



# The Organisation of the Academic Year in Europe

**2013/14**

**Eurydice – Facts and Figures**

*Education  
and Training*



# AUSTRIA

Type of programme: Universities

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2013
Teaching activities and holiday periods	<p>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.)</p> <p>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.</p>
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 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	26 October 2013 1 November 2013 8 December 2013 25-26 December 2013 1 January 2014 6 January 2014 21 April 2014 1 May 2014 29 May 2014 9 June 2014 19 June 2014 15 August 2014
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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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 2013 1 November 2013 8 December 2013 25-26 December 2013 1 January 2014 6 January 2014 21 April 2014 1 May 2014 29 May 2014 9 June 2014 19 June 2014 15 August 2014
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:** *Fachhochschulen* (Universities of applied science): diploma-programmes, bachelor-programmes, master-programmes

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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 2013 1 November 2013 8 December 2013 25-26 December 2013 1 January 2014 6 January 2014 21 April 2014 1 May 2014 29 May 2014 9 June 2014 19 June 2014 15 August 2014
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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2013
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 2014
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 Summer semester: 5 months</p>

## BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY

Type of programme: all types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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 first Semester	From the beginning of the academic year until 20 December
Holiday	Two weeks around Christmas and New Year
Examinations	3-4 weeks in January
Teaching activities 2nd 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.
Examination	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
Third examination period during the summer holidays	From about 18 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 2013 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2013 (Armistice Day) 21 April 2014 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2014 (Labour Day) 29-30 May 2014 (Ascension Day) 9 June 2014 (Whit Monday) 21 July 2014 (National Holiday) 15 August 2014 (Assumption Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: teaching activities: 13 weeks

PS: 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)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	The academic year is a one-year period beginning on 15 September. However, the academic authorities fix annually the beginning and end of each four-month term. 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. (Relative) institutional autonomy.
Teaching activity and holidays	The academic authorities fix annually the beginning and end of each four-month term. For purposes of curricular organisation, each of the three four-month terms includes assessment and holiday periods. Institutional autonomy
Examinations	Curricular activities leading to an academic qualification in the first or second cycle are spread over the first two four-month terms in the academic year (with the exception of certain forms of assessment or professional integration activity). Each of these first two terms involves at least 12 weeks of activity and may not exceed four months. A period of assessment occurs at the end of each term. The third term includes assessment periods (as well as professional integration or personal project activity). Institutional autonomy
End of the academic year	No precise date. The academic year generally terminates on the day the new academic year begins. In legislation concerned with staff status, the academic year terminates on 30 September. Institutional autonomy
Holidays	Winter holidays: 23 December 2013 –3 January 2014 Spring holidays: 7 – 18 April 2014 Summer holidays: 7 weeks after the second session.



## BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Legal public holidays for the 2012/13 academic year are:</p> <p>27 September 2013 (Festival of the French Community)            1 November 2013 (All Saints' Day)            11 November 2013 (1918 Armistice Day)            21 April 2014 (Easter)            1 May 2014 (Labour Day)            29 May 2014 (Ascension Day)            9 June 2014 (Pentecost)</p> <p>The academic authorities or higher education providers may fix 5 other days on which work ceases at their own institution(s). There is no possible time in exchange of public holidays falling on a Saturday or a Sunday.</p>
Number of intervals: 3 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.	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).

## BELGIUM – GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Type of programme: ISCED 5B

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
<b>First semester</b>	
Beginning of the academic year	2 September 2013 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 – 25 October 2013
Autumn holiday	28 October – 1 November 2013
Teaching activity	4 November – 20 December 2013
Christmas holiday	23 December 2013 – 3 January 2014
Examinations	6 – 10 January 2014
<b>Second semester</b>	
Teaching activity	13 January – 28 February 2014
Carnival holiday	3 – 7 March 2014
Teaching activity	10 March – 4 April 2014
Easter holiday	7 – 18 April 2014
Teaching activity	21 April – 30 May 2014
Lecture free period	2 – 6 June 2014
Examinations	9 – 27 June 2014
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 2013 15 November 2013 1 May 2014 29 May 2014 9 June 2014
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: September to mid-January Mid-January to the end of June

## CROATIA

Type of programme: ISCED 5A

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2013
Teaching activity	1 October – 24 December 2013
Winter holidays	25 December 2013 – 6 January 2014
Teaching activity	7 – 24 January 2014
Examinations	27 January – 21 February 2014
Teaching activity	24 February – 6 June 2014
Examinations	9 June – 4 July 2014
Summer holidays	7 July – 22 August 2014
Examinations resits	25 August – 30 September 2014
End of the academic year	1 October 2014
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	8 October 2013 (Independence Day) 1 November 2013 (All Saints' Day) 21 April 2014 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2014 (International Labour Day) 19 June 2014 (Corpus Christi) 25 June 2014 (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)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates</b>
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 2013/14, at the UCY and CUT, classes start on 2 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 2013 – 12 January 2014 (Christmas, at the end of the autumn semester) 14 – 27 April 2014 (Easter, before the end of the spring semester) Summer sessions 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 2013/14 will be as follows: - 7 – 22 December 2013 for autumn semester - 10 – 25 May 2014 for spring semester - 21 – 25 July 2014 for summer session. In OUC final examinations will take place in June 2014.
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 2013 28 October 2013 6 January 2014 3 March 2014 25 March 2014 1 April 2014 18 April 2014 21 April 2014 1 May 2014 9 June 2014
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)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates</b>
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 of 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 2013 – 6 January 2014 (Christmas) Around 14 - 25 April 2014 (Easter) Summer sessions 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. Final examination periods at private universities occur after the Christmas vacation, for the first semester and between 19 and 30 May 2014. For Summer session examination period occurs between 21 and 25 July 2014.
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 2013 28 October 2013 6 January 2014 3 March 2014 25 March 2014 1 April 2014 18 April 2014 21 April 2014 1 May 2014 9 June 2014
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)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Beginning of the academic year	2 September 2013
Teaching activity	<p>First academic semester: It is compulsory 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 compulsory 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, and before the end of the spring semester for Easter. Please note that vacation periods may slightly vary depending on the institution.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 October 2013 28 October 2013 23-26 December 2013 (Christmas Holidays) 6 January 2014 3 March 2014 25 March 2014 1 April 2014 18 April 2014 21 April 2014 1 May 2014 9 June 2014
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 (9th week of teaching activity).
End of the academic year	31 August 2014
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*)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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 2013 28 October 2013 17 November 2013 24 – 26 December 2013 1 January 2014 21 April 2014 (Easter) 1 May 2014 8 May 2014 5 July 2014 6 July 2014
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*)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2012/13</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2013 (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, 4 weeks at minimum 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 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 28 September 2013 28 October 2013 17 November 2013 24 – 26 December 2013 1 January 2014 21 April 2014 (Easter) 1 May 2014 8 May 2014 5 July 2014 6 July 2014
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)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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 2013 1 January 2014 17 – 21 April 2014 16 May 2014 29 May 2014 9 June 2014

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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 2013 (Christmas) 1 January 2014 (New Year's Day) 24 February 2014 (Independence Day) 18 April 2014 (Good Friday) 1 May 2014 (Spring Day (May Day)) 23 June 2014 (Victory Day) 24 June 2014 (Midsummer Day) 20 August 2014 (Day of Restoration of Independence)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: ca. 4.5 months

## FINLAND

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Type of programme: Polytechnics and Universities

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2013
End of the academic year	31 May 2014
Public holidays 201/13 (occasional/national/religious holidays)	2 November 2013 (All Saints) 6 December 2013 (Independence Day) 24 December 2013 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2013 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2013 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2014 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2014 (Epiphany) 18 April 2014 (Good Friday) 31 March 2014 (Easter Day) 21 April 2014 (Easter Monday) 29 May 2014 (Ascension)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 to 7 months

## FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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Type of programme: all types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	15 September 2013
Teaching activity	15 September 2013 – 31 December 2014
Christmas/New Year holidays	31 December 2013 – 7 January 2014
Examinations	8 January – 1 February 2014
Teaching activity	1 February – 15 May 2014
Examinations	15 May – 15 June 2014 15 August – 15 September 2014
End of the academic year	15 September 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	11 October 2013 23 October 2013 9 December 2013 20 January 2014 18 – 21 April 2014 1 May 2014 24 May 2014 9 September 2014

## GERMANY

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2013
Teaching activity winter semester	15 October – 20 December 2013
Holiday	21 December 2013 – 3 January 2014
Teaching activity winter semester	6 January – 14 February 2014
End of winter semester	28 February 2014
Beginning of summer semester	31 March 2014
Teaching activity summer semester	15 April – 12 July 2014
End of the academic year	30 September 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	3 October 2013 (German Unity Day) 18 April 2014 (Good Friday) 21 April 2014 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2014 (Labour Day) 29 May 2014 (Ascension Day) 9 June 2014 (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
Additional notes: -	

## GREECE

Type of programme: ISCED 5A

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2013
Teaching activity (1 <sup>st</sup> or winter semester)	From the beginning of the winter semester in September – approximately within the second fortnight of September – until 24 December 2013
Holiday	24 December 2013 – 7 January 2014 (Christmas holidays)
Teaching activity (1 <sup>st</sup> or winter semester)	8 January until the beginning of the winter semester exams set approximately in mid-January 2014
Examinations	Winter semester exams begin approximately in mid-January 2014 and last for three weeks until the beginning of February 2014
Teaching activity (2 <sup>nd</sup> or spring semester)	Spring semester begins one week after the end of the winter semester exams, approximately in mid-February 2014
Holidays	14 – 27 April 2014 (Easter holidays)
Teaching activity (2 <sup>nd</sup> or spring semester)	The period after Easter holidays until the beginning of spring semester exams, approximately beginning of June 2014
Examinations	Spring semester exams take place in June 2014 and last for three weeks
Holidays	From the end of the June examinations until those of September 2014
Re-examinations	1 September until the beginning of the new winter semester set approximately within the second fortnight of September 2014
End of the academic year	31 August 2014
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	28 October 2013 17 November 2013 30 January 2014 3 March 2014 25 March 2014 1 May 2014 9 June 2014 and several regional holidays

## GREECE (CONTINUED)

Number of intervals: 3	Length of intervals: 2 weeks Christmas Holidays; 2 weeks Easter Holidays; Summer holidays from the end of June examination period until those of September
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<b>1<sup>st</sup> (winter) semester</b> <b>Beginning:</b> September of each calendar year (approximately within the second fortnight of September 2013)	<b>End:</b> Until the final day of the winter semester exams (approximately beginning of February 2014)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> (spring) semester</b> <b>Beginning:</b> Following one free week after the end of winter semester exams (approximately mid-February 2014)	<b>End:</b> 31 August 2014

### 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/6-9-2011), 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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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 2013 (All-Saints' Day) 25-26 December 2013 (Christmas) 15 March 2014 (Revolution Day) 21 April 2014 (Easter) 1 May 2014 (Labour Day) 9 June 2014 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months



## HUNGARY (CONTINUED)

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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 must last 10 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. Besides this the same regulation contains the number of days that the head of the faculty may also rule as non-teaching days for the students of the particular faculty. This is usually not more than five days.
- (4) Number of intervals: the academic year in Hungary characteristically consists of two terms, an autumn term (*ősz* *félév*) and a spring term (*tavaszi félév*). However, due to institutional autonomy, in a small number of HEIs the academic year consists of three study periods – trimesters.

## ICELAND

Type of programme: ISCED 6A

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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 at 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	19 December 2013 – 4 January 2014 16 – 21 April 2014
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Teaching activity generally starts around 7 January and ends between 25 March – 3 April 2014
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 2013 24 April 2014 1 May 2014 29 May 2014
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 13 weeks

## IRELAND

Type of programme: all types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	2 September 2013 Universities and Institutes of Technology are autonomous bodies. Occurs generally in September or October.
Teaching activity	2 September – 25 October 2013
Holiday	28 October – 1 November 2013
Teaching activity and holidays	4 November – 20 December 2013 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	23 December 2013 – 3 January 2014 (Christmas)
Teaching activity	From 6 January 2014 until the examinations
Examinations	Two weeks in February
Teaching activity	From the Monday following the last examination
Holidays	17 March 2014 14 – 25 April 2014 (Easter) 5 May 2014
Teaching activity	From 28 April 2014 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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14 <sup>(1)</sup></b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2013
First semester – Teaching activity	1 October 2013 – 31 January 2014
Examinations (first session)	1 – 15 February 2014
Second semester – Teaching activity	1 March – 30 June 2014
Examinations (second session)	1 – 15 July 2014
Examinations (third sessions)	1 – 15 September 2014
Admission tests and entrance examinations <sup>(2)</sup>	April/July 2013
End of the academic year	30 September 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2013 8 December 2013 23 December 2013 – 7 January 2014 Easter (1 week) 25 April 2014 1 May 2014 2 June 2014
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: semesters (October 2013 – January 2014 and March – June 2014)

<sup>(1)</sup> 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.

<sup>(2)</sup> Entrance test foreseen by the legislation (Medicine, Veterinary, Architecture, Health professions). 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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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 18 March 2013. Local applicants may be registered from 8 July 2013.
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. 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 conclude the teaching activity period and take place in January/February and June/July.
End of the academic year	The academic year generally ends after the last examination of spring or summer semester.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	18 November 2013 24 – 26 December 2013 1 May 2014 4 May 2014 (transferred to 5 May)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: in accordance with the law, 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 (semesters).
<p>Additional notes:</p> <p>Easter holidays are also public holidays, but are not mentioned in the table, as the dates change year by year. In 2014, the Easter holidays will be from 18 March till 21 March.</p> <p>When the specific holidays of 18 November and 4 May fall on Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is transferred to the next working day.</p>	

## LIECHTENSTEIN

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
<i>The organisation of the academic year is within autonomy of the higher education institutions.</i>	
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2013
Winter semester	1 September – 31 January 2014
Teaching activity for new students / Introductory weeks	2 September 2013 – 20 December 2013
Teaching activity for continuing students	16 September – 20 December 2013
Christmas holidays	23 December 2013 – 6 January 2014
Examination weeks	7 – 25 January 2014
Summer semester	1 February – 31 August 2014
Teaching activity	17 February – 31 May 2014
Easter holidays	21 – 26 April 2014
Examination weeks	16 June – 5 July 2014
End of the academic year	31 August 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 September 2013 1 November 2013 8 December 2013 2 February 2014 4 March 2014 19 March 2014 18 April 2014 1 May 2014 29 May 2014 9 June 2014 19 June 2014 15 August 2014
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 26 weeks

## LUXEMBOURG

Type of programme: all types, all programmes

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	16 September 2013
Winter semester	16 September 2013 – 16 February 2014
Christmas holidays	23 December 2013 – 5 January 2014
Revision	6 – 12 January 2014
Examinations	13 January – 9 February 2014
Winter break between semesters	10 – 16 February 2014
Summer semester	17 February – 14 September 2014
Easter holidays	14 – 21 April 2014
Revision	2 – 8 June 2014
Examinations	9 June – 6 July 2014
Summer break between semesters	7 July – 14 September 2014
End of the academic year	6 July 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2013 (All Saints' Day) 21 April 2014 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2014 (Labour Day) 29 May 2014 (Ascension Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 6 months

## MALTA

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of Academic Year – Semester I	2 September 2013
Re-sit examinations / Third attempts / Finalisation of Review Board Process	2 – 13 September 2013
Induction week for all students and MCAST Fresher's week	23 – 30 September 2013
Start of Teaching Activity for all new, progressing and continuing students	1 October 2013
Foundation Day	25 October 2013
Graduation Days – Levels 5 and 6	9, 10 and 11 December 2013
Christmas Recess	24 December 2013 – 3 January 2014
Teaching Activity (Semester I continued)	6 – 31 January 2014
Semester I – Examinations / Progress Week	3 – 7 February 2014
Teaching Activity (start of Semester II)	11 February 2014
Easter Recess	14 – 25 April 2014
Teaching Activity (Semester II continued)	28 April – 6 June 2014
Examinations (Semester II)	9 – 20 June 2014
End of Semester II	11 July 2014
Summer Recess and end of Academic Year	14 July – 29 August 2013
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	13 December 2013 10 February 2014 19 March 2014 31 March 2014 1 May 2014



## MALTA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: University of Malta

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of Academic Year	30 September 2013
Beginning of Semester 1	30 September 2013
Teaching Activity (Semester I)	30 September – 20 December 2013
Graduation Days (Master courses and Doctorate Degrees)	18 – 29 November 2013
Graduation Days (Undergraduate courses)	2 – 10 December 2013
Christmas Recess	21 December 2013 – 5 January 2014
Teaching Activity (Semester I cont.)	6 – 17 January 2014
Examinations (Examinations Semester I)	18 January – 4 February 2014
Teaching Activity (Semester II)	5 February – 12 April 2014
Easter Recess	14 – 27 April 2014
Teaching Activity (Semester II cont.)	28 April – 30 May 2014
Examinations (Examinations Semester II)	31 May – 30 June 2014
End of Second Semester	30 June 2014
Summer Semester (for postgraduate courses spread over 3 semesters)	23 June – 17 October 2014
Summer Recess (within the summer semester)	4 – 17 August 2014
Supplementary Examinations	1 – 13 September 2014
Examinations (for postgraduate courses spread over 3 semesters)	6 – 13 October 2014
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	13 December 2013 10 February 2014 19 March 2014 31 March 2014 1 May 2014

## MONTENEGRO

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	Monday in the first week of September
Teaching activity	Six weeks of teaching, the seventh week is free; after that continuation of the teaching until the second week of December
Christmas/New Year holidays	25 December 2013 – 9 January 2014
Teaching activity	Until mid-December
Examinations	The last two weeks of December
Break between the semesters	10 January – 1 February 2014
Teaching activity	The first Monday in the second week of February
Teaching activity	Six weeks until the third week of May (with one-week break)
Examinations	Two last weeks of May
End of the academic year	First week of July
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25 – 27 December 2013 (Catholic Christmas) 1 – 3 January 2014 (New Year) 7 – 9 January 2014 (Orthodox Christmas) 1 May 2014 (International Labour Day) 21 May 2014 (Independence Day) 13 July 2014 (Statehood Day)

**Additional notes:**

In the period from 10 January until the end of January, students are allowed to re-take exams that they did not manage to pass in the regular examination period.

In the period from the second week of June until the end of June, students are allowed to re-take exams that they did not manage to pass in the regular examination period.

## NORWAY

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Type of programme: all types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Generally mid-August
Teaching activity and holidays	The institutions are autonomous, with the exception of public holidays, see below.
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year generally ends at the end of June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Christmas holiday (normally 16 December 2013 – 2 January 2014) Easter holiday (normally 14 – 21 April 2014) 1 May 2014 (Labour Day) 17 May 2014 (National Day) 29 May 2014 (Ascension Day) 9 June 2014 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months

## POLAND

Type of programme: all types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the beginning of October (e.g. University of Warsaw – 1 October 2013).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the beginning of October and the third week of December (1 October – 22 December 2013).
Christmas holidays	Institutions are autonomous. (23 December 2013 – 6 January 2014).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually January (7 – 27 January 2014).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually two weeks at the end of January / beginning of February (28 January – 10 February 2014).
Break between the semesters	Institutions are autonomous. Usually one week in February (11 – 17 February 2014)
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the third week of February and Easter (18 February 2014 – 16 April 2014)
Easter holiday	Institutions are autonomous. Easter Monday and a few extra days are free (17– 22 April 2014).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between Easter and summer examinations (23 April 2014 – 9 June 2014).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the last two weeks of June (10 – 30 June 2014).
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the end of September (30 September 2014).
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2013 11 November 2013 1 – 3 May 2014 19 June 2014

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. 3-9 March 2014 for the University of Warsaw); the summer re-take session usually begins in the second week of September and lasts two weeks. It ends one week before the end of the academic year (e.g. 1-14 September 2014 for the University of Warsaw).

HEIs often organize 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 9-10 May 2014).

## PORTUGAL

Type of programme: University and Polytechnic

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions of higher education (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 department teaching, teachers and students are entirely free to fix examination dates jointly. Normally there are two examinations periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st: between the end of December and the end of February;</li> <li>• 2nd: between the beginning of June and the end of July.</li> </ul>
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year generally ends on 31 July.
Public/religious holidays	25 April 2014 1 May 2014 10 June 2014 (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)

## SLOVAKIA

Type of programme: All

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2013
End of the academic year	31 August 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 November 2013 24 – 26 December 2013 1 January 2014 6 January 2014 17 and 21 April 2014 (Easter) 1 May 2014 8 May 2014 5 July 2014 29 August 2014

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 Study Order. Academic senate of the university should approve Study Order.

## SWEDEN

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Type of programme: All

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	HEI are autonomous to decide. 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 inclusive of Easter Monday (21 April 2014) and around Ascension Day (29 May 2014) 1 May 2014 (Labour Day) 6 June 2014 (National Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months (around 20 weeks)

## SWITZERLAND

**Type of programme:** Universities (ISCED 5A, ISCED 6), Universities of applied sciences (ISCED 5A), Universities of teacher education (ISCED 5A)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	1 August 2013
Teaching activities and holiday periods	The academic year consists of an autumn semester, a spring semester and periods during which no courses are held.
Teaching activity autumn semester	16 September – 20 December 2013
Teaching activity spring semester	17 February – 30 May 2014
Examinations	Universities and universities of teacher education fix the periods of examinations autonomously. Usually, they take place within 1 to 3 weeks before or after the end of a semester.  At the Universities of applied sciences, the examinations usually take place – as an integrated part – at the end of the teaching period. For that reason, their teaching activity period usually lasts about two weeks longer than indicated above.
End of the academic year	31 July 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Winter holiday: 21 December 2013 – 16 February 2014 Easter holiday: 18 – 25 April 2014 Summer holiday: 31 May – 14 September 2014 Depending on the canton of location, each university has some additional single holidays, e.g. Ascension, Whit Monday.
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of periods: 2 x 14 weeks (universities, universities of teacher education), 2 x 16 weeks (universities of applied sciences)



## SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: Colleges of professional education and training (ISCED 5B)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the academic year starts between August and October.
Teaching activity and holidays	The institutions fix all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Usually teaching activities consist of two semesters starting between August and October and between January and April.  The institutions autonomously fix the holidays.
Examinations	Institutions are free to fix examination dates.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year usually ends at the beginning of summer holidays.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Public holidays depend on the canton of location of the institutions. Usually their holiday periods are similar to those of secondary education.
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Institutions fix the length of semesters autonomously.

## TURKEY

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the academic year	Universities are autonomous. Fall Semester begins generally in September or October, and Spring Semester in February.
Teaching activity	Universities are free to determine their own periods of teaching activity. But as a rule, each academic year is composed of two semesters and each semester includes 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: 15-18 October 2013 (religious holiday) 29 October 2013 (Republic Day) 1 January 2014 (New Year) 23 April 2014 (Children's Day) 1 May 2014 (Labour Day) 19 May 2014 (Youth and Sport Day)
Examinations	Universities fix the examination dates by themselves. 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 examination period for final exams generally starts either right after or one week after the end of the semester. It takes two or three weeks on average. For those who take classes annually, they take one or two midterms and a final exam a year.
End of the academic year	Universities are autonomous. In general, Fall Semester ends in December and Spring Semester in May or June. As for summer semesters, they begin at the end of June and finish in the middle of August.
Number of intervals: 2 Semesters (Fall 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).

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
Beginning of the standard academic year	1 August 2013
Beginning of teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous, but the first term or semester typically starts in late September/early October.
End of teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous, but the final term/semester typically ends in mid/late June.
End of the standard academic year	31 July 2014
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Institutions are normally closed on public holidays. The actual dates vary from year to year.
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
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## UNITED KINGDOM (SCOTLAND)

Type of programme: all ISCED 5

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2013/14</b>	
<b>Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)</b>	<b>Dates or periods</b>
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.