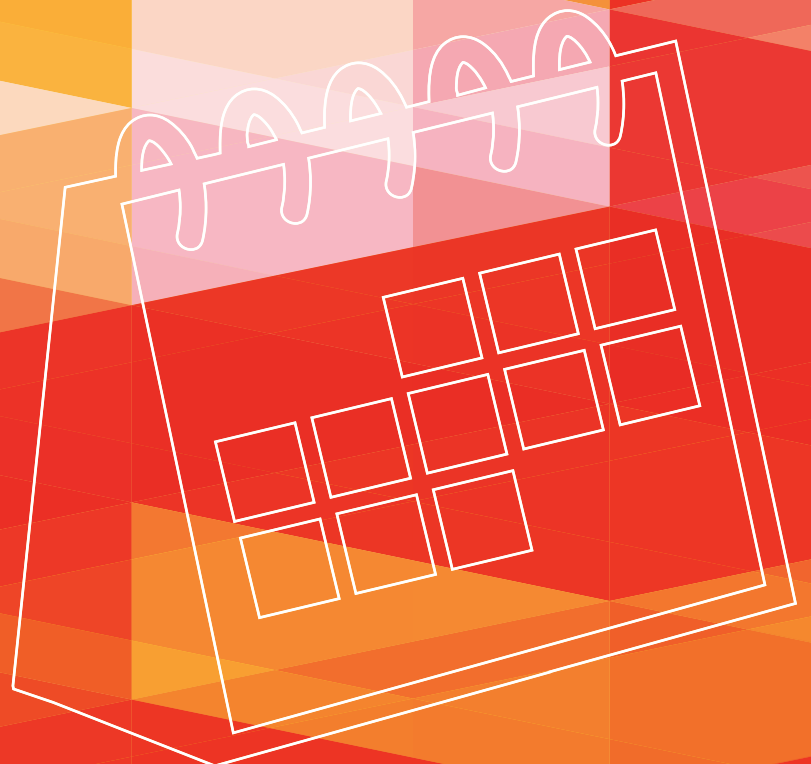




# The Organisation of the Academic Year

*in Europe*  
*2016/17*

*Eurydice – Facts and Figures*







# **The Organisation of the Academic Year in Europe 2016/17**

**Eurydice – Facts and Figures**

This document is published by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA, Education and Youth Policy Analysis).

**Please cite this publication as:**

European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice, 2016. *The Organisation of the Academic Year in Europe – 2016/17*. Eurydice Facts and Figures. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

ISBN 978-92-9492-336-3

ISSN 2443-5317

doi:10.2797/499435

EC-AI-16-001-EN-N

Text completed in August 2016.

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## AUSTRIA

Type of programme: Public universities

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
Teaching activities and holiday periods	The academic year consists of the winter semester, the summer semester and the periods during which no courses are held. Christmas (2 weeks), semester holidays (February), Easter (2 weeks); summer holidays (July to September); no more detailed information available. All holiday periods are set by the university's senate.
Examinations	No centrally set dates but most of examinations are carried out in January, March, June and October.
End of the academic year	30 September 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	26 October 2016 1 November 2016 8 December 2016 25-26 December 2016 1 January 2017 6 January 2017 17 April 2017 1 May 2017 25 May 2017 5 June 2017 15 June 2017 15 August 2017
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): bachelor-programmes, master-programmes

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 (usually 15 weeks for full-time programmes, 18-20 weeks for degree-programmes especially designed for working professionals). Usually there are: Christmas holidays (around 2 weeks), Easter holidays (1-2 weeks) and the periods between the semesters.
Examinations	Institutions are free to fix examination dates.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year usually ends at the date the new one begins.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	26 October 2016 1 November 2016 8 December 2016 25-26 December 2016 1 January 2017 6 January 2017 17 April 2017 1 May 2017 5 June 2017 15 June 2017 25 May 2017 15 August 2017
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of semesters is fixed by institutions autonomously and may vary from degree programme to degree programme even within the same institution. The University of Applied Studies Act does not regulate the duration of 'semesters'. Winter semester: from 4 to 6 months Summer semester: from 4 to 6 months

## AUSTRIA (CONTINUED)

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
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 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p>Christmas: about 2 weeks, semester holidays: 3 to 5 weeks, Easter (Saturday before Palm Sunday until Tuesday after Easter); summer holidays (1 July-30 September 2017).</p> <p>There is a certain amount of autonomy in deciding upon the lecture-free time (For example: semester holidays may be mainly in February from 3 to 5 weeks; set by the respective study commission).</p>
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	<p>Winter semester: 4 months</p> <p>Summer semester: 4 months</p>

## BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY

Type of programme: All types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 mid-September and 1 October.
Teaching activities (1st semester)	From the beginning of the academic year until the end of the week before the Christmas holidays. - Academic year 2016/17: until Saturday 24 December 2016
Holidays	Two weeks around Christmas and New Year. - Academic year 2016/17: from Monday 26 December 2016 until Sunday 10 January 2017
Examinations	3-4 weeks in January - Examinations academic year 2016/17: from Monday 9 January 2017 until Saturday 4 February 2017 Followed by one week without class between the first and the second semester - Class-free week academic year 2016/17: from Monday 6 February 2017 until Sunday 12 February 2017
Teaching activities (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester)	From the beginning of February until the end of the 3rd or 4th week of May. - Academic year 2016/17: from Monday 13 February 2017 until Saturday 27 May 2017. There is an Easter holiday break of two weeks. - Academic year 2016/17: from Monday 3 April 2017 until Monday 17 April (Easter Monday)
Examinations	Last week of May until the end of the last week of June or the 1st week of July - Academic year 2016/17: from Monday 29 May 2017 until Saturday 8 July 2017
Holidays	From the beginning (1st or 2nd week) of July until the start of the subsequent academic year - Start holidays academic year 2016/17: Monday 10 July 2017



## BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Examinations	From mid-August until the end of the third week of September - Academic year 2016/17: from Monday 21 August 2017 until Saturday 16 September 2017
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 2016 (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day) 11 November 2016 (Armistice Day) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 25-26 May 2017 (Ascension Day) 5 June 2017 (Whit Monday) 11 July 2017 (Flemish Holiday) 21 July 2017 (National Holiday) 15 August 2017 (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)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	<p>The legal act of 7 November 2013 fixes annually the beginning and end of each four-month term.</p> <p>The academic year is a one-year period beginning on 14 September 2016.</p> <p>In practice, teaching activities begin around 14 September in most institutions. In order to encourage student and staff mobility within the French Community, the government may lay down further conditions when determining this academic calendar.</p> <p>(Relative) institutional autonomy</p>
Teaching activity and holidays	<p>The first term starts on 14 September 2016; the second on 1 February 2017; the third on 1 July 2017.</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	13 September of the next year
Holidays	<p>Winter holidays: 26 December 2016 – 6 January 2017</p> <p>Spring holidays: 3-14 April 2017</p> <p>Summer holidays: 7 weeks after the first session</p>

## BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016/17 academic year are:</p> <p>27 September 2016 (Festival of the French Community)</p> <p>1 November 2016 (All Saints' Day)</p> <p>11 November 2016 (1918 Armistice Day)</p> <p>17 April 2017 (Easter)</p> <p>1 May 2017 (Labour Day)</p> <p>25 May 2017 (Ascension Day)</p> <p>5 June 2017 (Pentecost)</p> <p>The authorities of higher education institutions may determine additional holidays.</p> <p>Teaching and assessment activities except professional induction, excursions, visits and internships do not take place on Sundays nor official public holidays.</p> <p>If public holidays fall on a Saturday or a Sunday, no replacement is foreseen.</p>
Number of intervals: 3	<p>Length of intervals: no longer than 4 months (each of the first two four-month terms involves at least 12 weeks of activity and is no longer than four months).</p> <p>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 6

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	5 September 2016 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	5 September – 28 October 2016
Autumn holiday	31 October – 4 November 2016
Teaching activity	7 November – 23 December 2016
Christmas holiday	26 December 2016 – 6 January 2017
Examinations	9-13 January 2017
<b>Second semester</b>	
Teaching activity	16 January – 24 February 2017
Carnival holiday	27 February – 3 March 2017
Teaching activity	6-31 March 2017
Easter holiday	3-14 April 2017
Teaching activity	18 April – 26 May 2017
Lecture free period	29 May – 2 June 2017
Examinations	6-23 June 2017
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 2016 15 November 2016 17 April 2017 1 May 2017 25 May 2017 5 June 2017
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: September to mid-January Mid-January to the end of June

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Type of programme: ISCED 6

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
Teaching activity	1 October 2016 – 22 January 2017
Winter holidays	1-8 January 2017
Examinations	8 January – 2 February 2017
Teaching activity	22 January – 18 July 2017
Examinations	1-25 April 2017
Examinations	9 June – 4 July 2017
Summer holidays	18 July – 19 August 2017
Examinations	1-25 September 2017
End of the academic year	30 September 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p><b>Republic holidays:</b></p> <p>25 November 2016 (Statehood Day) 1-2 January 2017 (New Year) 1-2 May 2017 (International Labour Day)</p> <p><b>Religious holidays:</b></p> <p>12 September 2016 (Eid al-Adha) 25 December 2016 (Catholic Christmas) 14-17 April 2017 (Catholic and Orthodox Easter)</p>

Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)
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<p><b>Additional notes:</b></p> <p>Religious holidays are celebrated depending on the religious community. Holidays which are dated on non-working days are not taken into account.</p>
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## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA

Type of programme: ISCED 6

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	3 October 2016
Teaching activity	3 October 2016 – 20 January 2017
Winter holidays	2-6 January 2017
Examinations	23 January – 17 February 2017
Teaching activity	20 February – 2 June 2017
Examinations	17-28 April 2017
Examinations	12 June – 14 July 2017
Summer holidays	17 July – 18 August 2017
Examinations	21 August – 15 September 2017
End of the academic year	2 October 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	<p><b>Republic holidays:</b> 1-2 January 2017 (New Year) 1-2 May 2017 (International Labour Day)</p> <p><b>Religious holidays:</b> 25 December 2016 (Catholic Christmas) 14-17 April 2017 (Catholic and Orthodox Easter)</p>

Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)
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**Additional notes:**

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

## BULGARIA

Type of programme: All types and programmes

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 is assumed as the official start of the new academic year. However, due to the autonomy of higher education institutions (HEIs), starting dates vary from one institution to another.
Teaching activity and holidays	The academic year consists of two semesters (winter and summer). However, the length of teaching activity (lectures and practical trainings) differs from one HEI to another due to their autonomy.  Examinations dates, holidays (other than the officially announced public and religious holidays) are determined at institutional level.
Examinations	The examination dates are determined at institutional level, however, they are usually scheduled within the period starting from mid-January to mid-February at the latest (end of the winter semester), and within the period from mid-June to mid-July.  Students who fail to take or pass an exam on the date within the indicated period, are supposed to take/re-take the exam usually in early September.
End of the academic year	HEIs are autonomous. The academic year generally ends between end-June and mid-July.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Certain dates are regarded as official holidays (religious, national, public): 22 September 2016 24 December 2016 3 March 2017 1 May 2017 6 May 2017 24-25 May 2017  Students have a break for about 2 weeks for Christmas and Easter holidays. Each HEI celebrates the day of its patron, on which teaching activity is not carried out.
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 15-16 weeks on average of teaching activity

## CROATIA

Type of programme: ISCED 5-7

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2015/16</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 2016
Teaching activity	3 October – 23 December 2016
Winter holidays	26 December 2016 – 6 January 2017
Teaching activity	9 January – 3 February 2017
Examinations	6 February – 3 March 2017
Teaching activity	6 March – 9 June 2017
Examinations	12 June – 7 July 2017
Summer holidays	10 July – 25 August 2017
Examinations resits	28 August – 8 September 2017
End of the academic year	30 September 2017
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	8 October 2016 (Independence Day) 1 November 2016 (All Saints Day) 1 May 2017 (International Labour Day) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 15 June 2017 (Corpus Christi) 22 June 2017 (Antifascist Resistance Day)
Number of intervals:	2 (semesters)

### **Additional notes:**

Although different universities in Croatia (eight in total) – and individual faculties and schools in some universities – are fully autonomous in deciding on their own individual academic calendar, the calendar provided above is the actual calendar for largest Croatian university, University of Zagreb, and is 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 2016/17</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 2016/17, at the UCY and CUT, classes start on 5 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: 24 December 2016 – 8 January 2017 (Christmas, at the end of the autumn semester) 8-23 April 2017 (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 2016/17 will be as follows: 9-23 December 2016 for autumn semester 8-22 May 2017 for spring semester In OUC final examinations will take place from 19 May – 12 June 2017.
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 2016 (National Holiday) 28 October 2016 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2016 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2017 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2017 (Epiphany Day) 27 February 2017 (Beginning of Lent) 25 March 2017 (National Day) 1 April 2017 (National Day) 14-17 April 2017 (Easter Holidays) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 5 June 2017 (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)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 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 2016 – 6 January 2017 (Christmas) Around 8-23 April 2017 (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 for the spring semester. For summer session, examination period occurs between 17 and 21 July 2017.
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 2016 (National Holiday) 28 October 2016 (National Holiday) 24-26 December 2016 (Christmas Holidays) 1 January 2017 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2017 (Epiphany Day) 27 February 2017 (Beginning of Lent) 25 March 2017 (National Day) 1 April 2017 (National Day) 14-17 April 2017 (Easter Holidays) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 5 June 2017 (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)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	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 2016 (National Holiday)</p> <p>28 October 2016 (National Holiday)</p> <p>24-26 December 2016 (Christmas Holidays)</p> <p>1 January 2017 (New Year's Day)</p> <p>6 January 2017 (Epiphany Day)</p> <p>27 February 2017 (Beginning of Lent)</p> <p>25 March 2017 (National Day)</p> <p>1 April 2017 (National Day)</p> <p>14-17 April 2017 (Easter Holidays)</p> <p>1 May 2017 (Labour Day)</p> <p>5 June 2017 (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 2017
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 6-8 (higher education institutions – *vysoké školy*)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 the internal regulations.
Examinations	Examination periods are fixed by institutions in the 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 2016 28 October 2016 17 November 2016 24-26 December 2016 1 January 2017 14 and 17 April 2017 (Easter) 1 May 2017 8 May 2017 5 July 2017 6 July 2017
Number of intervals: most often two	Length of intervals: around a half a year

## CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016 (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 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 28 September 2016 28 October 2016 17 November 2016 24-26 December 2016 1 January 2017 14 and 17 April 2017 (Easter) 1 May 2017 8 May 2017 5 July 2017 6 July 2017
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months (153 days) and 7 months (212 days)

### **Additional notes:**

The beginning and end of the academic year, period for self-study and examinations, school holidays, or other possible changes in the organization of the school year are set in accordance with the accredited educational programme by the school head.

According to the Regulation on Higher Education for ISCED 655 (Regulation No. 10/2005, Section 3), 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).

Moreover, it says that compulsory courses, professional training and even examinations may be taken during school holidays and that school holidays must be kept for at least 4 weeks.

## DENMARK

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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)	22 December 2016 – 1 January 2017 (both days inclusive) 8 -17 April 2017, Easter (both days inclusive) 12 May 2017 25 May 2017 3-5 June 2017 (both days inclusive)
Number of intervals: 2*	Length of intervals: approx. 4/5 months

### **Additional notes:**

Short cycle and medium-cycle higher education: There is no specific information on the academic calendar available for short cycle and medium-cycle higher education programmes 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 2016/17</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 February 2017 (Independence Day) 14 April 2017 (Good Friday) 1 May (May Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: ca. 4.5 months

## FINLAND

Type of programme: Polytechnics and universities

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
First semester – Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between the beginning of August and 30 December 2016
Second semester – Teaching activity	Fixed by each faculty, between 2 January and 31 July 2017
Examinations	Fixed by the teachers
End of the academic year	31 July 2017
Public holidays 2015/16 (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2016 (All Saints) 6 December 2016 (Independence Day) 24 December 2016 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2016 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2016 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2017 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2017 (Epiphany) 14 April 2017 (Good Friday) 16 April 2017 (Easter Day) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2017 (May Day) 14 May 2017 (Ascension)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 to 7 months



## FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Type of programme: All types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
Teaching activity	15 September – 30 December 2016
Christmas/New Year holidays	1-8 January 2017
Teaching activity	–
Examinations	9-20 January 2017
Break between the semesters	8-29 January 2017
Teaching activity	30 January – 15 May 2017
Spring/Easter holiday	14-17 April 2017
Teaching activity	–
Examinations	16 May – 16 June 2017 15 August – 15 September 2017
End of the academic year	15 September 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 September 2016 – Independence Day 11 October 2016 – Anti-fascist Uprising Day 8 December 2016 – St. Clements Day 14-17 April 2017 – Easter Orthodox 1 May 2017 – Labour Day 24 May 2017 – Ss. Cyril and Methodius Day

## FRANCE

Type of programme: University studies

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	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 university managing bodies.
End of the academic year	No precise date. Institutional autonomy. In practice, the academic year ends after the final examination, in June or at the beginning of July.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 November 2016 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2016 (1918 Armistice Day) 25 December 2016 (Christmas) 1 January 2017 (New Year) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 8 May 2017 (end of WWII in Europe) 25 May 2017 (Ascension Day) 5 June 2017 (Whit Monday) 14 July 2017 (National holiday) 15 August 2017 (Assumption Day)

## 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')

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	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: 1 November 2016 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2016 (1918 Armistice Day) 25 December 2016 (Christmas) 1 January 2017 (New Year) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 8 May 2017 (end of WWII in Europe) 25 May 2017 (Ascension Day) 5 June 2017 (Whit Monday) 14 July 2017 (National holiday) 15 August 2017 (Assumption Day)

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

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
Teaching activity winter semester	17 October – fourth week of December 2016
Holiday	Fourth week of December 2016 – first week of January 2017
Teaching activity winter semester	First week of January 2017 – second to third week of February 2017
End of winter semester	31 March 2017
Beginning of summer semester	1 April 2017
Teaching activity summer semester	Second to fourth week of April 2017 – fourth week of July 2017
End of the academic year	30 September 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	3 October 2016 (German Unity Day) 14 April 2017 (Good Friday) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 25 May 2017 (Ascension Day) 5 June 2017 (Whit Monday) + holiday depending on the Land
Number of intervals: 3 2 semesters, one of five months, one of four months	Length of intervals: 10 days close to Christmas, 1 month after the winter semester, two months after the summer semester

## GREECE

Type of programme: ISCED 6

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17	
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 2016
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 2016
Holiday	24 December 2016 – 6 January 2017 (Christmas holidays)
Teaching activity (1 <sup>st</sup> or winter semester)	9 January 2017 until the beginning of the winter semester exams set approximately in mid-January 2017
Examinations	Winter semester exams begin approximately in mid-January 2017 and last for three weeks until the beginning of February 2017.
Teaching activity (2 <sup>nd</sup> or spring semester)	Spring semester begins after the end of the winter semester exams, approximately in mid-February 2017.
Holidays	10-21 April 2017 (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 2017
Examinations	Spring semester exams take place in June 2017 and last for three weeks.
Holidays	From the end of the June examinations until those of September 2017
Re-examinations	1 September until the beginning of the new winter semester set approximately within the second fortnight of September 2017
End of the academic year	31 August 2017
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	28 October 2016 (National holiday) 17 November 2016 30 January 2017 27 February 2017 (Religious holiday) 25 March 2017 (National holiday; however <b>Saturday</b> this year) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 5 June 2017 (Religious holiday)

## GREECE (CONTINUED)

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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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<b>1st (winter) semester</b> Beginning: September of each calendar year (approximately within the second fortnight of September 2016)	End: Until the final day of the winter semester exams (approximately beginning of February 2017)
<b>2nd (spring) semester</b> Beginning: After the end of winter semester exams (approximately mid-February 2017)	End: Until the final day of the spring semester exams (varies for each institution)

### **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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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)	23 October 2016 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956) 1 November 2016 (All-Saints' Day) 25-26 December 2016 (Christmas) 1 January 2017 (New Year's Day) 17 April 2017 (Easter) 15 March 2017 (The Day of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 5 June 2017 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months

## HUNGARY (CONTINUED)

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### **Additional notes:**

- (<sup>1</sup>) 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.)
- (<sup>2</sup>) The Act on Higher Education only stipulates that the academic year lasts 10 months and one term lasts 5 months. The organisation of the academic year is within the competence of HEIs. It is usually determined by the *Senate* and based on the proposal of the head of the HEI. The organisation of the academic year does not vary from one type of programme to the next within the same institution.
- (<sup>3</sup>) 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.
- (<sup>4</sup>) 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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 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	21 December 2016 – 2-6 January 2017 10-17 April 2017
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Teaching activity generally starts around 7 January and ends between 25 March – 3 April 2017
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 2016 20 April 2017 25 May 2017 5 June 2017
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 2016/17</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 2016 Universities and Institutes of Technology are autonomous bodies. Occurs generally in September or October.
Teaching activity	1 September – 28 October 2016
Holiday	31 October – 4 November 2016
Teaching activity and holidays	7 November – 22 December 2016 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 2016 – 2 January 2017 (Christmas)
Teaching activity	From 3 January 2017 until the examinations
Examinations	Two weeks in February
Teaching activity	From the Monday following the last examination
Holidays	17 March 2017 10-21 April 2017 (Easter) 1 May 2017
Teaching activity	From 24 April 2017 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 2016/17 <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 2016
First semester – Teaching activity	1 October 2016 – 23 December 2016
Examinations (first session)	January – February 2017
Second semester – Teaching activity	1 March – 31 May 2017
Examinations (second session)	June – July 2017
Examinations (third sessions)	September 2017
Admission tests and entrance examinations <sup>(2)</sup>	September 2016
End of the academic year	30 September 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2016 8 December 2016 23 December 2016 – 7 January 2017 Easter (1 week) 25 April 2017 1 May 2017 2 June 2017
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: semesters (October 2016 – December 2016 and March 2017 – May 2017)

<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 are foreseen in September. According to the principle of autonomy of HEIs, each university can promote additional entrance test to assess the preparation of students at the beginning of their studies.

## LATVIA

Type of programme: All types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 1 March 2016. Local applicants may be registered from 1 July 2016. Higher education institutions autonomously determine the registration and admission periods for Master level and Doctoral level programmes.
Beginning of the academic year	Occurs generally in the first week of September, but may differ among institutions which are autonomous.
Teaching activity and holidays	Institutions fix periods of teaching activity and holidays. Teaching activity usually is organised from September to December and from February to May. Higher education institutions in cooperation with their stakeholders from employment organisations autonomously determine the practical training placements (internships) periods for their students. As regards the holidays, there is usually one week around Christmas/New Year and another one at Easter.
Examinations	Institutions fix periods of examinations. Usually examinations proceed after the teaching activity period and take place in January/February and June/July.
End of the academic year	The academic year generally ends after the last examination of spring or summer semester.

## LATVIA (CONTINUED)

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<p><a href="#">Public holidays</a> (occasional/national/religious holidays)</p>	<p>18 November 2016 (Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia) 24-26 December 2016 (Christmas) 14-17 April 2017 (Easter) 1 May 2017 (Convocation of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Latvia; Labour Day) 4 May 2017 (Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia)</p>
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<p>Number of intervals: 2 semesters</p>	<p>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).</p>
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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.

Useful information for prospective incoming students is available at The International Student Guide to Education and [Study in Latvia](#).

## LIECHTENSTEIN

Type of programme: ISCED 6/7/8 Academic (public sector – *Universität Liechtenstein*)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
Winter semester	1 September 2016 – 31 January 2017
Teaching activity for new students / Introductory weeks	5-10 September 2016
Teaching activity for continuing students	12 September – 23 December 2016
Christmas holidays	24 December 2016 – 6 January 2017
Examination weeks	9-27 January 2017
Summer semester	1 February – 31 August 2017
Teaching activity	20 February – 3 June 2017
Easter holidays	14-23 April 2017
Examination weeks	12-30 June 2017
End of the academic year	31 August 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 September 2016 1 November 2016 8 December 2016 2 February 2017 28 February 2017 19 March 2017 17 April 2017 1 May 2017 25 May 2017 5 June 2017 15 June 2017 15 August 2017
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 26 weeks

# LITHUANIA

Type of programme: All types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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. 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: 1 November 2016 1 January 2017 16 February 2017 11 March 2017 1 May 2017 24 June 2017 6 July 2017
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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
Winter semester	15 September 2016 – 19 February 2017
Christmas holidays	24 December 2016 – 8 January 2017
Revision	9-15 January 2017
Examinations	16 January – 12 February 2017
Winter break between semesters	13-19 February 2017
Summer semester	20 February – 10 September 2017
Easter holidays	17-23 April 2017
Revision	5-11 June 2017
Examinations	12 June – 9 July 2017
Summer break between semesters	10 July – 10 September 2017
End of the academic year	10 July 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2016 (All Saints' Day) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 25 May 2017 (Ascension Day) 5 June 2017 (Whit Monday) 23 June 2017 (National Holiday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 6 months



## MALTA

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	1 September 2016
Synoptic examinations / Third attempts / Finalisation of Review Board Process	1-9 September 2016
Induction week for all students and MCAST Fresher's week and Foundation Day for all students	26-30 September 2016
Start of Teaching Activity for all new, progressing and continuing students	3 October 2016
Graduation Days – Levels 5 and 6	December 2016
Christmas Recess	26 December 2016 – 2 January 2017
Teaching Activity (Semester I continued)	3 January – 27 February 2017
Semester I – Examinations / Progress Week	30 January – 3 February 2017
Graduation ceremonies for Pathway and Levels 1 to 4	February 2017
Teaching Activity (start of Semester II)	6 February 2017
Easter Recess	13-21 April 2017
Teaching Activity (Semester II continued)	24 April – 21 June 2017
Synoptic Exams (where applicable)	22 June – 30 July 2017
End of Semester II	7 July 2017
Summer Recess and end of Academic Year	10 July – 31 August 2017
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	8 September 2016 21 September 2016 8 December 2016 13 December 2016 25 December 2016 1 January 2017 10 February 2017 19 March 2017 31 March 2017 14 April 2017 1 May 2017 7 June 2017 29 June 2017 15 August 2017

There is a total of 181 academic days starting from 3 October 2016 till 7 July 2017 including examination days. Total number of holidays is 20 during this period.

## MALTA (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: University of Malta

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	3 October 2016 (1st year students)
Beginning of Semester 1	3 October 2016 (1st year students) 26 September 2016 (continuing students)
Teaching Activity (Semester I)	3 October – 19 December 2016 (1st year students) 26 September – 19 December 2016 (continuing students)
Graduation Days (Undergraduate courses) (Master courses and Doctorate Degrees)	8-16 November 2016
Graduation Days (Master courses and Doctorate Degrees)	17 November – 6 December 2016
Christmas Recess	20 December 2016 – 4 January 2017
Teaching Activity (Semester I cont.)	5-13 January 2017 (Revision Period 11-13 January 2017)
Examinations (Examinations Semester I)	14-31 January 2017
Teaching Activity (Semester II)	1 February – 7 April 2017
Easter Recess	10-23 April 2017
Teaching Activity (Semester II cont.)	24 April – 26 May 2017 (Revision Period 23-26 May 2017 )
Examinations (Examinations Semester II)	27 May – 30 June 2017
End of Second Semester	30 June 2017
Summer Semester (for postgraduate courses spread over 3 semesters)	12 June – 30 September 2017
Summer Recess (within the summer semester)	1-15 August 2017
Supplementary Examinations	1-9 September 2017
Public holidays (occasional / national / religious holidays)	8 September 2016 21 September 2016 8 December 2016 13 December 2016 25 December 2016 1 January 2017 10 February 2017 19 March 2017 31 March 2017 14 April 2017 1 May 2017 7 June 2017 29 June 2017 15 August 2017

For semesters 1 and 2, there is a total of 132 academic days starting from 3 October 2016 up till 26 May 2017 and excluding examination periods. Total number of holidays is 26.

For postgraduate courses spreading over 3 semesters, the total number of possible academic days is 208 days and total number of holidays is 40

## MONTENEGRO

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	29 August 2016 (29 August – 18 September 2016 additional examination term will be organized)
Teaching activity	26 September 2016 – 5 January 2017
Christmas/New Year holidays	25-27 December 2016 1-3 January 2017 7-9 January 2017
Examinations	9 January –12 February 2017
Break between the semesters	–
Teaching activity	13 February – 28 May 2017
Examinations	29 May – 2 July 2017
End of the academic year	24 July 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25-27 December 2016 (Catholic Christmas) 1-3 January 2017 (New Year's Day) 7-9 January 2017 (Orthodox Christmas) 16 April 2017 Easter Day (Catholic) 16 April 2017 Easter Day(Orthodox) 1 May 2017 (International Labour Day) 21 May 2017 (Independence Day) 13 July 2017 (Statehood Day)

### **Additional notes:**

In accordance with the Law on Higher Education (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no 44/14 and 47/15), the examination terms take place in January and June. Examination terms have two set of examination dates. A student who does not pass an exam at the first examination date is entitled to take it at the second examination date of the same examination term.

A student is entitled to take exams for courses that he/she has not passed in the examination terms in January and June in an additional term before the beginning of the next academic year.

Dates for the organisation of exams are determined by the academic calendar for an academic year passed by an institution in compliance with its statute.

## THE NETHERLANDS

Type of programme: ISCED 6 and 7

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
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 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25 and 26 December 2016 (Christmas Days) 31 December 2016 (New Year's Eve) 1 January 2017 (New Year's Day) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2017 (King's Birthday) 5 May 2017 (Liberation Day) 25 May 2017 (Ascension Day) 5 June 2017 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.	Length of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.

### **Additional notes:**

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

The academic year can be divided into a semester or a trimester. Institutions are free to decide how many weeks are used to teach and how many weeks are used for the exams.

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

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

\* The thing that is determined is the number of ECTS in higher education.

Training	Duration	ECTS
Bachelor HBO (higher professional education)	4 years	240 ECTS
Bachelor WO (university)	3 years	180 ECTS
Master HBO/WO	At least 1 year	At least 60 ECTS

### **School days and holidays 2016/17:**

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

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

## NORWAY

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Type of programme: All types

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	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 holidays (normally 19 December 2016 – 3 January 2017) Easter holidays (normally 10-17 April 2017) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 17 May 2017 (National Day) 25 May 2017 (Ascension Day) 5 June 2017 (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 2016/17</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 University: 1 October 2016).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the beginning of October and the third week of December (e.g. UoW: 1 October – 22 December 2016).
Christmas holidays	Institutions are autonomous. (e.g. UoW: 23 December 2016 – 6 January 2017).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually January (e.g. UoW: 7-27 January 2017).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually two weeks at the end of January/beginning of February (e.g. UoW: 28 January – 10 February 2017).
Break between the semesters	Institutions are autonomous. Usually one week in February (e.g. UoW: 11-17 February 2017)
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the third week of February and Easter (e.g. UoW: 18 February – 30 April 2017)
Easter holiday	Institutions are autonomous. Easter Monday and a few extra days are free (e.g. UoW: 13-18 April 2017).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between Easter and summer examinations (e.g. UoW: 4 May – 8 June 2017).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the last two weeks of June (e.g. UoW: 9 June – 2 July 2017).
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the end of September (e.g. UoW: 30 September 2017).
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1, 11 November 2016 1, 3 May 2017 15 June

**Additional notes:** HEIs often organise Students' Day (typically 1-2 days) called *Juvenalia* with concerts, performances and other artistic and cultural events. These are additional days off for students. The rector of the institution sets the dates of these events (e.g. UoW: 12-13 May 2017).

## PORTUGAL

Type of programme: University and polytechnic

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	Higher education institutions (universities and polytechnic institutes) are autonomous. Generally the year begins between 15 September and 15 October.
Periods of teaching activity and holiday periods	<p>Institutions are autonomous and fix all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Typically, 1st semester goes from the second or third week of September to the second or third week of December; 2nd semester starts in the second week of February and ends in the end of May.</p> <p>The 2nd semester has a two to four days interruption for Carnival (end of February) and a one week interruption for Easter (mid-April)</p>
Examination periods	<p>The teaching department, teachers and students are entirely free to fix examination dates jointly. Normally there are two examinations periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st: between the end of December and the first week 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	5 October 2016 1 November 2016 1 December 2016 8 December 2016 25 April 2017 1 May 2017 10 June 2016 15 June 2017 (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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	According to the Law of the National Education (Law 1/2011 with subsequent completions), the university year usually begins on the first working day of October; it includes two semesters and ends on 30 September in the next calendar year.
Teaching activity and holidays	The academic year consists of two semesters. Higher education institutions (HEI) are autonomous. They fix all periods of teaching activity, exams and holidays. The length of the teaching activity (lectures and practice trainings) differs from one HEI to another. Examinations dates and holidays (other than the officially announced public and religious holidays) are determined at institutional level.
Examinations	The examination dates are determined at institutional level. Teachers and students are free to fix the dates for examinations within the examination sessions established by institutions.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Generally at the end of September.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	30 November 2016 1 December 2016 17 April 2017 1 May 2017 5 June 2017
Number of intervals: 2 semesters	Length of intervals: 14 weeks (teaching) + 3 weeks (examinations) each

**Additional notes:**

1. As a rule, a semester lasts 14 weeks of teaching activities usually followed by minimum 3 weeks of exams.
2. HEI's are free to decide on the inside structure of the academic year, which is approved by the University Senate.
3. Teaching activity stops during the periods of examinations.
4. When assigning the transferable study credits, a period of at least 17 weeks is taken into consideration.



## ROMANIA (CONTINUED)

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**Example of the structure of academic year [*Babes-Bolyai University Cluj- Napoca*]:**

First Semester:

Teaching activity: 03.10.2016 – 23.12.2016.

Winter holydays: 26.12.2016 – 08.01.2017.

Teaching activity: 09.01.2017 – 22.01.2017.

Exams: 23.01.2017 – 12.02.2017.

Holydays: 13.02.2017 – 19.02.2017.

Second Semester:

Teaching activity: 27.02.2017 – 16.04.2017.

Easter holydays: 17.04.2017 – 23.04.2017.

Teaching activity: 24.04.2017 – 11.06.2017.

Exams: 12.06.2017 – 02.07.2017.

Holydays: 03.07.2017 – 09.07.2017.

Re-examination sessions (for those students who failed in previous sessions):  
20.02.2017 – 26.02.2017 or 10.07.2017 – 16.07.2017.

## SERBIA

Type of programme: ISCED 6 and 7

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	Beginning of October (3 October 2016)
Teaching activity (1 <sup>st</sup> or fall semester)	From the beginning of October (3 October) to the end of December (30 December 2016)
Holiday	New Year's and Christmas holidays, usually between 31 December and 8 January 2017
Teaching activity (1 <sup>st</sup> or winter semester)	Usually from 9 January until the end of the semester in February (20 February 2017)
Teaching activity (2 <sup>nd</sup> or spring semester)	From the end of February (20 February 2017) until the Easter holidays (mid-April)
Holidays	Easter holidays (14-21 April 2017)
Teaching activity (2 <sup>nd</sup> or spring semester)	After Easter holidays until the end of the semester, usually until the end of May (26 May 2017)
Holidays	Usually from mid-July (24 July) to mid-August (25 August 2017)
Examinations	HEIs determine the dates and the number of examination periods during the academic year, usually 4 to 6 periods, at the end of each semester and prior to the end of the academic year, after summer holidays.
End of the academic year	Usually 30 September
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	11 November 2016 (national holiday) 1-8 January 2017 (New Year's and Christmas holidays) 15-16 February 2017 (national holiday) 14-21 April 2017 (religious holiday) 1-2 May 2017 (national holiday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: fall and spring semester, approximately 4 months long

### Additional notes:

The academic calendars are determined each year at institutional level, meaning that HEIs may have different calendars during the same academic year. For this reason, the information about dates/periods is only approximate and is given by comparing calendars of different HEIs from previous years and by extracting the most common dates. Moreover, many HEIs do not have 2016/17 calendars ready at the moment, so calendars from previous years and common practices were used to generate expected and approximate calendar for the next academic year.

The academic calendar is comprised of approximately 140 working academic days and 5 non-working holidays.

## SLOVAKIA

Type of programme: All

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
End of the academic year	31 August 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 September 2016 15 September 2016 17 November 2016 26 December 2016 6 January 2017 14 April and 17 April 2017 (Easter)

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 level 6 and 7 (universities; higher professional education institutions)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	3 October 2016
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	29 September 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2016 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2016 (Day in Remembrance of the Dead) 25 December 2016 (Christmas) 26 December 2016 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 January 2017 (New Year's Day) 8 February 2017 ( <i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2017 (Day of Uprising Against Occupation) 1 and 2 May 2017 (May Day Holiday) 25 June 2017 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2017 (Assumption Day) + University day(s) + Students' day(s)
Number of intervals: 2 semesters	Interval: around 15 weeks

**Additional note:**

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

## SLOVENIA (CONTINUED)

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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	3 October 2016
Teaching activity	34 weeks; institutions specify periods of teaching activities.
Examinations	Institutions specify examinations at will in compliance with the Rules issued by the Minister (*).
End of the academic year	29 September 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2016 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2016 (Day in Remembrance of the Dead) 25 December 2016 (Christmas) 26 December 2016 (Independence and Unity Day) 1 January 2017 (New Year's Day) 8 February 2017 ( <i>Prešeren</i> Day – Slovenian Cultural Holiday) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2017 (Day of Uprising Against Occupation) 1 and 2 May 2017 (May Day Holiday) 25 June 2017 (Statehood Day) 15 August 2017 (Assumption Day)
Number of intervals Teaching activity: 2 semesters Examination activity: 3 periods	Intervals: Teaching activity: around 12 weeks 1 semester (around 10 weeks) aimed at practical work only Examination activity: in the autonomy of colleges
<b>Additional notes:</b> The beginning and the end of an academic year are specified by law. An academic year encompasses no less than 34 weeks of organised study work and 37 to 42 weeks of study load for students. Higher vocational colleges have considerable flexibility in planning and structuring their year. * As specified by the Assessment of knowledge in higher vocational colleges Rules (2009), higher vocational colleges organise no less than 3 periods of examination per academic year, i.e. within 30 days after each semester (winter, spring) and in August and September as well.	

# SPAIN

Type of programme: University tertiary education

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17 <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	Between the first and the third week of September 2016.
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 third week of September and October.
Teaching activity	Between the beginning of the teaching activity and Christmas holidays.
Examinations	2 or 3 weeks between the end of November and mid-December <sup>(2)</sup> . These consist of extraordinary examination sessions which take place in December; therefore, not every student takes these exams, but only those who ask for this possibility instead of during the ordinary periods. Teaching activity is not stopped meanwhile.
<b>Total number:</b> Christmas Holidays	About 15 days between 22 December 2016 and 8 January 2017.
Teaching activity	Between the end of the Christmas holidays and the start of the examinations.
Examinations	2 or 3 weeks between mid-January and end of January/mid-February (teaching activity in this period).
Teaching activity	Between the end of January/mid-February examinations and Easter Holidays.
<b>Total number:</b> Easter Holidays	About 10 days between the second week and the fourth week of April 2017.
Teaching activity	Between the end of Easter holidays and May/June examinations.
Examinations	About 1 month between mid-May and the end of June, depending on whether the university conducts its extraordinary examinations in July or in September (no teaching activity during this period).
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 2017).
<b>Total number:</b> Summer Holidays	Between the end of June/July examinations and the end of August or mid-September.
End of the academic year	One day before the beginning of the 2017/18 academic year.

## SPAIN (CONTINUED)

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<b>Total number:</b> 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).
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Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: Approximately 4 months long
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<b>Additional notes:</b> ( <sup>1</sup> ) 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. The data presented above refer to the most common arrangements. ( <sup>2</sup> ) University of Oviedo (Asturias): There is a final evaluation period from mid-December until 20 January; excluded from this time: Saturdays, Sundays, holidays (as applicable) and days 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 December 2016 and 3, 4 and 5 January 2017.
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### **Total number:**

Total number of school/academic days in university: each university has competence over the design and organisation of the academic year, which must be included in their statutes. However, as a general rule, the university school year has 220 school days.

## SPAIN (CONTINUED)

**Type of programme:** Non-university tertiary education: advanced specific vocational training and specialised education (advanced artistic studies and advanced sport education)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17 <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 September 2016
Beginning of the teaching activity	Between mid-September and the beginning of October <sup>(2)</sup> .
Teaching activity	From the beginning of the teaching activity to the end May or June <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup> .
Holidays	Christmas: 2 weeks between 22 December 2016 and 8 January 2017. Easter: About 10 days between the second week and the fourth week of April 2017. Summer: 13/16 weeks between June and beginning/mid-September or the beginning of October. Public holidays: 12 (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).
Examinations	There are generally three periods of examinations: before Christmas holidays, before Easter holidays and before summer holidays. Schools are free to fix examination dates within those periods <sup>(5)</sup> .
End of the academic year	31 August 2017

Number of intervals: 3	Length of intervals: approximately 3 months long
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### **Additional notes:**

- <sup>(1)</sup> A greater variety of dates can be observed in advanced artistic studies and advanced sport education.
- <sup>(2)</sup> In the Autonomous Community of Cantabria: in the case of specialised education, such as conservatory of music, the calendar is adjusted to its specific circumstances under the supervision of the education inspectorate service.
- <sup>(3)</sup> In the Autonomous Community of Canarias: Advanced artistic studies finish on 17 July 2017. In the Autonomous Community of La Rioja: advanced design studies finish before 31 July 2017.
- <sup>(4)</sup> In the Autonomous Community of Región de Murcia: in vocational training, the beginning and end periods vary according to municipalities.
- <sup>(5)</sup> 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.

### **Total number:**

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



## SWEDEN

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Type of programme: All

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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	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 (14 April 2017) and Easter Monday (17 April 2017), and around Ascension Day (25 May 2017) National Day (6 June 2017)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months (around 20 weeks)

## SWITZERLAND

**Type of programme:** Universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education (ISCED 6 and 7)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
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	19 September – 23 December 2016
Teaching activity spring semester	20 February – 2 June 2017
Examinations	Universities and universities of teacher education fix the periods of examinations autonomously. Usually they take place within 1 to 3 weeks before the end of a semester.  At the universities of applied sciences, the examinations usually take place at the end of the teaching period. For that reason, their teaching activity period usually lasts about two weeks longer than indicated above.
End of the academic year	31 July 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	25 December 2016 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2016 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2017 (New Years Day) 14 April 2017 (Good Friday) 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday) 25 May 2017 (Ascension Day) 5 June 2017 (Whit Monday) 1 August 2017 (National Day)  Depending on the canton of location, each university has additional single holidays.
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 2 x 14 weeks (universities, universities of teacher education), 2 x 16 weeks (universities of applied sciences)

## SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: Colleges of professional education and training (ISCED 6)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 intervals: 2	Institutions fix the length of intervals autonomously.

## TURKEY

Type of programme: All (ISCED 5, 6 and 7)

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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. 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: 11-15 September 2016 (4.5 days – religious holiday) 28-29 October 2016 (1.5 days – Republic Day) 1 January 2017 (New Year) 23 April 2017 (Children's Day) 1 May 2017 (Labour Day) 19 May 2017 (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 6 first cycle).

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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 2016
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 2017
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 May 2017 – early May bank holiday 29 May 2017 – Spring bank holiday HEIs are normally closed on public holidays which fall in term-time.
Vacations	As well as the long summer vacation, there are typically vacations of 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

<b>The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2016/17</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. The traditional academic calendar ends May/June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. However certain dates, such as 25-26 December, 1-2 January will be regarded as public holidays by all institutions.

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



## The Organisation of the Academic Year in Europe – 2016/17

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

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

