

**The Organisation of the
Academic Year in Europe**

2011/12

AUSTRIA

Type of programme: Universities

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2011
Teaching activities and holiday periods	The academic year consists of the winter semester, the summer semester and the periods during which courses are not held. (The so-called 'lecture-free' time is comparable to the summer holidays of schools.)
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 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	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.
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of periods: about 4 months winter semester, about 4 months summer semester.

AUSTRIA (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Occurs generally between 1 September and 10 October.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. Usually teaching activities last 15-20 weeks (mostly 15 weeks for full-time programmes, 18-20 weeks mainly for part-time programmes). Usually there are: Christmas holidays (around 2 weeks), Easter holidays (around 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)	Certain dates, such as 25 December, 1 January or 1 May, are nevertheless regarded as public holidays by all institutions.
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of semesters is fixed by institutions autonomously. The Law on <i>Fachhochschulen</i> does not state when 'semesters' have to take place. Winter semester: between 4 and 6 months Summer semester: between 4 and 6 months

BELGIUM – FLEMISH COMMUNITY

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	At the earliest 1 September and at the latest 1 October. Occurs generally between 15 September and 1 October.
Teaching activities first Semester	From the beginning until 23 December
Holiday	Two weeks around Christmas and New Year
Examinations	3 to 4 weeks in January
Teaching activities 2 nd Semester	Start last week of January or first week of February until the end of the 3 rd or 4 th week of May. There is an Easter holiday break of two weeks.
Examination	Last week of May until the end of the last week of June or the 1 st week of July
Holidays	From the beginning (1 st or 2 nd week) of July until next academic year
Third examination period during the summer holidays	From about 20 August until the end of the third week of September
End of the academic year	The day before the start of the new academic year. For most students the academic year ends de facto after the last examination.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 and 2 November 2011 (All Saints' Day) 11 November 2011 (Armistice Day) 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 17 May 2012 (Ascension day) 28 May 2012 (Whit Monday) 21 July 2012 (National Holiday) 15 August 2012 (Assumption of the Holy Virgin)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: teaching activities: 13 weeks

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

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

BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	The academic year is a one-year period beginning on 15 September. However, the academic authorities fix annually the beginning and end of each four-month term. In practice, teaching activities begin around 15 September in most institutions. In order to encourage student and staff mobility within the French Community, the government may lay down further conditions when determining this academic calendar. (Relative) institutional autonomy
Teaching activity and holidays	The academic authorities fix annually the beginning and end of each four-month term. For purposes of curricular organisation, each of the three four-month terms includes assessment and holiday periods. Institutional autonomy
Examinations	Curricular activities leading to an academic qualification in the first or second cycle occur are spread over the first two four-month terms in the academic year (with the exception of certain forms of assessment or professional integration activity). Each of these first two terms involves at least 12 weeks of activity and may not exceed four months. A period of assessment occurs at the end of each term. The third term includes assessment periods (as well as professional integration or personal project activity). Institutional autonomy
End of the academic year	No precise date. The academic year generally terminates on the day the new academic year begins. In legislation concerned with staff status, the academic year terminates on 30 September. Institutional autonomy
Holidays	Winter holidays: 26 December 2011 – 6 January 2012 Spring holidays: 2 – 13 April 2012 Summer holidays: 7 weeks after the second session.

BELGIUM – FRENCH COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

<p>Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)</p>	<p>Legal public holidays 2011/12 academic year are: 27 September 2011 (Festival of the French Community) 1 November 2011 (All Saints' Day) 2 November 2011 11 November 2011 (1918 Armistice Day) 9 April 2012 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 17 May 2012 (Ascension Day) 28 May 2012 (Pentecost)</p> <p>The academic authorities or higher education providers may fix 5 other days on which work ceases at their own institution(s). There is no possible time in exchange of public holidays falling on a Saturday or a Sunday.</p>
<p>Number of intervals: 3</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>	<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>

BELGIUM – GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Type of programme: ISCED 5B

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
First semester	
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2011 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	1 September – 28 October 2011
Autumn holiday	31 October – 4 November 2011
Teaching activity	7 November – 23 December 2011
Christmas holiday	26 December 2011 – 6 January 2012
Examinations	9 – 13 January 2012
Second semester	
Teaching activity	16 January – 17 February 2012
Carnival holiday	20 – 24 February 2012
Teaching activity	27 February – 30 March 2012
Easter holiday	2 – 13 April 2012
Teaching activity	16 April – 1 June 2012
Lecture free period	4 – 8 June 2012
Examinations	11 – 22 June 2012
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 2011 15 November 2011 1 May 2012 17 May 2012 28 May 2012
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: September to mid-January Mid-January to the end of June

CYPRUS

Type of programme: University Level (Public Universities)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	Public Universities in Cyprus are autonomous as regards to their <i>modus operandi</i> and their schedules are determined by the universities themselves. The beginning of the academic year usually occurs between 1 and 15 of September. (In the academic year 2011/12, at the UCY and CUT, classes start on 5th 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 UCY and CUT will occur at the end of the Fall semester for Christmas (24 December 2011 – 8 January 2012) and for Easter, before the end of the Spring Semester (9 – 22 April 2012). For OUC vacation period for Christmas starts on 20 December 2011 and ends on 6 January 2012, whereas for Easter, the vacation period starts on 9 April and ends on 22 April 2012.
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 for both UCY and CUT, for 2011/12, will be as follows: 9 to 23 December 2011 for Fall Semester and 7 to 20 May 2012 for Spring Semester. For OUC final examinations will take place in June.
End of the academic year	The academic year traditionally ends in mid July for all Universities.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Public holidays for the academic year 2011/12 are as follows: 1 October 2011, 28 October 2011, 6 January 2012, 27 February 2012, 25 March 2012, 1 April 2012, 15 April 2012, 1 May 2012.
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: Semesters

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

CYPRUS (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: University Level (Private Universities)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates
Beginning of the academic year	Private Universities in Cyprus are autonomous as regards to their <i>modus operandi</i> and their schedules are determined by the universities themselves. The beginning of the academic year usually occurs between 15 and 30 of September. Classes start in the end of September or early October.
Teaching activity and vacation periods	Universities determine all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Holiday periods at private universities will occur for Christmas (24 December 2011 – 8 January 2012 approximately) and for Easter (9 – 22 April 2012 approximately).
Examinations	Final Examinations' periods and schedule are determined by the universities themselves whereas Midterm Examination dates may be set by faculty or faculty and students jointly. Final Examination periods at private universities occur after the Christmas vacation, for the first semester and after Easter for the second semester.
End of the academic year	The academic year traditionally ends in mid July for all Universities.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Public holidays for the academic year 2011/12 are as follows: 1 October 2011, 28 October 2011, 27 February 2012, 25 March 2012, 1 April 2012, 1 May 2012.
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: Semesters

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

CYPRUS (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: Non-University Level (Public and Private Institutions of Higher Education)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
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 2011
Teaching activity	<p>First academic semester: It is compulsory that classes start in September or within the first two weeks of October and continue until the end of December or mid January.</p> <p>Second academic semester: It is compulsory that classes start within the last two weeks of January or within the first fortnight of February and finish in the end of May or beginning of June.</p> <p>Summer Session (Intensive Courses): it starts in mid June and lasts for 7 to 9 weeks.</p>
Vacation Periods	Vacation periods occur at the end of the Fall semester for Christmas, and before the end of the Spring Semester for Easter. Please note that vacation periods may slightly vary depending on the institution.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Public holidays for the academic year 2011/12 are as follows: 1 October 2011, 28 October 2011, 24-26 December 2011 (Christmas Holidays), 6 January 2012, 27 February 2012 (Green Monday), 25 March 2012, 1 April 2012, 15 April 2012 (Easter).
Examinations	Final Examinations' periods and schedule are set by institutions, whereas, Midterm Examinations may be set by faculty and students jointly. Only Final Examination periods appear on the academic calendar and these occur at the end of each semester (15th week of teaching activity) and at the end of the summer session (9th week of teaching activity).
End of the academic year	31 August 2012
Number of intervals: 2	Length of interval: Semesters

Additional notes:

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

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

CZECH REPUBLIC

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Occurs usually during September or early October.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions in internal regulations.
Examinations	Examination period are fixed by institutions in internal regulations.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year ends the day before the new one begins.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Dates 28 September, 28 October, 17 November, 24-26 December, 1 January, 9 April (Easter), 5 July and 6 July are regarded as public holidays by all institutions.
Number of intervals: most often two	Length of intervals: around a half a year

CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2011 (exact date is set by school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme).
Teaching activity and holidays	Exact dates are set by 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). Exact days of holidays are set by school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme, 4 weeks at minimum are for free-time of students.
Examinations	Exact days are set by school head in accordance with the accredited educational programme.
End of the academic year	31 August 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Dates 28 September, 28 October, 17 November, 24-26 December, 1 January, 9 April (Easter), 5 July and 6 July, are regarded as public holidays by all institutions.
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months (153 days) and 7 months (212 days)

DENMARK

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	The universities are autonomous. The academic year at long-cycle higher education institutions (universities) is normally divided into two semesters and begins typically: 1) Early September (autumn semester) 2) Early February (spring semester)
Teaching activity	The universities fix all periods of teaching activities and holidays themselves. The typical duration of teaching activities is: 1) Early September – mid-December 2) Early February – mid-May
Examinations	The universities fix the dates of examinations autonomously, but generally the period of examinations are: Fall Semester: typically December and two-three weeks in January Spring Semester: Mid and end of May and two-three weeks in June Re-examinations are mainly placed in August before the start of a new academic year.
End of the academic year	The academic year runs from 1 September and ends 31 August, but normally with holidays/periods with no teaching between 30 June and 31 August.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	4 May 2012 17 – 20 May 2012 28 May 2012 5 June 2012

Number of intervals: 2*

Length of intervals: approx. 4/5 months

Additional notes:

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

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

ESTONIA

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Occurs generally between the last week in August and the first week in September
Teaching activity	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. The autumn semester lasts generally until 20 December.
Holiday	Occurs generally between 20 December and 1 January.
Examinations	Occur generally between 2 January and 20 January.
Teaching activity	The spring semester begins generally a week after the examinations are over.
End of the academic year	Between the last week in June and the first week in July
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	24 February 2012 6 April 2012 1 May 2012
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: ca 4.5 months

FINLAND

Type of programme: Polytechnics and Universities

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 August 2011
End of the academic year	31 July 2012
Public holidays 2011/12 (occasional/national/religious holidays)	5 November 2011 (All Saints) 6 December 2011 (Independence Day) 24 December 2011 (Christmas Eve) (partly) 25 December 2011 (Christmas Day) 26 December 2011 (Boxing Day) 1 January 2012 (New Year's Day) 6 January 2012 (Epiphany) 6 April 2012 (Good Friday) 8 April 2012 (Easter Day) 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday) 17 May 2012 (Ascension) 27 May 2012 (Whitsunday) 22 June 2012 (Midsummer Eve) (partly) 23 June 2012 (Midsummer)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 to 7 months

FRANCE

Type of programme: University studies

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutional autonomy. Almost everywhere the period is between 15 September and 15 October.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holiday are fixed by institutions, which however comply with the following calendar: holidays at the end-of-year festive season (one or often two weeks), as well as in February (generally one week) and April (one or two weeks).
Examinations	Examination periods are entirely at the discretion of 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 2011 11 November 2011 9 April 2012 1 May 2012 8 May 2012 17 May 2012 28 May 2012

FRANCE (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutional autonomy, although all institutions open at the beginning of September or later in the same month.
Teaching activity and holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holiday are fixed by institutions, which however comply with the following calendar: holidays between Christmas and New Year's Day; often one week in February; one or two weeks in April.
Examinations	Examination periods are entirely at the discretion of the managing bodies of institutions.
End of the academic year	No precise date. Institutional autonomy. In practice the academic year ends after the final examination, in June or at the beginning of July.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 November 2011 11 November 2011 25 April 2012 2 June 2012 13 June 2012
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months

GERMANY

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2011
Teaching activity winter semester	17 October – 21 December 2011
Holiday	22 December 2011 – 6 January 2012
Teaching activity winter semester	9 January – 10 February 2012
End of winter semester	24 February 2012
Beginning of summer semester	2 April 2012
Teaching activity summer semester	16 April – 13 July 2012
End of the academic year	30 September 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	National holidays: 3 October 2011 (German Unity Day) 6 April 2012 (Good Friday) 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 17 May 2012 (Ascension Day) 28 May 2012 (Whit Monday) + holiday depending on the Land
Number of intervals: 3 2 Semesters, one of five months, one of four months	Length of intervals: 10 days close to Christmas, 1 month after the winter semester, two months after the summer semester

GREECE

Type of programme: ISCED 5A

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
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 2011
Teaching activity	From the second fortnight of September until 24 December 2011
Holiday	24 December 2011 – 7 January 2012 (Christmas)
Teaching activity	8 January – end of January 2012
Examinations	Three weeks (end of January and beginning of February)
Teaching activity	From the Monday following the last examination
Holidays	6 – 22 April 2012 (Easter)
Teaching activity	The period after Easter holidays until the beginning of examinations
Examinations	Two weeks in June 2012
Holidays	From the end of the June examinations until those of September 2012
Re-examinations	Three weeks in September 2012
End of the academic year	31 August 2012
Public holidays (occasional /national/religious holidays)	28 October 2011 17 November 2011 30 January 2012 27 February 2012 25 March 2012 1 May 2012 4 June 2012 and several regional holidays
Number of intervals: 09	Length of intervals: 2 weeks Christmas Holidays; 2 weeks Easter Holidays; Summer holidays from the end of June examination period until those of September, 28 October 2011, 17 November 2011, 27 February 2012 (Ash Monday), 25 March 2012, 1 May 2012, 4 June 2012.

GREECE (CONTINUED)

1st semester beginning: second fortnight of September (the exact date is determined at university level)	end: approximately end of January / beginning of February (at least 13 full weeks of teaching activity)
2nd semester beginning: approximately the week following the last examination in February	end: during the second fortnight of June (at least 13 full weeks of teaching activity) (the exact date is determined at university level)

Additional notes:

As far as both universities and Higher Education Technological Institutes are concerned, each semester lasts at least 13 full weeks of teaching activity.

On the basis of Decisions made by the University Senate or the General Assembly of the Higher Education Technological Institutes, the duration of semesters can be extended up to two weeks in order to complete the minimum number of teaching weeks in the teaching period.

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

HUNGARY

Type of programme: all types of programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous, usually between 1 and 10 September.
Autumn term	Exact dates are fixed by the institutions. It starts from the beginning of September and lasts until the end of January.
Teaching activity	Exact dates are fixed by HEIs. It starts sometime at the beginning of or mid September and lasts until mid December.
Exam period	Exact dates are fixed by HEIs. The exam period is from mid December to the end of January.
(Holiday)	In addition to national/public/church holidays it varies greatly. See additional note 3.
Spring term	Exact dates are fixed by HEIs, the term lasts from the beginning of February to the end of June.
Teaching activity	Exact dates are fixed by HEIs, it lasts from the beginning of February to mid May.
Exam period	Institutional autonomy. From mid May to the end of June.
(Holiday)	Institutional autonomy (see additional note 3), in spring term usually 1 week sometime around Easter.
End of the academic year	Exact date is fixed by the HEIs, it ends around late June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2011 26 December 2011 (Christmas) 15 March 2012 (Revolution Day) 9 April 2012 (Easter) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 28 May 2012 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months

HUNGARY (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

- (1) The HEIs in Hungary are open all year around for students (who can use libraries, computer rooms and other facilities of the HEI), except on Sundays, on state and church holidays. (Several HEIs are also closed between Christmas and New Year.)
- (2) The 2005 Act on HE only stipulates that the academic year must last 10 months. The organisation of the academic year is within the competence of the HEIs. It is determined by the *Senate* and based on the proposal of the head of the HEI. The organisation of the school year does not vary from one type of programme to the next within the same institution.
- (3) Holidays and non-teaching days: the study and examination regulations of HEIs specify the number of days that the head of the HEI may rule to be a non-teaching day for students of the entire HEI above the official public and church holidays. This number is usually no more than 5 days. Besides this the same regulation contains the number of days that the head of the faculty may also rule as non-teaching days for the students of the particular faculty. This is usually no more than 5 days.
- (4) Number of intervals: the academic year in Hungary characteristically consists of 2 terms, an autumn term (*ősz* *félév*) and a spring term (*tavaszi félév*). However, due to institutional autonomy, in a small number of HEIs the academic year consists of three study periods – trimesters.

ICELAND

Type of programme: ISCED 6A

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The beginning of the academic year is generally round mid-August.
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Teaching activity generally starts between 15 August and 5 September and ends at 30 November. Some institutions have summer sessions that last from May to August.
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Examinations generally take place between 2-20 December
Holidays	21 December 2011 – 3 January 2012 4 – 10 April 2012
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Teaching activity generally starts around 7 January and ends 13-25 April.
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 2011 19 April 2012 1 May 2012 17 May 2012
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 13 weeks

IRELAND

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2011 Universities and Institutes of Technology are autonomous bodies. Occurs generally in September or October.
Teaching activity	1 September – 21 October 2011
Holiday	24 – 31 October 2011
Teaching activity and holidays	1 November – 23 December 2011 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	26 December 2011 – 8 January 2012 (Christmas)
Teaching activity	9 January – Examinations
Examinations	Two weeks in February
Teaching activity	From the Monday following the last examination
Holidays	19 March 2012 2 – 13 April 2012 (Easter) 7 May 2012
Teaching activity	8 May 2012 – Examinations
Examinations	For Institutes of Technology, it's usually two weeks during May. For Universities, it's usually two weeks during June. Teachers and students are entirely free to fix examination dates jointly. Each University or Institute manages this separately.
End of the academic year	Universities and Institutes of Technology are autonomous bodies. For Universities, the academic year generally ends at the date the new one begins. For Institutes of Technology, the academic year generally ends in June.
Number of intervals: 2-3	Length of intervals: term = 2-3 months, semester = 4-5 months

ITALY

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2011
First semester – Teaching activity	1 October 2011 – 31 January 2012
Examinations (first session)	1 – 15 February 2012
Second semester – Teaching activity	1 March – 30 June 2012
Examinations (second session)	1 – 15 July 2012
Examinations (third sessions)	1 – 15 September 2012
Admission tests and entrance examinations	September/October 2011
End of the academic year	30 September 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2011 8 December 2011 23 December 2011 – 7 January 2012 Easter (1 week) 25 April 2012 1 May 2012 2 June 2012
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: semesters (October 2011 – January 2012 and March – June 2012)

LATVIA

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Occurs generally in the first week of September, but may differ among institutions which are autonomous.
Teaching activity and holidays	Institutions fix periods of teaching activity and holidays. Teaching activity usually is organised from September-December and from February-May. As regards holidays, there is normally one week around Christmas/New Year and another one at Easter.
Examinations	Institutions fix periods of examinations. Usually examinations conclude the teaching activity period and take place in January/-February and June/July.
End of the academic year	The academic year generally ends after the last examination of spring or summer semester.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	18 November 2011 26 December 2011 1 May 2012 4 May 2012
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: in accordance with the law, academic year consists of 40 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.

Additional notes:

Easter holidays are also public holidays, but are not mentioned in the table, as the dates change year by year. In 2012, the Easter holidays will be from 6 till 9 April.

When the specific holidays of 18 November and 4 May fall on Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is transferred to the next working day.

LIECHTENSTEIN

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12		
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods	
<i>The organisation of the academic year is within autonomy of the higher education institutions.</i>		
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2011	
Winter semester	1 September 2011 – 29 February 2012	
Teaching activity for new students / Introductory weeks	26 September 2011 – 21 January 2012	
Teaching activity for continuing students	3 October 2011 – 21 January 2012	
Christmas Holidays	24 December 2011 – 7 January 2012	
Examination weeks	30 January – 11 February 2012	
Summer semester	1 March – 31 August 2012	
Teaching activity	5 March – 15 June 2012	
Easter Holiday	6 – 14 April 2012	
Examination weeks	25 June – 7 July 2012	
End of the academic year	31 August 2012	
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	8 September 2011 1 November 2011 8 December 2011 24-26 December 2011 31 December 2011 1 January 2012 6 January 2012	2 February 2012 21 February 2012 19 March 2012 6 April 2012 8-9 April 2011 17 May 2012 27-28 May 2012 7 June 2012
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 27 weeks	

LIECHTENSTEIN (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: ISCED 5 and 6 (private sector – Private University of the Principality of Liechtenstein / *Private Universität im Fürstentum Liechtenstein*)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12		
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods	
Beginning of the academic year	23 September 2011	
Teaching activity	23 September – 26 November 2011	
Examinations	March / July	
Holiday	27 November 2011 – 13 January 2012 (Christmas holidays)	
Teaching activity	14 January – 14 July 2012	
Holiday	15 July – 23 September 2012 (summer holidays)	
Teaching activity		
End of the academic year	23 September 2012	
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2011 8 December 2011 2 February 2012 19 March 2012 9 April 2012	1 May 2012 17 May 2012 28 May 2012 7 June 2012 15 August 2012
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: teaching activity organised in one two-day period each month	

LIECHTENSTEIN (CONTINUED)

Type of programme: ISCED 6 (private sector – International Academy of Philosophy / *Internationale Akademie für Philosophie* – IAP)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
<i>No teaching activities in 2011/12. The institution is currently being reorganized and focuses on research during this reform period.</i>	

LITHUANIA

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous, but as a rule the beginning of the academic year is 1 September.
Teaching activity	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. Usually each semester covers 20 weeks. The last four weeks within are allotted to 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 allotted to examination sessions. If the subjects for the courses during the semester are delivered sequentially instead of in parallel, students sit examinations or pass the test upon completion of the course unit and thus have no special examination period.
Holidays	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. All institutions have Christmas holiday usually from 25 December to the beginning of January. Winter break begins at the end of the autumn semester, right after winter examination session (usually the end of January/beginning of February), and lasts 1 or 2 weeks. Most institutions have Easter holidays lasting a few days at the spring semester. Starting after the spring semester, summer vacations in the institutions last the longest up to 2 months, as a rule between 1 July and 31 August.
Professional practice period	In summer vacations time (July-August) some students have their professional training course in duration 2-3 weeks.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year ends at the date the new one begins, consequently, 31 August.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Certain dates, regarded as public holidays all-around the country as well as by all institutions, for instance, 1 November, 1 January, 16 February, 11 March, 24 June, 6 July.
Number of intervals: 2 semesters – autumn semester and spring semester – and 2 months for summer vacations. Some students have their practical training course during summer time up to 2-3 weeks in case this is incorporated in the schedule of their study programme.	Length of intervals: each of semesters lasts approximately 5 months, summer vacations approximately 2 months.

LUXEMBOURG

Type of programme: all types, all programmes

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	19 September 2011
Winter semester	19 September 2011 – 27 January 2012
Christmas holidays	19 December 2011 – 1 January 2012
Revision	2 – 6 January 2012
Examinations	9 – 27 January 2012
Winter break between semesters	30 January – 17 February 2012
Summer semester	20 February – 22 June 2012
Easter holidays	2 – 6 April 2012
Revision	28 May – 1 June 2012
Examinations	4 – 22 June 2012
Summer break between semesters	25 June – 14 September 2012
End of the academic year	22 June 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2011 (All Saints' Day) 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 17 June 2012 (Ascension Day)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 6 months

THE NETHERLANDS

Type of programme: ISCED 5A + 5B

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Around 1 September 2011
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 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Easter Monday: 9 April 2012 Queen's Birthday: 30 April 2012 Ascension Day: 17 May 2012 Whit Monday: 28 May 2012

Number of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.	Length of intervals: Free for institutions to decide.
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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 exams.

During the period of examinations, teaching activity stops to enable students to concentrate on study and preparation.

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

NORWAY

Type of programme: all types

Academic calendar in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year generally starts mid-August
Teaching activity and holidays	The institutions are autonomous, with the exception of public holidays (see below).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year generally ends at the end of June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Christmas holiday (this year normally 19 December 2011 – 2 January 2012) 1 – 9 April 2012 (Easter holidays) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 17 May 2012 (National Day and Ascension Day) 28 May 2012 (Whit Monday)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 5 months

POLAND

Type of programme: all types

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the beginning of October (01.10.2011).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the beginning of October and the third week of December (01.10.2011 – 21.12.2011).
Christmas holidays	Institutions are autonomous. (22.12.2011 – 01.01.2012).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually January (02.01.2012 – 22.01.2012).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually two weeks at the end of January / beginning of February (23.01.2012 – 05.02.2012).
Break between the semesters	Institutions are autonomous. Usually one week in February (06.02.2012 – 12.02.2012)
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between the third week of February and Easter (13.02.2012 – 05.04.2012)
Easter holiday	Institutions are autonomous. Usually Easter Sunday and Monday and a few extra days are free (06.04.2012 – 11.04.2012).
Teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous. Usually between Easter and summer examinations (12.04.2012 – 10.06.2012).
Examinations	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the last two weeks of June (11.06.2012 – 01.07.2012).
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the end of September (30.09.2012).
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	1 November 2011 11 November 2011 6 January 2012 1, 3 May 2012 7 June 2012

Additional notes: There are two re-take examination sessions: the winter re-take examination session usually lasts one week and begins 3 weeks after the regular winter examination session (e.g. 27.02.2012-04.03.2012); the summer re-take session usually begins in the second week of September and lasts two weeks. It ends one week before the end of the academic year (e.g. 03.09.2012-16.09.2012).

HEIs often organize Students' Day (or Days) called *Juwenalia* with concerts, performances and other artistic and cultural events. There are no classes on such a day. The rector of the institution sets the dates of these events (e.g. University of Warsaw celebrates its *Juwenalia* on 11-12 May 2012).

PORTUGAL

Type of programme: University and Polytechnic.

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions of higher education (universities and polytechnic institutes) are autonomous. Generally the year begins between 15 September and 15 October.
Periods of teaching activity and holiday periods	Institutions fix all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Students usually have between one to two weeks holiday on Christmas and at Easter and about four weeks in Summer.
Examination periods	The department teaching, teachers and students are entirely free to fix examination dates jointly. Normally, there is two periods for examinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st: between the end of December and the end of February; • 2nd: between the beginning of June and the end of July.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year generally ends at 31 st July.
Public/religious holidays	14 days: 5 October 2011 1 November 2011 1 December 2011 8 December 2011 25 December 2011 1 January 2012 21 February 2012 6 April 2012 8 April 2012 25 April 2012 1 May 2012 7 June 2012 10 June 2012 15 August 2012
Number of intervals: 1 or 2 (more frequently the year is divided in two semesters or three-month terms)	Length of intervals: between 1, 2 or maximum 3 weeks

SLOVAKIA

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2011
End of the academic year	31 August 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Dates such as 1 September 2011, 15 September 2011, 1 November 2011, 17 November 2011, 24-26 December 2011, 1 January 2012, 6 January 2012, 2 days – Easter, 1 May 2012, 8 May 2012, and 5 July 2012 are regarded as public holidays by all institutions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SLOVENIA

Type of programme: ISCED 5A (universities and professional colleges)

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2011
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	4-6 weeks in June and July
Summer holidays	On average 1 month (15 July to 15 August)
Autumn examinations	App. 4 weeks from mid August to the end of September
End of the academic year	30 September 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2011 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2011 (Remembrance Day) 25 December 2011 (Christmas) 26 December 2011 (Independence and Unity Day) 8 February 2012 (<i>Prešern</i> Day – Day of Slovene Culture) 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2012 (The Day of Uprising against Occupation) 1 and 2 May 2012 (May Day Holiday) 25 June (Statehood Day) + University day(s) + Students' day(s)
Number of intervals: 2 semesters	Intervals of approximately 15 weeks
<p>Note: In Slovenia, the organisation of the academic year is within the autonomy of higher education institutions. The data shown apply as most common arrangements.</p>	

SLOVENIA (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 October 2011
Teaching activity	34 weeks – institutions fix all periods of teaching activities.
Examinations	Institutions are free to fix examinations following the Rules issued by the Minister (*).
End of the academic year	30 September 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	31 October 2011 (Reformation Day) 1 November 2011 (Remembrance Day) 25 December 2011 (Christmas) 26 December 2011 (Independence and Unity Day) 8 February 2012 (<i>Prešern</i> Day – Day of Slovene Culture) 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday) 27 April 2012 (The Day of Uprising against Occupation) 1 and 2 May 2012 (May Day Holiday) 25 June (Statehood Day)
Number of intervals Teaching activity: 2 semesters Examination activity: 3 periods	Length of intervals Teaching activity: approximately 17 weeks Examination activity: in the autonomy of colleges
<p>Additional notes:</p> <p>The law determines the beginning and the end of a study year, the length of a study year is at least 34 weeks of organised study work, and 37-42 weeks of study load for students. Higher vocational institutions enjoy considerable flexibility in planning and structuring their study year.</p> <p>*The Rules on the Assessment of Students (2009) stipulate the obligation of higher vocational colleges to organise at least 3 examination periods per study year that is in 30 days after each semester (winter, spring) and in one period in August and September.</p>	

SPAIN

Type of programme: university tertiary education

Organisation of Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12 ⁽¹⁾	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Between the first week of September and the beginning of October 2011
Beginning of the teaching activity	Between the first week of September and the beginning of October [The beginning of the teaching activity in third-cycle education (to gain a PhD) generally occurs in November.]
Teaching activity	Between the beginning of the teaching activity and Christmas Holidays
Examinations	2 weeks between the end of November and mid-December [Some universities have an extraordinary examination period in December (extraordinary end-of-studies exam session). During this period, the teaching activity is not stopped.]
Christmas Holidays	17 days between 23 December 2011 and 8 January 2012
Teaching activity	Between the end of Christmas holidays and February examinations
Examinations	2, 3 or 4 weeks between mid-January and the end of February [During this period of examinations, the teaching activity is stopped.]
Teaching activity	Between the end of January/February examinations and Easter Holidays
Easter Holidays	About 10 days between 2 and 9 or 5 and 15 April 2012
Teaching activity	Between the end of Easter holidays and June examinations
Examinations	About 1 month between the beginning of June and mid July [During this period of examinations, the teaching activity is stopped.]
Summer Holidays	Between the end of June/July examinations and the end of August
Extraordinary examinations	The first 2 or 3 weeks of September 2012 (in some universities, the first 2 weeks of July)
End of the academic year	One day before the beginning of the 2012/13 academic year
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities)
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4 months

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

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

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

Organisation of Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 September 2011
Beginning of the teaching activity	Between mid-September and the beginning of October
Teaching activity	From the beginning of the teaching activity to June
Holidays	Christmas: 2 weeks between 23 December 2011 and 8 January 2012. Easter: About 10 days between 2 and 9 or 5 and 16 April 2012. Summer: 13/16 weeks between the beginning of 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 3 periods of examinations: before Christmas holidays, before Easter holidays and before summer holidays. Schools are free to fix examination dates within those periods.
End of the academic year	30 June 2012

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

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

SWEDEN

Type of programme: All

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	HEI are autonomous to decide. Generally between end of August – beginning of September
Teaching activities and holidays	Fixed by each faculty
Examinations	Fixed by the teachers
End of the academic year	Generally ends at the end of May or beginning of June. During June-September most HEI offer single subject courses of 7.5 – 10 ECTS credits
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Usually – about 3 weeks around Christmas, – several days around Easter inclusive of Easter Monday and around Ascension Day, – one day for 1 May (Labour Day), 6 June (National Day), if these do not fall on a Saturday or Sunday.
Number of intervals: 2	Length of intervals: 4-5 months (app. 20 weeks)

SWITZERLAND

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	1 August 2011
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 2011
Teaching activity spring semester	20 February – 1 June 2012
Examinations	Universities and universities of teacher education fix the periods of examinations autonomously. Usually they take place within 1 to 3 weeks before or after the end of a semester. At the Universities of applied sciences the examinations usually take place – as an integrated part – at the end of the teaching period. For that reason their teaching activity period usually lasts about two weeks longer than indicated above.
End of the academic year	31 July 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Winter holiday: 24 December 2011 – 19 February 2012 Easter holiday: 6 – 15 April 2012 Summer holiday: 2 June – 16 September 2012 Depending on the canton of location, each university has some additional single holidays, e.g. Ascension, Whit Monday
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Length of periods: 2 x 14 weeks (universities, universities of teacher education), 2 x 16 weeks (universities of applied sciences)

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Usually the academic year starts between August and October.
Teaching activity and holidays	The institutions fix all periods of teaching activity and holidays. Usually teaching activities consist of two semesters starting between August and October and between January and April. The institutions autonomously fix the holidays.
Examinations	Institutions are free to fix examination dates.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. The academic year usually ends at the beginning of summer holidays.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Public holidays depend on the canton of location of the institutions. Usually their holiday periods are similar to those of secondary education.
Number of periods of teaching activity: 2	Institutions fix the length of semesters autonomously.

TURKEY

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Universities are autonomous. Fall Semester begins generally in September or October, and Spring Semester in February.
Teaching activity	Universities are free to determine their own periods of teaching activity. But as a rule, each academic year is composed of two semesters and each semester includes at least 14 weeks. Universities may offer summer schools for those who fail classes during regular semesters and who would like to take classes from next academic semester.
Holidays (semester/national/religious holidays)	The dates of the semester breaks are freely fixed by the universities. The duration of the semester breaks is at least 2 weeks. National and Religious Holidays are as follows: 28 October 2011 (Republic Day) 7 – 9 November 2011 (Religious Holiday)
Examinations	Universities fix the examination dates by themselves. The number of mid-term exams is decided either by the University senate, or by the board of each faculty. In addition to the mid-term exams, there is a final exam for each particular course at the end of each semester. The examination period for final exams generally starts either right after or one week after the end of the semester. It takes two or three weeks on average. For those who take classes annually, they take one or two midterms and a final exam a year.
End of the academic year	Universities are autonomous. In general, Fall Semester ends in December and Spring Semester in May or June. As for summer semesters, they begin at the end of June and finish in the middle of August.
Number of intervals: 2 Semesters (Fall and Spring)	Length of intervals: 14 weeks per semester (at least)

UNITED KINGDOM (ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND)

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

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the standard academic year	1 August 2011
Beginning of teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous, but the first term or semester typically starts in late September/early October.
End of teaching activity	Institutions are autonomous, but the final term/semester typically ends in mid/late June.
End of the standard academic year	31 July 2012
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	Institutions are normally closed on public holidays. The actual dates vary from year to year.
Vacations	As well as the long summer vacation, there are typically vacations of three to five weeks at Christmas and Easter.
Number of intervals (periods): Most commonly 3 (terms) Less commonly 2 (semesters)	Length of intervals (periods): Most commonly 8 to 11 weeks Less commonly typically around 15 weeks

UNITED KINGDOM (SCOTLAND)

Type of programme: all ISCED 5

The Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education 2011/12	
Type of information (beginning of the academic year / teaching activity / holidays / examinations / end of the academic year)	Dates or periods
Beginning of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous. Some institutions will follow the traditional academic calendar and will generally start some time in September or October. However others have adopted different patterns where students can start at different times during the year e.g. January.
Teaching activity, holidays and examination periods	All periods of teaching activity, holidays and exams are fixed by institutions.
End of the academic year	Institutions are autonomous and dates will vary depending on when the student has started the year. Traditional academic calendar ends May/June.
Public holidays (occasional/national/religious holidays)	All periods of teaching activity and holidays are fixed by institutions. However certain dates, such as 25-26 December, 1-2 January will be regarded as public holidays by all institutions

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

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