may determine additional holidays. Teaching and assessment activities except professional induction, excursions, visits and internships do not take place on Sundays, official public holidays either on 27 September.</p> <p>If public holidays fall on a Saturday or a Sunday, no replacement is foreseen.</p>
Number of intervals: 3	<p>Length of intervals: no longer than 4 months (each of the first two four-month terms involves at least 12 weeks of activity and is no longer than four months).</p> <p>As regards the number of intervals, it should be noted that examinations may have been marked and passed at the end of the first two terms, in which case students will have completed their academic year.</p>

BELGIUM – GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Type of programme: ISCED 5B

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
First semester	
Beginning of the academic year	2 September 2014 The relevant legislation states that the government fixes the date of the beginning of the academic year between 1 September and 15 September.
Teaching activity	2 September – 24 October 2014
Autumn holiday	27-31 October 2014
Teaching activity	3 November – 19 December 2014
Christmas holiday	22 December 2013 – 2 January 2015
Examinations	5-9 January 2015
Second semester	
Teaching activity	12 January – 13 February 2015
Carnival holiday	16-20 February 2015
Teaching activity	23 February – 3 April 2015
Easter holiday	6-17 April 2015
Teaching activity	20 April – 29 May 2015
Lecture free period	1-5 June 2015
Examinations	8-26 June 2015
End of the academic year	The relevant legislation states that the government fixes the end of the academic year on the first Friday in July at the latest.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	11 November 2014 15 November 2014 1 May 2015 14 May 2015 25 May 2015
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: September to mid-January Mid-January to the end of June

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Type of programme: ISCED 11 (level 6)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	6 October 2014
Teaching activity	6 October – 26 December 2014
Winter holidays	26 December 2014 – 15 January 2015
Examinations	19 January – 16 February 2015
Teaching activity	2 March – 1 June 2015
Examinations	1-30 April 2015
Examinations	1 June – 10 July 2015
Summer holidays	13 July – 21 August 2015
Examinations	24 August – 30 September 2015 1-15 October 2015 (extra term)
End of the academic year	2 October 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Republic holidays:</p> <p>25 November 2014 – Statehood Day (celebrated in the Federation of BiH)</p> <p>1-2 January 2015 – New Year</p> <p>9 January 2015 – Republic Day of the Republic of Srpska (celebrated in the Republic of Srpska)</p> <p>1-2 May – International Labour Day</p> <p>9 May 2015 – Day of Victory over Fascism</p> <p>21 November 2015 – Day of Establishing General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH (celebrated in the Republic of Srpska)</p> <p>Religious holidays:</p> <p>25 December 2014 (Catholic Christmas)</p> <p>3 and 6 April 2015 (Catholic Easter)</p> <p>10 and 13 April 2015 (Orthodox Easter)</p>

Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)
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Additional notes: Religious holidays are celebrated depending on the religious community.

BULGARIA

Type of programme: all types and programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October is assumed as the official start of the new academic year. However, due to the autonomy of higher education institutions (HEIs), starting dates vary from one institution to another.
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The academic year consists of two semesters (winter and summer). However, the length of teaching activity (lectures and practical trainings) differs from one HEI to another due to their autonomy.</p> <p>Examinations dates, holidays (other than the officially announced public and religious holidays) are determined at institutional level.</p>
Examinations	<p>The examination dates are determined at institutional level, however, they are usually scheduled within the period starting from the mid-January to mid-February at the latest (end of the winter semester), and within the period from mid-June to mid-July.</p> <p>Students who fail to take or pass an exam on the date within the indicated period, are supposed to take/re-take the exam usually in early September.</p>
End of the academic year	HEIs are autonomous. The academic year generally ends between the end-June and the mid-July.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Certain dates are regarded as official holidays (religious, national, public):</p> <p>22 September 2014</p> <p>1 November 2014</p> <p>24 December 2014</p> <p>3 March 2015</p> <p>1 May 2014</p> <p>6 May 2015</p> <p>24-25 May 2014</p> <p>Students have a break for about 2 weeks for Christmas and Easter holidays. Each HEI celebrates the day of its patron, on which teaching activity is not carried out.</p>
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 15-16 weeks on average of teaching activity

CROATIA

Type of programme: ISCED 5A

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2014
Teaching activity	1 October – 24 December 2013
Winter holidays	25 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Teaching activity	5-23 January 2015
Examinations	26 January – 20 February 2015
Teaching activity	24 February – 5 June 2015
Examinations	8 June – 3 July 2015
Summer holidays	6 July – 21 August 2015
Examinations resits	24 August – 30 September 2015
End of the academic year	30 September 2015
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	8 October 2014 (Independence Day) 6 January 2015 (Epiphany) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2015 (International Labour Day) 4 June 2015 (Corpus Christi) 22 June 2015 (Antifascist resistance Day) 25 June 2015 (Statehood Day)
Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)

Additional notes:

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

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

CYPRUS

Type of programme: University level (Public universities)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	Public universities in Cyprus are autonomous as regards to their <i>modus operandi</i> and their schedules are determined by the universities themselves. The beginning of the academic year usually occurs between 1 and 15 September. (In the academic year 2014/15, at the UCY and CUT, classes start on 8th September, whereas OUC's first student-tutor communication takes place in the first week of October.)
Teaching activity and vacation periods	Public universities determine all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Holiday periods at public universities will take place as follows: 23 December 2014 – 16 January 2015 (Christmas, at the end of the autumn semester) 6-19 April 2015 (Easter, before the end of the spring semester) Summer session (if it is offered) starts in early June and lasts for 7 weeks.
Examinations	Final examinations' periods and schedule are determined by the universities themselves whereas midterm examination dates may be set by faculty or faculty and students jointly. Only final examination periods appear on the academic calendar and these occur at the end of each semester. Final examination periods in both UCY and CUT in 2014/15 will be as follows: 9-23 December 2014 for autumn semester 7-21 May 2015 for spring semester 20-24 July 2015 for summer session (if offered). In OUC final examinations will take place in June 2015.
End of the academic year	The academic year traditionally ends at the end of July for all universities.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 October 2014 (National Holiday) 28 October 2014 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2014 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2015 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2015 (Epiphany Day) 23 February 2015 (Beginning of Lent) 25 March 2015 (National Day) 1 April 2015 (National Day) 10 April 2015 (Good Friday) 13 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 1 June 2015 (Holy Spirit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: Semesters

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

CYPRUS (continued)

Type of programme: University level (Private universities)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	Private universities in Cyprus are autonomous as regards to their <i>modus operandi</i> and their schedules are determined by the universities themselves. The beginning of the academic year usually occurs between 15 and 30 September. Classes start in the end of September or early October.
Teaching activity and vacation periods	Universities determine all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Holiday periods at private universities will take place as follows: Around 23 December 2014 – 6 January 2015 (Christmas) Around 6-19 April 2015 (Easter) Summer session starts in early June and lasts for 7 weeks. Some universities may offer summer session II which starts mid-July and lasts for 6 weeks.
Examinations	Final examinations' periods and schedule are determined by the universities themselves whereas midterm examination dates may be set by faculty or faculty and students jointly. Final examination periods at private universities occur at the end of each semester: after the Christmas vacation for the first semester and the last fortnight of May (between 18 and 29 May 2015) for the spring semester. For Summer session examination period occurs between 20 and 24 July 2015.
End of the academic year	The academic year traditionally ends at the end of July for all universities.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 October 2014 (National Holiday) 28 October 2014 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2014 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2015 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2015 (Epiphany Day) 23 February 2015 (Beginning of Lent) 25 March 2015 (National Day) 1 April 2015 (National Day) 10 April 2015 (Good Friday) 13 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 1 June 2015 (Holy Spirit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: Semesters

Additional note:

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

CYPRUS (continued)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	The beginning of the academic year usually occurs in September. Classes start at the beginning or at the end of the month or early October, depending on the institutions which are obliged to include their academic calendar in their internal regulation.
Teaching activity	<p>First academic semester: it is required that classes start in September or within the first two weeks of October and continue until the end of December or mid January.</p> <p>Second academic semester: it is required that classes start within the last two weeks of January or within the first fortnight of February and finish in the end of May or beginning of June.</p> <p>Summer session (Intensive courses): Starts mid-June and lasts for 7 to 9 weeks.</p>
Vacation Periods	Vacation periods occur at the end of the autumn semester for Christmas (usually a 2-week holiday), and before the end of the spring semester for Easter (usually a 2-week holiday). Vacation periods may slightly vary depending on the institution.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>1 October 2014 (National Holiday)</p> <p>28 October 2014 (National Holiday)</p> <p>24-26 December 2014 (Christmas Holidays)</p> <p>1 January 2015 (New Year's Day)</p> <p>6 January 2015 (Epiphany Day))</p> <p>23 February 2015 (Beginning of Lent)</p> <p>25 March 2015 (National Day)</p> <p>1 April 2015 (National Day)</p> <p>10 April 2015 (Good Friday)</p> <p>13 April 2015 (Easter Monday)</p> <p>1 May 2015 (Labour Day)</p> <p>1 June 2015 (Holy Spirit Monday)</p>
Examinations	Final examinations' periods and schedule are set by institutions, whereas, midterm examinations may be set by faculty and students jointly. Only final examination periods appear on the academic calendar and these occur at the end of each semester (15th week of teaching activity) and at the end of the summer session (7th or 9th week of teaching activity).
End of the academic year	31 August 2015
Number of intervals: 2	Length of interval: Semesters

Additional notes:

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

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

CZECH REPUBLIC

Type of programme: ISCED 5A (higher education institutions – *vysoké školy*)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year usually begins during September or early October.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions in internal regulations.
Examinations	Examination periods are fixed by institutions in internal regulations.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year ends on the day before the new one begins.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 28 September 2014 28 October 2014 17 November 2014 24-26 December 2014 1 January 2015 6 April 2015 (Easter) 1 May 2015 8 May 2015 5 July 2015 6 July 2015
Number of intervals: most often two	Length of intervals: around a half a year

CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: ISCED 5B (tertiary professional schools – *vyšší odborné školy*)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2014 (the exact date is set by the school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme).
Teaching activity and holidays	The exact dates are set by the school head in accordance with the educational programme, the period of teaching must be 40 weeks per academic year (32 for teaching at school, 6 for self study and examinations and 2 weeks of time reserve). The exact days of holidays are set by the school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme. At least 4 weeks are set for holidays.
Examinations	The exact days are set by the school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme.
End of the academic year	31 August 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 28 September 2014 28 October 2014 17 November 2014 24-26 December 2015 1 January 2015 6 April 2015 (Easter) 1 May 2015 8 May 2015 5 July 2015 6 July 2015
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months (153 days) and 7 months (212 days)

DENMARK

Type of programme: long-cycle higher education (universities) (ISCED 5A and 6)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	The universities are autonomous. The academic year at long-cycle higher education institutions (universities) is normally divided into two semesters and begins typically: 1) Early September (autumn semester) 2) Early February (spring semester)
Teaching activity	The universities fix all periods of teaching activities and holidays themselves. The typical duration of teaching activities is: 1) Early September – mid-December 2) Early February – mid-May
Examinations	The universities fix the dates of examinations autonomously, but generally the period of examinations are: Fall Semester: typically December and two-three weeks in January Spring Semester: Mid and end of May and two-three weeks in June Re-examinations are mainly placed in August before the start of a new academic year.
End of the academic year	The academic year runs from 1 September and ends 31 August, but normally with holidays/periods with no teaching between 30 June and 31 August.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25-26 December 2014 1 January 2015 2-6 April 2015 14 May 2015 25 May 2015

Number of intervals: 2*

Length of intervals: approx. 4/5 months

Additional notes:

Medium-cycle higher education (ISCED 5A): there is no specific information on the academic calendar available for medium-cycle higher education programmes either. Like the universities, the institutions themselves decide how to structure the academic year. The academic calendar, however, is quite similar to that of the universities, outlined above.

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

ESTONIA

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Occurs generally between the last week in August and the first week in September
Teaching activity	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. The autumn semester lasts generally until 20 December.
Holiday	Occurs generally between 20 December and 1 January.
Examinations	Occur generally between 2 January and 20 January.
Teaching activity	The spring semester begins generally a week after the examinations are over.
End of the academic year	Between the last week in June and the first week in July
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	24-26 December 2014 (Christmas) 1 January 2015 (New Year's Day) 24 February 2015 (Independence Day) 3 April 2015 (Good Friday) 1 May 2015 (Spring Day (May Day)) 23 June 2015 (Victory Day) 24 June 2015 (Midsummer Day) 20 August 2015 (Day of Restoration of Independence)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: ca. 4.5 months

FINLAND

Type of programme: Polytechnics and Universities

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 August 2014
First semester - Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between the beginning of August and 21 December 2014
Second semester – Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between 2 January and 30 May 2015
Examinations	Fixed by the teachers
End of the academic year	31 July 2015
Public holidays 2014/15 (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2014 (All Saints) 6 December 2014 (Independence Day) 24 December 2014 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2014 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2014 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2015 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2015 (Epiphany) 3 April 2015 (Good Friday) 5 April 2015 (Easter Day) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2015 (May Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 to 7 months

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	15 September 2014
Teaching activity	15 September 2014 – 31 December 2014
Christmas/New Year holidays	31 December 2014 – 7 January 2015
Examinations	8 January 2015 – 2 February 2015
Teaching activity	2 February 2015 – 15 May 2015
Examinations	15 May 2015 – 15 June 2015 15 August 2015 – 15 September 2015
End of the academic year	15 September 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	11 October 2014 23 October 2014 8 December 2014 10-13 April 2015 1 May 2015 25 May 2015 8 September 2015

FRANCE

Type of programme: University studies

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutional autonomy. Almost everywhere the period is between 15 September and 15 October.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holiday are fixed by institutions, which however comply with the following calendar: holidays at the end-of-year festive season (one or often two weeks), as well as in February (generally one week) and April (one or two weeks).
Examinations	Examination periods are entirely at the discretion of the university managing bodies.
End of the academic year	No precise date. Institutional autonomy. In practice, the academic year ends after the final examination, in June or at the beginning of July.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 11 November 2014 25 December 2014 1 January 2015 6 April 2015 1 May 2015 8 May 2015 14 May 2015 25 June 2015

FRANCE (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutional autonomy, although all institutions open at the beginning of September or later in the same month.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holiday are fixed by institutions, which however comply with the following calendar: holidays between Christmas and New Year's Day; often one week in February; one or two weeks in April.
Examinations	Examination periods are entirely at the discretion of the managing bodies of institutions.
End of the academic year	No precise date. Institutional autonomy. In practice, the academic year ends after the final examination, in June or at the beginning of July.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 11 November 2014 25 December 2014 1 January 2015 6 April 2015 1 May 2015 8 May 2015 14 May 2015 25 June 2015

Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months
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GERMANY

Type of programme: ISCED 5A, ISCED 5B (partly) ISCED 6

The Organisation of the Academic Year Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2014
Teaching activity winter semester	15 October – 19 December 2014
Holiday	20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Teaching activity winter semester	5 January – 13 February 2015
End of winter semester	27 February 2015
Beginning of summer semester	30 March 2015
Teaching activity summer semester	14 April – 11 July 2015
End of the academic year	30 September 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	3 October 2014 (German Unity Day) 3 April 2015 (Good Friday) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday) + holiday depending on the Land
Number of intervals: 3 2 Semesters, one of five months, one of four months	Length of intervals: 10 days close to Christmas, 1 month after the winter semester, two months after the summer semester

GREECE

Type of programme: ISCED 5A

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2014
Teaching activity (1 st or winter semester)	From the beginning of the winter semester in September – approximately within the second fortnight of September – until 24 December 2014
Holiday	24 December 2014 – 7 January 2015 (Christmas holidays)
Teaching activity (1 st or winter semester)	8 January until the beginning of the winter semester exams set approximately in mid-January 2015
Examinations	Winter semester exams begin approximately in mid-January 2015 and last for three weeks until the beginning of February 2015
Teaching activity (2 nd or spring semester)	Spring semester begins after the end of the winter semester exams, approximately in mid-February 2015
Holidays	6-19 April 2015 (Easter holidays)
Teaching activity (2 nd or spring semester)	The period after Easter holidays until the beginning of spring semester exams, approximately beginning of June 2015
Examinations	Spring semester exams take place in June 2015 and last for three weeks
Holidays	From the end of the June examinations until those of September 2015
Re-examinations	1 September until the beginning of the new winter semester set approximately within the second fortnight of September 2015
End of the academic year	31 August 2015
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	28 October 2014 17 November 2014 30 January 2015 23 February 2015 25 March 2015 1 May 2015 1 June 2015 + several regional holidays

GREECE (CONTINUED)

Number of intervals: 3	Length of intervals: two weeks Christmas Holidays; two weeks Easter Holidays; Summer holidays from the end of June examinations until those of September
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1st (winter) semester Beginning: September of each calendar year (approximately within the second fortnight of September 2014)	End: Until the final day of the winter semester exams (approximately beginning of February 2015)
2nd (spring) semester Beginning: After the end of winter semester exams (approximately mid-February 2015)	End: 31 August 2015

Additional notes

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

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

HUNGARY

Type of programme: all types of programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Usually between 1 and 10 September Institutional autonomy
Autumn term	From the beginning of September until the end of January The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
Teaching activity	From early or mid-September until mid- December The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
Exam period	From mid-December until the end of January The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
(Holiday)	In addition to national/public/church holidays, holiday periods vary greatly (see additional note 3).
Spring term	From the beginning of February until the end of June The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
Teaching activity	From the beginning of February until mid- May The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
Exam period	From mid-May until the end of June The exact dates are fixed by institutions.
(Holiday)	In spring term there is usually one week around Easter Institutional autonomy (see Additional note 3).
End of the academic year	Ends around late June The exact date is fixed by the institutions.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2014 (All-Saints' Day) 25-26 December 2014 (Christmas) 15 March 2015 (Revolution Day) 21 April 2015 (Easter) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 9 June 2015 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months

HUNGARY (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

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

ICELAND

Type of programme: ISCED 6A

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The beginning of the academic year is generally round mid-August.
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Teaching activity generally starts between 15 August and 5 September and ends on 30 November. Some institutions have summer sessions that last from May to August.
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Examinations generally take place between 2 and 20 December.
Holidays	20 December 2014 – 5 January 2015 28 March – 7 April 2014
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Teaching activity generally starts around 7 January and ends between 25 March – 3 April 2015
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Examinations generally take place between 30 April and 31 May.
End of the academic year	No precise date. The academic year ends <i>de facto</i> after the last examination.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Holidays which are not included in the Summer (~3 months)/Christmas (~2 weeks) / Easter Holidays (~1 week) are: 1 December 2014 23 April 2015 1 May 2015 25 May 2015
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 13 weeks

IRELAND

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2014 Universities and Institutes of Technology are autonomous bodies. Occurs generally in September or October.
Teaching activity	1 September – 24 October 2014
Holiday	27-31 October 2014
Teaching activity and holidays	3 November – 19 December 2014 All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by each individual University or Institute. Certain dates, such as 25 December, 1 January or 17 March, are nevertheless regarded as public holidays by Universities and Institutes.
Holiday	22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015 (Christmas)
Teaching activity	From 5 January 2015 until the examinations
Examinations	Two weeks in February
Teaching activity	From the Monday following the last examination
Holidays	17 March 2015 30 March – 10 April 2015 (Easter) 4 May 2015
Teaching activity	From 13 April 2015 until the examinations
Examinations	For Institutes of Technology, it's usually two weeks during May. For Universities, it's usually two weeks during June. Teachers and students are entirely free to fix examination dates jointly. Each University or Institute manages this separately.
End of the academic year	Universities and Institutes of Technology are autonomous bodies. For Universities, the academic year generally ends at the date the new one begins. For Institutes of Technology, the academic year generally ends in June.
Number of intervals: 2-3	Length of intervals: term = 2-3 months, semester = 4-5 months

ITALY

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15 ⁽¹⁾	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2014
First semester – Teaching activity	1 October 2014 – 31 January 2015
Examinations (first session)	1-15 February 2015
Second semester – Teaching activity	1 March – 30 June 2015
Examinations (second session)	1-15 July 2015
Examinations (third sessions)	1-15 September 2015
Admission tests and entrance examinations ⁽²⁾	April and September 2014
End of the academic year	30 September 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2014 8 December 2014 23 December 2014 – 7 January 2015 Easter (1 week) 25 April 2015 1 May 2015 2 June 2015
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: semesters (October 2014 – January 2015 and March – June 2015)

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

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

LATVIA

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Registration/enrolment period	Each year the Cabinet of Ministers determines the initial time period for the registration and admission of entrants in the first year after the acquisition of upper secondary education. Persons with upper secondary education completed outside Latvia and who are not pretending to the state-subsidised study place may be registered and enrolled from 1 March 2014. Local applicants may be registered from 1 July 2014. Higher education institutions autonomously determine the registration and admission periods for Master level and Doctoral level programmes.
Beginning of the academic year	Occurs generally in the first week of September, but may differ among institutions which are autonomous.
Teaching activity and holidays	Institutions fix periods of teaching activity and holidays. Teaching activity usually is organised from September-December and from February-May. Higher education institutions in cooperation with their stakeholders from employment organisations autonomously determine the practical training placements (internships) periods for their students. As regards holidays, there is normally one week around Christmas/New Year and another one at Easter.
Examinations	Institutions fix periods of examinations. Usually examinations proceed after the teaching activity period and take place in January/February and June/July.
End of the academic year	The academic year generally ends after the last examination of spring or summer semester.

LATVIA (CONTINUED)

Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	18 November 2014 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) 24-26 December 2014 (Christmas) 3-6 April 2015 (Easter) 1 May 2015 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia, Labour Day) 4 May 2015 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)
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Number of intervals: 2 semesters	Length of intervals: in accordance with the Law on Institutions of Higher Education, academic year consists of 40 national credit points. One credit point corresponds to one week of studies. Thus the academic year lasts 40 weeks. The length of intervals is not specified, but normally they are divided in two equal parts – 2 semesters (of 20 weeks each).
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Additional notes:

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

LIECHTENSTEIN

Type of programme: ISCED 5A and 6 (public sector – *Universität Liechtenstein*)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
<i>The organisation of the academic year is within autonomy of the higher education institutions.</i>	
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2014
Winter semester	1 September 2014 – 31 January 2015
Teaching activity for new students / Introductory weeks	3-5 September 2014
Teaching activity for continuing students	15 September – 19 December 2014
Christmas holidays	22 December 2014 – 6 January 2015
Examination weeks	7-27 January 2015
Summer semester	1 February– 31 August 2015
Teaching activity	19 February – 3 June 2015
Easter holidays	03-11 April 2015
Examination weeks	15 June – 3 July 2015
End of the academic year	31 August 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 September 2014 1 November 2014 8 December 2014 2 February 2015 17 February 2015 19 March 2015 6 April 2015 1 May 2015 14 May 2015 25 May 2015 4 June 2015 15 August 2015
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 26 weeks

LITHUANIA

Type of programme: All types (ISCED 5A, ISCED 5B)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15									
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods								
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. As a rule the beginning of the academic year is 1 September.								
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Each semester usually covers 20 weeks. The last four weeks within are allocated to an examination session. In some institutions, the semester can last longer (up to 22 weeks) or shorter (17 weeks). In most institutions, the spring semester starts at the beginning of February.								
Examinations*	The last four weeks of each semester are allocated to examination sessions.								
Holidays	Institutions are autonomous. All institutions have Christmas holidays usually from 25 December to the beginning of January. The winter break begins at the end of the autumn semester, right after the winter examination session (usually end of January/beginning of February) and lasts 1 or 2 weeks. Most institutions have Easter holidays lasting a few days in the spring semester. Summer holidays usually start after the end of the spring semester and last maximum 2 months, normally between 1 July and 31 August.								
Professional practice period	During summer holidays (July-August), some students have a training course which lasts 2-3 weeks.								
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. As a rule, the academic year ends on 31 August.								
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Certain dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1 November 2014</td> <td style="width: 50%;">1 January 2015</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 February 2015</td> <td>11 March 2015</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 May 2015</td> <td>24 June 2015</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 July 2015</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1 November 2014	1 January 2015	16 February 2015	11 March 2015	1 May 2015	24 June 2015	6 July 2015	
1 November 2014	1 January 2015								
16 February 2015	11 March 2015								
1 May 2015	24 June 2015								
6 July 2015									
Number of intervals: 2 semesters (autumn and spring semesters)	Length of intervals: around five months								

Additional notes:

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

LUXEMBOURG

Type of programme: all types, all programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	15 September 2014
Winter semester	15 September 2014 – 15 February 2015
Christmas holidays	22 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Revision	5-11 January 2015
Examinations	12 January – 8 February 2015
Winter break between semesters	9-15 February 2015
Summer semester	16 February – 13 September 2015
Easter holidays	6-12 April 2015
Revision	1-7 June 2015
Examinations	8 June – 5 July 2015
Summer break between semesters	6 July – 13 September 2015
End of the academic year	5 July 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2014 (All Saints' Day) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday) 23 June 2015 (National Holiday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 6 months

MALTA

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of Academic Year – Semester I	1 September 2014
Re-sit examinations / Third attempts / Finalisation of Review Board Process	1-12 September 2014
Induction week for all students and MCAST Fresher's week	22-27 September 2014
Start of Teaching Activity for all new, progressing and continuing students	29 September 2014
Foundation Day	24 October 2014
Graduation Days – Levels 5 and 6	December 2014
Christmas Recess	23 December 2014 – 2 January 2015
Teaching Activity (Semester I continued)	5-30 January 2015
Semester I – Examinations / Progress Week	2-6 February 2015
Teaching Activity (start of Semester II)	9 February 2015
Easter Recess	1-10 April 2015
Teaching Activity (Semester II continued)	13 April – 12 June 2015
Examinations (Semester II)	15-26 June 2015
End of Semester II	10 July 2015
Summer Recess and end of Academic Year	13 July – 31 August 2015
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	8 September 2014 8 December 2014 10 February 2015 19 March 2015 31 March 2015 1 May 2015 29 June 2015

MALTA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: University of Malta

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of Academic Year	1 October 2014
Beginning of Semester 1	1 October 2014
Teaching Activity (Semester I)	1 October – 19 December 2014
Graduation Days (Master courses and Doctorate Degrees)	17-28 November and 1 December 2014
Graduation Days (Undergraduate courses)	2-11 December 2014
Christmas Recess	20 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Teaching Activity (Semester I cont.)	5-14 January 2015
Examinations (Examinations Semester I)	15 January – 31 January 2015
Teaching Activity (Semester II)	2 February – 27 March 2015
Easter Recess	30 March – 12 April 2015
Teaching Activity (Semester II cont.)	13 April – 29 May 2015
Examinations (Examinations Semester II)	30 May – 30 June 2015
End of Second Semester	30 June 2015
Summer Semester (for postgraduate courses spread over 3 semesters)	15 June – 30 September 2015
Summer Recess (within the summer semester)	3-16 August 2015
Supplementary Examinations	1-12 September 2015
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	8 December 2014 10 February 2015 19 March 2015 31 March 2015 3 April 2015 1 May 2015 29 June 2015 8 September 2015 21 September 2015

MONTENEGRO

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	8 September 2014
Teaching activity	8 September – 19 December 2014 (a break between 20 and 27 October)
Christmas/New Year holidays	25 December 2014 – 9 January 2015
Examinations	The last two weeks of December and 9-26 January 2015
Break between the semesters	10 January – 1 February 2015
Teaching activity	2 February – 15 May 2015 (a break between 16 and 23 March)
Examinations	18 May – 30 June 2015
End of the academic year	13 July 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25-27 December 2014 (Catholic Christmas) 1-3 January 2015 (New Year's Day) 7-9 January 2015 (Orthodox Christmas) 1 May 2015 (International Labour Day) 21 May 2015 (Independence Day) 13 July 2015 (Statehood Day)

Additional notes:

Between 10 January and the end of January, students are allowed to resit the examinations that they did not pass in the regular examination period.

Between the second week of June and the end of June, students are allowed to resit the examinations that they did not pass in the regular examination period.

THE NETHERLANDS

Type of programme: ISCED 5A + 5B

Academic calendar in Higher Education 2014/2015	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2014
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions.
Examinations	Institutions are entirely free to fix examination dates.
End of the academic year	31 August 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25 and 26 December 2014 (Christmas Days) 31 December 2014 (New Year's Eve) 1 January 2015 (New Year's Day) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2015 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2015 (Liberation Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday)

Number of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.	Length of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.
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<p>Additional notes:</p> <p>Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), article 1.1/definitions, k.: <i>academic year: the period which starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year.</i></p> <p>The academic year can be divided into a semester or a trimester. Institutions are free to decide how many weeks are used to teach and how many weeks are used for exams.</p> <p>During the period of examinations, teaching activity stops so that students can work specifically for them.</p> <p>Some courses also start in the course of the academic year, on 1 February.</p>
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NORWAY

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are autonomous. Generally mid-August
Teaching activity and holidays	HEIs are autonomous, with the exception of public holidays, see below.
Examinations	HEIs are autonomous.
End of the academic year	HEIs are autonomous. The academic year generally ends at the end of June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Christmas holiday (normally 22 December 2014 – 5 January 2015) Easter holiday (normally 1-7 April 2015) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 14 May 2015 (Ascension Day) 17 May 2015 (National Day) 25 May 2015 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months

POLAND

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the beginning of October (e.g. University of Warsaw (UoW): 1 October 2014).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the beginning of October and the third week of December (UoW: 1 October – 21 December 2014).
Christmas holidays	Institutions are autonomous. (UoW: 22 December 2014 – 6 January 2015).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually January (UoW: 7-27 January 2015).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually two weeks at the end of January / beginning of February (UoW: 28 January – 10 February 2015).
Break between the semesters	Institutions are autonomous. Usually one week in February (UoW: 11-17 February 2015)
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the third week of February and Easter (UoW: 18 February – 1 April 2015)
Easter holiday	Institutions are autonomous. Easter Monday and a few extra days are free (UoW: 2-7 April 2015).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between Easter and summer examinations (UoW: 8 April – 9 June 2015).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the last two weeks of June (UoW: 10-30 June 2015).
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the end of September (UoW: 30 September 2015).
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	11 November 2014 1 May 2015 4 June 2015

Additional notes: There are two re-take examination sessions: the winter re-take examination session usually lasts one week and begins 3 weeks after the regular winter examination session (e.g. 4-10 March 2015 for the University of Warsaw); the summer re-take session usually begins in the first or second week of September and lasts two weeks. It ends one or two weeks before the end of the academic year (e.g. 31 August – 13 September 2015 for the University of Warsaw).

HEIs often organise Students' Day (or Days) called *Juwenalia* with concerts, performances and other artistic and cultural events. There are no classes on such a day. The rector of the institution sets the dates of these events (e.g. University of Warsaw celebrates its *Juwenalia* on 8-9 May 2015).

PORTUGAL

Type of programme: University and Polytechnic

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Higher education institutions of (universities and polytechnic institutes) are autonomous. Generally the year begins between 15 September and 15 October.
Periods of teaching activity and holiday periods	Institutions are autonomous and fix all periods of teaching activity and holidays.
Examination periods	The teaching department, teachers and students are entirely free to fix examination dates jointly. Normally there are two examinations periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st: between the end of December and the end of February; • 2nd: between the beginning of June and the end of July.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year generally ends on 31 July.
Public/religious holidays	8 December 2014 1 May 2015 10 June 2015 (plus holidays at municipal level)
Number of intervals: 1 or 2 (more frequently the year is divided in two semesters or three-month terms)	Length of intervals: around 1-2 weeks (maximum 3 weeks)

ROMANIA

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	29 September is considered the official start of the academic year.
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The academic year consists of two semesters (winter and summer semesters). Higher education institutions (HEI) are autonomous. They fix all periods of teaching activity and holidays. The length of the teaching activity (lectures and practice trainings) differs from one HEI to another. Examinations dates and holidays (other than the officially announced public and religious holidays) are determined at institutional level.</p> <p>A standard academic year includes:</p> <p>First Semester (exact dates are fixed by HEIs)</p> <p>Teaching: end of September – around 20-21 December Holiday: 22 December – 1st week of January (generally, 2 weeks) Teaching: second week of January – mid of January (about 2 weeks) Holiday: mid-February (generally, 1 week)</p> <p>Second Semester (exact dates are fixed by HEIs)</p> <p>Teaching: last week of February – end of May (with 1 week – Easter Holiday) Work internship (for some students during summer holidays): beginning of July – mid-July (generally minimum 2 weeks – maximum 12 weeks) Summer holiday: after work internship period until the end of September</p>
Examinations	<p>The examination dates are determined at institutional level. Teachers and students are free to fix the dates for examinations within the examination sessions established by institutions. Examination sessions are generally organised as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">mid-January – mid-February beginning of June – end of June beginning of September – mid-September (for those students who failed in previous sessions)</p>
End of the academic year	<p>Institutions are autonomous. Generally at the end of September.</p>
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 May 2015 1 June 2015 30 November 2015 1 December 2015
Number of intervals: 2 semesters	Length of intervals: 14 weeks

ROMANIA (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

1. HEIs are free to decide on the inside structure of the academic year, which is approved by the university senate.
2. Teaching activity stops during the periods of examinations.

SLOVAKIA

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2014
End of the academic year	31 August 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 September 2014 15 September 2014 17 November 2014 24-26 December 2014 1 January 2015 6 January 2015 3 and 6 April 2015 (Easter) 1 May 2015 8 May 2015

Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4 to 5 months
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Additional notes:

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

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

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

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

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

SLOVENIA

Type of programme: ISCED 5A (universities; higher professional education institutions)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2014
Teaching activity - winter semester	15 weeks on average
Winter examinations during winter holidays period	4 weeks in January and February
Teaching activity - summer semester	15 weeks on average
Spring examinations	4 to 6 weeks in June and July
Summer holidays	1 month on average (15 July to 15 August)
Autumn examinations	Around 4 weeks from mid-August to end of September
End of the academic year	30 September 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2014 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2014 (Day in Remembrance of the Dead) 25 December 2014 (Christmas) 26 December 2014 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 January 2015 (New Year's Day) 8 February 2015 (<i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 and 2 May 2015 (May Day Holiday) 25 June 2015 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2015 (Assumption Day) + University day(s) + Students' day(s)
Number of intervals: 2 semesters	Interval: around 15 weeks

Additional note:

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

SLOVENIA (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2014
Teaching activity	34 weeks; institutions specify periods of teaching activities.
Examinations	Institutions specify examinations at will following the Rules issued by the Minister (*).
End of the academic year	30 September 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2014 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2014 (Day in Remembrance of the Dead) 25 December 2014 (Christmas) 26 December 2014 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 January 2015 (New Year's Day) 8 February 2015 (<i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 6 April 2015 (Easter Monday) 1 and 2 May 2015 (May Day Holiday) 25 June 2015 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2015 (Assumption Day)
Number of intervals Teaching activity: 2 semesters Examination activity: 3 periods	Intervals: Teaching activity: around 17 weeks Examination activity: in the autonomy of colleges

Additional notes:

The beginning and the end of an academic year are specified by law. An academic year encompasses no less than 34 weeks of organised study work and 37 to 42 weeks of study load for students. Higher vocational colleges have considerable flexibility in planning and structuring their year.

* As specified by the Regulations on Assessment of Knowledge in Higher Vocational Colleges (2009), higher vocational colleges shall organise no less than 3 periods of examination per academic year, i.e. within 30 days after each semester (winter, spring) and also in August and September.

SPAIN

Type of programme: University tertiary education

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15 ⁽¹⁾	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Between the first and the third week of September 2014.
Beginning of the teaching activity	Throughout the month of September (The beginning of the teaching activity in third-cycle education (to gain a PhD) generally occurs between the second week of October and the first week of November.)
Teaching activity	Between the beginning of the teaching activity and Christmas holidays
Examinations	2 weeks between the end of November and mid-December (Some universities have an extraordinary examination session in December. Teaching activity is not stopped.)
Christmas Holidays	About 18 days between 20 December 2014 and 7 January 2015
Teaching activity	Between the end of Christmas holidays and the start of the examinations
Examinations	2 or 3 weeks between beginning of January and mid-February (no teaching activity)
Teaching activity	Between the end of January/February examinations and Easter Holidays
Easter Holidays	About 10 days between the fourth week of March and the first of April 2015
Teaching activity	Between the end of Easter holidays and June examinations
Examinations	About 1 month between May and mid-July depending on whether the university has its extraordinary examinations in July or in September (no teaching activity)
Extraordinary examinations	3 weeks between the second week of June and the second week of July (in some universities the first two weeks of September 2015)
Summer Holidays	Between the end of June/July examinations and the end of August
End of the academic year	One day before the beginning of the 2015/16 academic year
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	About 12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4 months

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

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Between 1 and 3 September 2014
Beginning of the teaching activity	Between mid-September and the beginning of October
Teaching activity	From the beginning of the teaching activity to June
Holidays	<p>Christmas: 2 weeks between 22 December 2014 and 7 January 2015.</p> <p>Easter: About 10 days between the third week of March and first week of April 2015.</p> <p>Summer: 13/16 weeks between mid-June and beginning/mid-September or the beginning of October.</p> <p>Public holidays: 12 (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities)</p>
Examinations	<p>There are generally three periods of examinations: before Christmas holidays, before Easter holidays and before summer holidays.</p> <p>Schools are free to fix examination dates within those periods.</p>
End of the academic year	Between the second and third week of June

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

Binding regulations have been issued by some Autonomous Communities to establish the period of the extraordinary resits examinations in Vocational Training and the final exams of Artistic Education.

SWEDEN

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are autonomous. Generally between end of August – beginning of September
Teaching activities and holidays	Fixed by each faculty
Examinations	Fixed by the teachers
End of the academic year	Generally ends at the end of May or beginning of June. During June-September, most HEIs offer single subject courses of 7.5-10 ECTS credits
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Approximately 3 weeks around Christmas Several days around Easter including Good Friday (3 April 2015) and Easter Monday (6 April 2015), and around Ascension Day (14 May 2015) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months (around 20 weeks)

TURKEY

Type of programme: all (ISCED 5A, 5B)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Universities are autonomous. The autumn semester begins generally in September or October and the spring semester in February.
Teaching activity	Universities are free to determine their own periods of teaching activity. As a rule, each academic year is composed of two semesters which include at least 14 weeks. Universities may offer summer schools for those who fail classes during regular semesters and who would like to take classes from next academic semester.
Holidays (semester/national/religious holidays)	The dates of the semester breaks are freely fixed by the universities. The duration of the semester breaks is at least 2 weeks. National and religious holidays are as follows: 3-7 October 2014 (4.5 days – religious holiday) 28-29 October 2014 (1.5 days - Republic Day) 1 January 2015 (New Year) 23 April 2015 (Children's Day) 1 May 2015 (Labour Day) 19 May 2015 (Youth and Sport Day)
Examinations	Each university fixes its own examination dates. The number of mid-term exams is decided either by the university senate, or by the board of each faculty. In addition to the mid-term exams, there is a final exam for each particular course at the end of each semester. The final exams generally start either right after or one week after the end of the semester. It takes 2-3 on average. Those who take classes annually take one or two midterms and a final exam a year.
End of the academic year	Universities are autonomous. Generally autumn semester ends in December and the spring semester in May or June. Summer semesters last from the end of June until mid-August.
Number of intervals: 2 Semesters (autumn and spring)	Length of intervals: 14 weeks per semester (at least)

UNITED KINGDOM (ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND)

Type of programme: undergraduate (ISCED 5 first cycle).

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the standard academic year	1 August 2014
Beginning of teaching activity	Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are autonomous, but the first term or semester typically starts in late September/early October.
End of teaching activity	HEIs are autonomous, but the final term/semester typically ends in mid/late June.
End of the standard academic year	31 July 2015
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	4 May 2015 – early May Bank Holiday HEIs are normally closed on public holidays which fall in termtime.
Vacations	As well as the long summer vacation, there are typically vacations of three to five weeks at Christmas and Easter.
Number of intervals (periods): Most commonly 3 (terms) Less commonly 2 (semesters)	Length of intervals (periods): Most commonly 8 to 11 weeks Less commonly typically around 15 weeks

UNITED KINGDOM (SCOTLAND)

Type of programme: all ISCED 5

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2014/15	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Some institutions will follow the traditional academic calendar and will generally start some time in September or October. However others have adopted different patterns where students can start at different times during the year e.g. January.
Teaching activity, holidays and examination periods	All periods of teaching activity, holidays and exams are fixed by institutions.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous and dates will vary depending on when the student has started the year. Traditional academic calendar ends May/June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. However certain dates, such as 25-26 December, 1-2 January will be regarded as public holidays by all institutions

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

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

