

Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

2012/13 school year

AUSTRIA

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 September 2012: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg | 3 September 2012: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 10 September 2012: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg |
| End of students' school year | 28 June 2013: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 5 July 2013: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg | 28 June 2013: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 5 July 2013: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 29 – 31 October 2012 (Vorarlberg*) | 1 week 29 – 31 October 2012 (Vorarlberg*) |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week 4 – 9 February 2013: Niederösterreich, Vorarlberg, Wien 11 – 16 February 2013: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol 18 – 23 February 2013: Oberösterreich, Steiermark | 1 week 4 – 9 February 2013: Niederösterreich, Vorarlberg, Wien 11 – 16 February 2013: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol 18 – 23 February 2013: Oberösterreich, Steiermark |
| Spring/Easter | 1 week 23 March – 2 April 2013 | 1 week 23 March – 2 April 2013 |
| Third term | 4 days 18 – 21 May 2013 | 4 days 18 – 21 May 2013 |
| Summer | About 9 weeks 29 June – 31 August 2013: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July – 7 September 2013: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg | About 9 weeks 29 June – 31 August 2013: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July – 7 September 2013: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg |
| Public/religious holidays | 26 October 2012 1 November 2012 2 November 2012 8 December 2012 9 May 2013 30 May 2013 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>) | 26 October 2012 1 November 2012 2 November 2012 8 December 2012 9 May 2013 30 May 2013 1 extra religious holiday per province (<i>Land</i>) |
| Starting/End date of teachers' school year | The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year | The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year |

*) The autumn holidays in Vorarlberg are decreed by the educational authority of this *Land*. To enable these holidays, Easter and third term holidays are shortened in this *Land*.

BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Primary education | General secondary education |
|---|---|---|
| Starting date of students' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 30 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 29 October – 4 November 2012 | 1 week 29 October – 4 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week 11 February – 17 February 2013 | 1 week 11 February – 17 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 1 April – 14 April 2013 | 2 weeks 1 April – 14 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013 | 9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 4 days: 11 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 – 10 May 2013 20 May 2013 | 4 days: 11 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 – 10 May 2013 20 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 30 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |

Source: Eurydice.

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 30 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 | 1 week 29 October – 4 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week 11– 15 February 2013 | 1 week 11 – 15 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 1 – 12 April 2013 | 2 weeks 1 – 12 April 2013 |
| Third term | – | – |
| Summer | 9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013 | 9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 5 days: 27 September 2012 11 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 | 5 days: 27 September 2012 11 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 30 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Primary education | General secondary education |
|---|---|---|
| Starting date of students' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 30 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week 11 – 15 February 2013 | 1 week 11 – 15 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 1 – 12 April 2013 | 2 weeks 1 – 12 April 2013 |
| Third term | – | – |
| Summer | 9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013 | 9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 11 November 2012 15 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 + 1 day of holidays of choice of the institution | 11 November 2012 15 November 2012 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 + 1 day of holidays of choice of the institution |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 30 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |

Additional notes:

- During the last working days of August, secondary education teachers may be consigned to conduct exams of a second chance.
- A school year has a minimum of 180 and a maximum of 184 days of schooldays.
- As the 1 November is a religious holiday (*Allerheiligen* – All Saints' Day) and at the same time autumn vacation, it is left to the school to choose a compensation day.

BULGARIA

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 15 September 2013 | 15 September 2013 |
| End of students' school year | Grade 1: 24 May 2013 Grade 2-4: 31 May 2013 Grade 5-8: 15 June 2013 Grade 8*: 30 June 2013 | Grade 8*: 30 June 2013 Grade 9-11: 30 June 2013 Grade 12: 14 May 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 – 4 November 2012 | 1 – 4 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 | 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 23 – 25 February 2013 | 23 – 25 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 29 March – 4 April 2013 | 29 March – 4 April 2013 (until Grade 11) 29 – 31 March 2013 (Grade 12) |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | Grade 1: 24 May 2013 – 15 September 2013 Grade 2-4: 31 May – 15 September 2013 Grade 5-8: 15 June – 15 September 2013 Grade 8*: 30 June – 15 September 2013 | Grade 8*: 30 June – 15 September 2013 Grade 9-11: 30 June – 15 September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 22 September 2012 6 May 2013 24 – 25 May 2013 | 22 September 2012 6 May 2013 24 – 25 May 2013 |
| Other non school days | 21 May 2013 State Graduation Exam in Bulgarian language and literature and National external assessment after grade 7 in Bulgarian language and literature 23 May 2013 Second State Graduation Exam and National external assessment after grade 7 in mathematics | 21 May 2013 State Graduation Exam in Bulgarian language and literature and National external assessment after grade 7 in Bulgarian language and literature 23 May 2013 Second State Graduation Exam and National external assessment after grade 7 in mathematics |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | See Additional Notes | See Additional Notes |
| End of teachers' school year | See Additional Notes | See Additional Notes |

Source: Eurydice

BULGARIA (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

Grade VIII* (18 study weeks) is made up of students who have been admitted, after completed VII grade, to secondary schools after successfully passing admission exams. During this year they take intensive foreign language classes, the number of which prevails significantly in comparison with the number of classes assigned to the rest of the studied at this school level, subjects.

Teachers' school year: The length of the teachers' school year is defined not at central level. The decision with this regard is left to the schools' own discretion. The school head is responsible for setting and drawing up of their school's timetable. The most common situation is when the teachers, on employment contract, are required to be present and at disposal at school at the beginning of September so that they can get prepared well in advance and deal with the school documentation for the new school year.

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

CROATIA

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | |
|---|---|
| | Primary and general secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 14 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | - |
| Christmas/New Year | 24 December 2012 – 11 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | - |
| Spring/Easter | 25– 29 March 2013 |
| Third term | - |
| Summer | 17 June 2013 – 31 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 8 October 2012 – Independence Day 1 November 2012 – All Saints' Day 1 April 2013 – Easter Monday 1 May 2013 – International Labour Day 30 May 2013 – Corpus Christi |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 20 August 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 12 July 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Starting from 2010/11 school year, counties (regional administrative units of Croatia, there are 21 of them) are allowed to request some modifications of the school calendar for the coming school year (regarding the date of the beginning of the school year and the duration of the winter break) which then applies at the County level. In 2012/13, none of the Counties requested any such modifications.

CYPRUS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Primary education | General secondary education |
|---|--|--|
| Starting date of students' school year | 10 September 2012 | 11 September 2012 (see additional notes) |
| End of students' school year | 19 June 2013 | (see additional notes) |
| Autumn holidays | – | – |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 23 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | – | – |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 29 April – 10 May 2013 | 2 weeks 29 April – 10 May 2013 |
| Third term | – | – |
| Summer | 11 weeks 20 June – 6 September 2013 | 9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 1 October 2012 28 October 2012 13 November 2012 30 January 2013 18 March 2013 25 March 2013 1 April 2013 11 June 2013 13 June 2013 | 1 October 2012 28 October 2012 13 November 2012 30 January 2013 18 March 2013 25 March 2013 1 April 2013 11 June 2013 24 June 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 3 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 21 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes

Secondary education

Classes may begin on any day during the first ten days of September, the exact date in each year is defined by the Minister of Education and Culture. For the Lower Secondary Education classes may end on any day during the first ten days of June, and for the Upper Secondary Education during the last ten days of May. The exact date is again defined by the Minister.

For the General secondary education, the end of the school year comes at the end of June and includes exams, correction of papers, result announcements.

Teachers

The official school year is longer for teachers in both primary and secondary education as it includes registration days, sorting out of schools and classes and exam periods.

In primary and secondary general education according to the law, the official school year is from 1 September 2012 until 31 August 2013.

Teachers however, need to be at school from 1 September 2012 until 30 June 2013 for school work for secondary education and from 3 September 2012 until the 21 June 2013 for primary education.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Primary education | General secondary education |
|---|---|---|
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 28 June 2013 | 28 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 25 – 26 October 2012 | 25 – 26 October 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 22 December 2012 – 2 January 2013 | 22 December 2012 – 2 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 February 2013 | 1 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 1 week between 4 February and 17 March 2013 depending on the region 28 – 29 March 2013 | 1 week between 4 February and 17 March 2013 depending on the region 28 – 29 March 2013 |
| Third term | – | – |
| Summer | 29 June – 1 September 2013 | 29 June – 1 September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 28 September 2012 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 8 May 2013 | 28 September 2012 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 8 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Not specified | Not specified |
| End of teachers' school year | Not specified | Not specified |

SPECIFICATION OF TERMS FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS

| Term 2013 | Regions |
|------------------------------|--|
| 4 – 10 February | Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město |
| 11 – 17 February | Praha 1 aţ 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domařlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná |
| 18 – 24 February | Praha 6 aţ 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přeřov, Frýdek-Místek |
| 25 February – 3 March | Kroměřřt, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín |
| 4 – 10 March | Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Ťďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál |
| 11 – 17 March | Mladá Boleslav, Přeřbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněřnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

DENMARK

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary and lower secondary education (<i>Folkeskole</i>) | General secondary education (<i>Gymnasium</i>) |
| Starting date of students' school year | 15 August 2012 | 15 August 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 29 June 2013 | 1 July 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 13 – 21 October 2012 | 13 – 21 October 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 22 December 2012 – 1 January 2013 | 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 9 – 17 February 2013 | 11 – 15 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 23 March – 1 April 2013 | 25 March – 1 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 29 June 2013 – 10/12 August | 1 July– 10/12 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 26 April 2013 9 – 12 May 2013 20 May 2013 5 June 2013 | 26 April 2013 9 – 12 May 2013 20 May 2013 5 June 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students. | Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students. |
| End of teachers' school year | Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students. | Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students. |

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

The abovementioned dates for the *Folkeskole* are a sample from the municipality of Hørsholm ⁽¹⁾, as the dates vary slightly on a national scale. E.g. the winter/carnival holiday thus depends on the municipality which usually decides whether the holiday is in week 7 or 8. The dates for upper secondary education are taken from Frederiksberg Gymnasium ⁽²⁾.

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

⁽¹⁾ <http://rungstedskole.horsholm.dk/Ferieplan/Ferieplan.htm>

⁽²⁾ <http://www.frberg-gym.dk/index.php/information/ferieplan>

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Primary education | General secondary education |
|---|---|---|
| Starting date of students' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 31 August 2013 | 31 August 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 20 – 28 October 2012 | 1 week 20 – 28 October 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 | 2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | | |
| Spring/Easter | 1 week 16 – 24 March 2013 | 1 week 16 – 24 March 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 12 ½ weeks 5 June – 31 August 2013 | 12 ½ weeks 5 June – 31 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 24 February 2013 (Independence Day) 29 March 2013 (Good Friday) 31 March 2013 (Easter Day) 1 May 2013 (Spring Day (May Day)) 19 May 2013 (Whitsunday) | 24 February 2013 (Independence Day) 29 March 2013 (Good Friday) 31 March 2013 (Easter Day) 1 May 2013 (Spring Day (May Day)) 19 May 2013 (Whitsunday) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | The beginning and the end of a teacher's school year depend on the individual school and teacher. According to the legislation, teachers have 56 days (8 weeks) of vacation. Generally, they go on vacation in the middle of June and are back in the middle of August. | |
| End of teachers' school year | | |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act stipulates that an academic year shall start on 1 September and a study period shall include not less than 175 days of study (35 weeks). School holidays (and accordingly the end of the school year) are determined by a regulation of the Minister of Education for every school year.

FINLAND

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | Between 10 and 17 August 2012 | Between 10 and 17 August 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 2 June 2012 | 2 June 2012 |
| Autumn holidays | 2-7 days in October 2012 | 2-7 days in October 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 1-2 weeks between 18 December 2012 and 8 January 2013 | 1-2 weeks between 18 December 2012 and 8 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week between 18 February and 10 March 2013 | 1 week between 18 February and 10 March 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 4 days between 29 March and 1 April 2013 | 4 days between 29 March and 1 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2013 | 10-11 weeks between 4 June to mid-August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 9 May 2013 (Ascension day) | 9 May 2013 (Ascension day) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Between 8 and 15 August 2012 ⁽¹⁾ | Between 8 and 15 August 2012 ⁽¹⁾ |
| End of teachers' school year | 4 June 2013 | 4 June 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days (190 days) if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the school year 2012/13 the number of school days will consequently be 188.

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

FRANCE

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 4 September 2012 | 4 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 6 July 2013 | 6 July 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 2 weeks 27 October – 12 November 2012 | 2 weeks 27 October – 12 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 7 January 2013 | 2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 7 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 2 weeks 23 February – 11 March 2013 (zone A) 16 February – 4 March 2013 (zone B) 2 – 18 March 2013 (zone C) | 2 weeks 23 February – 11 March 2013 (zone A) 16 February – 4 March 2013 (zone B) 2 – 18 March 2013 (zone C) |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 20 April – 6 May 2013 (zone A) 13 – 29 April 2013 (zone B) 27 April – 13 May 2013 (zone C) | 2 weeks 20 April – 6 May 2013 (zone A) 13 – 29 April 2013 (zone B) 27 April – 13 May 2013 (zone C) |
| Third term | – | – |
| Summer | 9 weeks 4 July – September 2013 (date not set yet) | 9 weeks 4 July – September 2013 (date not set yet) |
| Public/religious holidays | The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 8 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 | The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 8 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 6 July 2013 | 6 July 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Zone A: Caen, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble, Lyon, Montpellier, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Rennes, Toulouse

Zone B: Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Besançon, Dijon, Lille, Limoges, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Poitiers, Reims, Rouen, Strasbourg

Zone C: Bordeaux, Créteil, Paris, Versailles

GERMANY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | |
|---|--|
| Starting date of students' school year | 1 August 2012 begin of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i> |
| End of students' school year | 31 July 2013 end of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i> |
| Autumn holidays | 5 to 14 days staggered between 1 October and 3 November 2012 <i>(for details see table II)</i> |
| Christmas/New Year | 10 to 18 days staggered between 19 December 2012 and 5 January 2013 <i>(for details see table II)</i> |
| Winter/Carnival | 0 to 11 days staggered between 31 January and 23 February 2013 <i>(for details see table II)</i> |
| Spring/Easter | 8 to 15 days staggered between 4 March and 9 April 2013 <i>(for details see table II)</i> |
| Third term | 0 to 12 days staggered between 2 May and 1 June 2013 <i>(for details see table II)</i> |
| Summer | 6 weeks staggered between 19 June and 11 September 2013 <i>(for details see table I)</i> |
| Public/religious holidays | Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i> |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 1 August 2012 (official date) |
| End of teachers' school year | 31 July 2013 (official date) |

Source: Eurydice

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

| | Beginning of students' school year 2012/13 | End of students' school year 2012/13 | Summer holidays 2013 |
|--------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Hamburg | 2 August 2012 | 19 June 2013 | 20 June – 31 July |
| Berlin | 6 August 2012 | 19 June 2013 | 20 June – 2 August |
| Brandenburg | 6 August 2012 | 19 June 2013 | 20 June – 3 August |
| Mecklenburg-Vorpommern | 6 August 2012 | 21 June 2013 | 22 June – 3 August |
| Schleswig-Holstein | 6 August 2012 | 22 June 2013 | 24 June – 3 August |
| Hessen / Rheinland-Pfalz | 13 August 2012 | 6 July 2013 | 8 July – 16 August |
| Saarland | 15 August 2012 | 6 July 2013 | 8 July – 16 August |
| Nordrhein-Westfalen | 22 August 2012 | 20 July 2013 | 22 July – 3 September |
| Bremen / Niedersachsen | 3 September 2012 | 26 June 2013 | 27 June – 7 August |
| Sachsen / Thüringen | 3 September 2012 | 13 July 2013 | 15 July – 23 August |
| Sachsen-Anhalt | 6 September 2012 | 13 July 2013 | 15 July – 28 August |
| Baden-Württemberg | 10 September 2012 | 24 July 2013 | 25 July – 7 September |
| Bayern | 13 September 2012 | 30 July 2013 | 31 July – 11 September |

GERMANY (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

| Land | Autumn 2012 | Christmas / New Year 2012/13 | Winter 2013 | Spring / Easter 2013 | 3 rd term 2013 |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Baden-Württemberg | 29 Oct.-2 Nov. | 24 Dec.-5 Jan. | - | 25 March-5 April | 21 May-1 June |
| Bayern | 29 Oct.-3 Nov. | 24 Dec.-5 Jan. | 11 Febr.-15 Febr. | 25 March-6 April | 21 May-31 May |
| Berlin | 1 Oct.-13 Oct. | 24 Dec.-4 Jan. | 4 Febr.-9 Febr. | 25 March-6 April | 10 May 21 May |
| Brandenburg | 1 Oct.- 13 Oct. | 24 Dec.-4 Jan. | 4 Febr.-9 Febr. | 27 March-6 April | 10 May |
| Bremen | 22 Oct.-3 Nov. | 24 Dec.-5 Jan. | 31 Jan.-1 Febr. | 16 March-2 April | 21 May |
| Hamburg | 1 Oct.-12 Oct. | 21 Dec.-4 Jan. | 1 February | 4 March-15 March | 2 May-10 May |
| Hessen | 15 Oct.-27 Oct. | 24 Dec.-12 Jan. | - | 25 March-6 April | - |
| Mecklenburg-Vorpommern | 1 Oct.-5 Oct. | 21 Dec.-4 Jan. | 4 Febr.-15 Febr. | 25 March-3 April | 17 May-21 May |
| Niedersachsen | 22 Oct.-3 Nov. | 24 Dec.-5 Jan. | 31 Jan.- 1 Febr. | 16 March-2 April | 10 May 21 May |
| Nordrhein-Westfalen | 8 Oct.-20 Oct. | 21 Dec.-4 Jan. | - | 25 March-6 April | 21 May |
| Rheinland-Pfalz | 1 Oct.-12 Oct. | 20 Dec.-4 Jan. | - | 20 March-5 April | 10 May 31 May |
| Saarland | 22 Oct.-3 Nov. | 24 Dec.-5 Jan. | 11 Febr.-16 Febr. | 25 March-6 April | - |
| Sachsen | 22 Oct.-2 Nov. | 22 Dec.-2 Jan. | 4 Febr.-15 Febr. | 29 March-6 April | 10 May 18 May-22 May |
| Sachsen-Anhalt | 29 Oct.-2 Nov. | 19 Dec.-4 Jan. | 1 Febr.-8 Febr. | 25 March-30 March | 18 May-31 May |
| Schleswig-Holstein | 4 Oct.-19 Oct. | 24 Dec.-5 Jan. | - | 25 March-9 April | 10 May |
| Thüringen | 22 Oct.-3 Nov. | 24 Dec.-5 Jan. | 18 Febr.-23 Febr. | 25 March-6 April | 10 May |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

GREECE

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 11 September 2012 | 11 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 14 June 2013 | The date in question (usually around 20 May), set by a Ministerial Decision, is subject to annual arrangement both for the lower and the upper secondary education. |
| Autumn holidays | – | – |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 7 January 2013 | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 7 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | - | - |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 29 April – 10 May 2013 | 2 weeks 29 April – 10 May 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | ± 12 weeks 22 June – 31 August 2013 | ± 10 weeks 1 July – 10 September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 4 national/religious holidays 28 October 2012 30 January 2013 18 March 2013 (Shrove Tuesday) 25 March 2013 and some regional holidays | 5 national/religious holidays 28 October 2012 30 January 2013 18 March 2013 (Shrove Tuesday) 25 March 2013 24 June 2013 and some regional holidays |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 3 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 21 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Official School Year: 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013

Didactic Year: 1 September 2012 to 21 June 2013 (primary education)

1 September 2012 to 30 June 2013 (secondary education)

HUNGARY

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 14 June 2013 | 14 June 2013 (2 May 2013 in the final upper secondary grade) |
| Autumn holidays | 7 days including 1 weekend and one public holiday 29 October – 4 November 2012 | 7 days including 1 weekend and one public holiday 29 October – 4 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 12 days including 2 weekends and 2 public holidays | 12 days including 2 weekends and 2 public holidays |
| Winter/Carnival | 22 December 2012 – 2 January 2013 | 22 December 2012 – 2 January 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 6 days including one weekend and one public holiday 28 March – 2 April 2013 | 6 days including one weekend and one public holiday 28 March – 2 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 11 weeks 15 June – 31 August 2013 | 11 weeks 15 June – 31 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 1 day 15 March 2013 (Revolution Day) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday) | 1 day 15 March 2013 (Revolution Day) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision* | Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision* |
| End of teachers' school year | Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision* | Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision* |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Data in the "General secondary education" column refer to general upper secondary education, while data in the "Primary education" column refer to single structure education (primary and lower secondary).

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

Schools, while leaving the first and last school day of the academic year unchanged, may give further holidays to pupils or may change the beginning and end date of the preset school holidays during the school year if they ensure that teaching is provided on a regular resting day instead.

In addition to compulsory school days (182 days in 2012-13), schools may also have 5 (in single structure education) or 6 (in upper-secondary education) non-teaching days for educational purposes.

School holidays at schools providing minority education may differ from the above described school holidays to celebrate national traditions. (Source: Decree of the Minister responsible for education on the organization of the school year of 2012-2013).

* Act No. XXXIII. of 1992 on the legal status of public servants and the Government Decree No. 138/1992 stipulate that the holidays of teachers primarily have to be given during the summer holiday. If not all days can be taken during that, the rest has to be provided during the autumn, winter or spring holidays. (For teachers the autumn, winter and spring holidays are regarded as workdays without teaching).

ICELAND

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Primary and lower secondary education | General upper secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | Between 22 and 31 August 2012 | Between 20 and 24 August 2012 |
| End of students' school year | Between 31 May and 7 June 2013 | Between 27 and 31 May 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 0-3 days in October 2012 | 0-3 days in October 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 17 December 2012 – 3 January 2013 | 2 weeks 17 December 2012 – 3 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 0-5 days in February 2013 | 0-5 days in February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 9 days 25 March – 3 April 2013 | 9 days 25 March – 3 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 11 weeks Between 7 June and 21 August 2013 | 12 weeks Between 25 May and 23 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 4 days 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 | 4 days 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Between 17 and 27 August 2012 | Between 20 and 22 August 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | Between 6 and 13 June 2013 | Between 28 May and 1 June 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

According to teachers wage contracts compulsory school teachers shall work in schools 4 days before the beginning of the school year and 4 days after the formal end of the school year. Upper secondary school teachers have a total of 4 working days before the beginning and/or the end of the school year.

IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Primary education | General secondary education |
|---|---|---|
| Starting date of students' school year | First week of September 2012 (1) | Circa 28 August 2012 (1) |
| End of students' school year | End of June 2013 (2) | End of State Examinations in June 2013 (2) |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 (inclusive) | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 (inclusive) |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 (inclusive) | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 (inclusive) |
| Winter/Carnival | 2 days 14 – 15 February 2013 (3) | 1 week (3) 11 – 15 February 2013 (inclusive) |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 25 March – 5 April 2013 (inclusive) (3) | 2 weeks 25 March – 5 April 2013 (inclusive) (3) |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | About 9 weeks End of June until week of 1 September 2013 | About 12 weeks June, July and most of August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 18 March 2013 6 May 2013 3 June 2013 and some religious holidays (4) | 18 March 2013 6 May 2013 3 June 2013 and some religious holidays (4) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 31 August 2013 | 31 August 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes: Circular 0034/2011 sets out the standardised school breaks at primary and post primary level for the school years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14.

- (1) It is not a requirement that the commencement or end of the school year either at primary or post-primary level should be standardised. However, the expectation is that the school year will normally commence during the week in which 1st September falls. A school year may commence in the week prior to that in which 1st September falls where this is necessary in order to meet the overall requirement of a minimum of 167 at post-primary level or 183 days at primary level. The exact date is determined locally at Board of Management level.
- (2) At Primary Level, schools may use their own discretion to determine the precise ending of the school year in June, providing it has met the overall requirement of 183 days. At Post Primary level, traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday.
- (3) Primary school may extend their Winter/Carnival break to an alternative option of a 5 day break provided the overall requirement of 183 days is met. Both primary and post primary schools may reduce the length of Winter/Carnival and Spring/Easter breaks where contingency measures are necessary to make up for unforeseen school closures e.g. due to adverse weather.
- (4) The standardised school year arrangements are agreed without prejudice to closure on specific days, subject to the overall requirement of 167 days at post-primary level and 183 days at primary level, dictated by religious observance that is required in schools under the patronage of different denominations or faiths.

ITALY

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | Between 5 and 17 September 2012 | Between 5 and 17 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | Between 8 and 14 June 2013 | Between 8 and 14 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | – | – |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks Between 22/24 December 2012 and 5 January 2013 | 2 weeks Between 22/24 December 2012 and 5 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 to 5 days Generally in February/March, depending on the regions | 1 to 5 days Generally in February/March, depending on the regions |
| Spring/Easter | 3 to 5 days Between 26/28 April and 1/3 April 2013, depending on the regions | 3 to 5 days Between 26/28 April and 1/3 April 2013, depending on the regions |
| Third term | – | – |
| Summer | 12 – 13 weeks Between June and September 2013 | 12 – 13 weeks Between June and September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 5 national holidays 1 November 2012 8 December 2012 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 2 June 2013 and Saints' days, depending on the regions | 5 national holidays 1 November 2012 8 December 2012 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 2 June 2013 and Saints' days, depending on the regions |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 31 August 2013 | 31 August 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

ITALY (CONTINUED)

| Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2012/13 | | |
|---|----------------|----------|
| Primary and general secondary education | | |
| | Beginning 2012 | End 2013 |
| Abruzzo | 17 September | 8 June |
| Alto Adige (Bolzano) | 5 September | 14 June |
| Basilicata | 17 September | 11 June |
| Calabria | 17 September | 12 June |
| Campania | 13 September | 8 June |
| Emilia-Romagna | 17 September | 8 June |
| Friuli-Venezia Giulia | 12 September | 8 June |
| Lazio | 13 September | 12 June |
| Liguria | 17 September | 12 June |
| Lombardia | 12 September | 8 June |
| Marche | 12 September | 8 June |
| Molise | 11 September | 11 June |
| Piemonte | 12 September | 12 June |
| Puglia | 17 September | 8 June |
| Sardegna | 17 September | 8 June |
| Sicilia | 14 September | 12 June |
| Toscana | 12 September | 8 June |
| Trentino (Trento) | 12 September | 11 June |
| Umbria | 12 September | 8 June |
| Valle d'Aosta | 10 September | 12 June |
| Veneto | 12 September | 8 June |

Additional notes:

Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the POF's requirements (the POF is the basic document of the cultural and planning identity of each school. It defines the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school). Schools can organise in a flexible way the overall and single-subject timetable, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. The school year begins between the 2nd and the 4th week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June. The school adaptations of the school time should guarantee at least 200 days of lesson in the school year.

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

LATVIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Primary education | General secondary education |
|---|---|---|
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 31 May 2013 | 31 May 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year (Winter holidays) | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 1 week 22 – 28 March 2013 | 1 week 22 – 28 March 2012 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 13 weeks 3 June – 30 August 2013 | 13 weeks 3 June – 30 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 5 public holidays 18 (transferred to 19) November 2012 29 March 2013 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 4 (transferred to 6) May 2013 | 5 public holidays 18 (transferred to 19) November 2012 29 March 2013 1 April 2013 1 May 2013 4 (transferred to 6) May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | See additional notes | See additional notes |
| End of teachers' school year | See additional notes | See additional notes |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Lower secondary education (Basic education): end of the school year for the 9th class: 14 June 2013.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12th class: 21 June 2013.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 3 September to 21 December 2012 and the second from 7 January to 31 May 2013 (or 14 June for the 9th class and 21 June for the 12th class).

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

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

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

Holidays (summer 2013): These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11.

Pilot schools: With September 2012 some pilot schools will start to implement an extended school year and the experience of these pilot schools will help the Ministry of Education to make an informed decision about longer school year 2014/2015 in Latvia.

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

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

LIECHTENSTEIN

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education (ISCED 0, 1, 2 and 3) 2012/13 school year | |
|---|--|
| | Primary and general secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 20 August 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 5 July 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 2 weeks: 6 – 21 October 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks: 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week: 9 – 17 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 2½ weeks: 28 March (from noon) – 14 April 2013 |
| Summer | 6 weeks: 6 July – 18 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 15 August 2012 – Assumption/Nat. Holiday (<i>Maria Himmelfahrt/Liechtensteinischer Staatsfeiertag</i>) 8 September 2012 – The nativity of our lady (<i>Maria Geburt</i>) 1 November 2012 – All Saints Day (<i>Allerheiligen</i>) 8 December 2012 – Immaculate Conception (<i>Maria Empfängnis</i>) 2 February 2013 – Candlemas (<i>Maria Lichtmess</i>) 19 March 2013 – St. Josephs Day (<i>Josefitag</i>) 1 May 2013 – Labour Day (<i>Tag der Arbeit</i>) 9/10 May 2013 – Ascension Day (<i>Auffahrt</i>) 19/20 May 2013 – Whitsuntide/Whit Monday (<i>Pfingsten/Pfingsmontag</i>) 30/31 May 2013 – Corpus Christi (<i>Fronleichnam</i>) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 20 August 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 5 July 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

LITHUANIA

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 31 May 2013 | 7 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 29 October – 4 November 2012 | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 27 December 2012 – 9 January 2013 | 2 weeks 27 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | – | 18 – 19 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 1 week 25 – 31 March 2013 | 1 week 25 – 29 March 2013 |
| Third term | – | – |
| Summer | 13 weeks 3 June – 30 August 2013 | 12 weeks 10 June – 30 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 1 November 2012 16 February 2013 11 March 2013 1 May 2013 | 1 November 2012 16 February 2013 11 March 2013 1 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher | Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher |
| End of teachers' school year | Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher | Following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The end of students' school year in grade 5 (first year of lower secondary education) is on 31 May 2013, grade 10 (last year of lower secondary education) is on 7 June 2013 and grade 12 (last year of upper secondary education) is on 31 May 2013.

Additional 2-weeks school holidays (twice in the year) are allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5. The recommended time for pupils of grades 1-4 is: 11 – 15 February 2013 and 1 – 5 April 2013; for pupils of grade 5: 26 – 30 November 2012 and 11 – 15 February 2013. Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated at another time.

Summer holidays for students in grade 5 start on 3 June 2013.

The annual amount of leave for **teachers** is legislated as 56 calendar days. Normally, it is recommended that teachers take their annual leave during school summer holidays (i.e. teachers' leave is normally determined by the school calendar)

LUXEMBOURG

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 17 September 2012 | 17 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 15 July 2013 | 15 July 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 27 October – 4 November 2012 | 1 week 27 October – 4 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 | 2 weeks 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week 9 – 17 February 2013 | 1 week 9 – 17 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 23 March – 7 April 2013 | 2 weeks 23 March – 7 April 2013 |
| Third term | 1 week 25 May – 2 June 2013 | 1 week 25 May – 2 June 2013 |
| Summer | 8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2013 | 8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 4 days 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 | 4 days 1 May 2013 9 May 2013 20 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 15 September 2012 | 15 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 15 July 2013 | 15 July 2013 |

Source: Eurydice.

MALTA

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 24 September 2012 | 24 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 27 June 2013 | 27 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 – 2 November 2012 | 1 – 2 November 2012 |
| Christmas / New Year | 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 | 24 December 2012 – 4 January 2013 |
| Winter / Carnival | 11 – 12 February 2013 | 11 – 12 February 2013 |
| Spring / Easter | 27 March – 3 April 2013 | 27 March – 3 April 2013 |
| Third term | 4 April – 27 June 2013 | 4 April – 27 June 2013 |
| Summer | 28 June – 20 September 2013 | 28 June – 20 September 2013 |
| Public / religious holidays | 21 September 2012 13 December 2012 19 March 2013 1 May 2013 7 June 2013 | 21 September 2012 13 December 2012 19 March 2013 1 May 2013 7 June 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 19 September 2012 | 19 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 5 July 2013 | 5 July 2013 |

Additional notes:

Half-yearly examinations take place between 19 and 22 February 2013 for primary school pupils and between 13 and 22 February 2013 for secondary school students.

The Annual Examinations take place between 25 and 27 June 2013 for primary school pupils and between 12 and 27 June 2013 for secondary school students.

Students of Year 6 in primary schools sit for End-of-Primary Benchmark Assessments held on 29 and 30 May and 3, 4 and 5 June and oral examinations held between 17 and 21 June 2013.

Teachers, who are called to do so, attend in-service training (INSET) courses held on 14, 17 and 18 September 2012 and on 8, 9 and 10 July 2013.

Teachers who attend INSET courses in September start their school year on 14 September 2012. Teachers who attend INSET courses in July end their school year on 10 July 2013.

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

THE NETHERLANDS

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | Northern region: 3 September 2012 Central region: 20 August 2012 Southern region: 13 August 2012 | Northern region: 3 September 2012 Central region: 20 August 2012 Southern region: 20 August 2012 |
| End of students' school year | Northern region: 6 July 2013 Central region: 20 July 2013 Southern region: 29 June 2013 | Northern region: 6 July 2013 Central region: 13 July 2013 Southern region: 29 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | Northern region: 20 – 28 October 2012 Central and Southern region: 13 – 21 October 2012 | Northern region: 20 – 28 October 2012 Central and Southern region: 13 – 21 October 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 | 22 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival*) | Central region and Northern region: 16 – 24 February 2013 Southern region: 23 February – 3 March 2013 | Central region and Northern region: 16 – 24 February 2013 Southern region: 23 February – 3 March 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | - | - |
| Third term | 27 April – 5 May 2013 | 27 April – 5 May 2013 |
| Summer | Northern region: 6 July – 18 August 2013 Central region: 20 July – 1 September 2013 Southern region: 29 June – 11 August 2013 | Northern region: 6 July – 25 August 2013 Central region: 13 July – 1 September 2013 Southern region: 29 June – 18 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) 30 April 2013 (Queen's Birthday) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday) | 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) 30 April 2013 (Queen's Birthday) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | See additional notes | See additional notes |
| End of teachers' school year | See additional notes | See additional notes |

Source: Eurydice

THE NETHERLANDS (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

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

Dates for the **summer holidays** are decided by the Ministry; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); all other holidays are recommended by the Ministry.

Carnival holiday is also called Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday

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

NORWAY

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | Between 15 and 23 August 2012 Most counties: 16 – 20 August 2012 | Between 15 and 23 August 2012 Most counties: 16 – 20 August 2012 |
| End of students' school year | Between 18 and 21 June 2013 | Between 18 and 21 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week (some just 2 days) Starting 1. Or 8. October 2012 (week 40 or 41) | 1 week (some just 2 days) Starting 1 or 8 October 2012 (week 40 or 41) |
| Christmas/New Year | Approx.: 2 weeks Between 17 and 23 December 2012 and 2 to 7 of January 2013 | Approx.: 2 weeks Between 18 and 21 December 2012 and 2 to 7 of January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week Between 18 February and 1 March 2013 (Week 8, 9 or 10) | 1 week Between 18 February and 1 March 2013 (Week 8, 9 or 10) |
| Spring/Easter | 9 days Between 25 March and 4 April 2013 | 9 days Between 25 March and 4 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18/21 June and 15/22 August 2013 | Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18/21 June and 15/22 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 4 day 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 17 May 2013 (National Day) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday) | 4 day 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 17 May 2013 (National Day) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 20 May 2013 (Whit Monday) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | See additional note | See additional note |
| End of teachers' school year | See additional note | See additional note |

Source:KS/ Eurydice

Additional notes:

For the primary schools can the municipality decide individually the school holidays, as the counties can decide for the upper secondary schools.

The teachers' work during the school year is counted in working hours. That is 1300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1150 hours for upper secondary education. It is an individual matter for each school if the work hours, longer than for the students, are before the beginning or after the end of the school year.

POLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Primary education | General secondary education |
|---|---|---|
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 28 June 2013 | 28 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | – | – |
| Christmas/New Year | 1 week 24 – 31 December 2012 | 1 week 24 – 31 December 2012 |
| Winter/Carnival | 2 weeks 14 – 27 January 2013 <u>Regions:</u> Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie 21 January – 3 February 2013 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 28 January – 10 February 2013 Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 11 - 24 February 2013 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie | 2 weeks 14 – 27 January 2013 <u>Regions:</u> Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie 21 January – 3 February 2013 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 28 January – 10 February 2013 Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 11 - 24 February 2013 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie |
| Spring/ Easter | 28 March – 2 April 2013 | 28 March – 2 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 29 June – 31 August 2013 | 29 June – August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 1 November 2012 1 January 2013 1 – 3 May 2013 30 May 2013 | 1 November 2012 1 January 2013 1 – 3 May 2013 30 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 28 June 2013 | 28 June 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In addition, the school head has the possibility to determine some extra days off (up to 6 days for primary schools, basic vocational schools, post-secondary schools, continuous education institutions; up to 8 days for lower secondary schools; up to 10 days for upper secondary schools) that may be devoted to external tests and exams and/or religious festivals not being registered as official public holidays.

PORTUGAL

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|--|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | Between 10 and 14 September 2012 | Between 10 and 14 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 14 June 2013 (grades 1-5) 7 June 2013 (grade 6) Note: for pupils with extra support the end of the year will be 5 July 2013 | 7 June 2013 (grades 9, 11, 12) 14 June 2013 (grades 5, 7, 8 and 10) |
| First term | 10/14 September – 17 December 2012 | 10/14 September – 17 December 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 17 December 2011 – 2 January 2013 | 17 December 2011 – 2 January 2013 |
| Second term | 3 January – 18 March 2013 | 3 January – 18 March 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 11 – 13 February 2013 | 11 – 13 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 18 March – 1 April 2013 | 18 March – 1 April 2013 |
| Third term | 2 April – 7/14 June 2013 | 2 April – 7/14 June 2013 |
| Summer | About 12 weeks From 7/14 June until middle of September 2013 | About 12 weeks From 7/14 June until middle of September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 5 days: 8 December 2012 12 February 2013 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 10 June 2013 | 5 days: 8 December 2012 12 February 2013 25 April 2013 1 May 2013 10 June 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | a) see additional notes | a) see additional notes |
| End of teachers' school year | a) see additional notes | a) see additional notes |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

a) The official length of teachers' school year goes from 1 September to 31 August. Teachers have the right to take their summer holidays between the end of pupils' school year and the beginning of the following school year.

ROMANIA

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 17 September 2012 | 17 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 21 June 2013 | 21 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 5 – 11 November 2012 | - |
| Christmas/New Year | 3 weeks 22 December 2012 – 13 January 2013 | 3 weeks 22 December 2012 – 13 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | | |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 6 April – 21 April 2013 | 2 weeks 6 April – 21 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 11 weeks 22 June – 15 September 2013 | 11 weeks 22 June – 15 September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 3 days 1 May 2013 6 May 2013 24 June 2013 | 3 days 1 May 2013 6 May 2013 24 June 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 31 August 2013 | 31 August 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In exceptional situations, depending on the local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the organisation of the school year can be modified at the request of schools, approved by the regional education authorities (County School Inspectorate). Approval is given if the number of 178 school days (36 weeks) is maintained and all pupils may participate without restrictions in national examinations.

The structure of school year is approved every year, by a Decision of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports.

SERBIA

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | Central Serbia: Grades I-VII: 7 June 2013 Grade VIII: 24 May 2013 Vojvodina: Grades I-VII: 12 June 2013 Grade VIII: 29 May 2013 | Central Serbia: Grades I-III: 14 June 2013 Grade IV: 17 May 2013 Vojvodina: Grades I-III: 19 June 2013 Grade IV: 22 May 2013 |
| Christmas/New Year | Central Serbia: 31 December 2012 – 15 January 2013 Vojvodina: 21 December 2012 – 14 January 2013 | Central Serbia: 31 December 2012 – 15 January 2013 Vojvodina: 21 December 2012 – 14 January 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | Central Serbia: 29 April – 6 May 2013 Vojvodina: 29 March – 1 April 2013 | Central Serbia: 29 April – 6 May 2013 Vojvodina: 29 March – 1 April 2013 |
| Summer | Central Serbia: Grades I-VII: 7 June – 31 August 2013 Grade VIII 24 May – 31 August 2013 Vojvodina: Grades I-VII: 12 June – 31 August 2013 Grade VIII: 29 May – 31 August 2013 | Central Serbia: Grades I-III: 14 June – 31 August 2013 Grade IV 17 May – 31 August 2013 Vojvodina: Grades I-III: 19 June – 31 August 2013 Grade IV: 22 May – 31 August 2013 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | Religious holidays: 25 December 2012 (Catholic Christmas) or 7 January 2013 (Orthodox Christmas) 29 March and 1 April 2013 (Catholic Easter) or 3 and 6 May 2013 (Orthodox Easter) Students and teachers have right to a holiday on family Slava (one day) Islamic holidays: 19 August 2012 and Kurban 25 October 2012 (1 st day of Ramazan) Hebrew holidays: 26 September 2012 (1 st day of Yom Kippur) Public holidays: 1 November 2012 (Day of Truce in World War I) 15 – 16 February 2013 (Sretenje) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) | Religious holidays: 25 December 2012 (Catholic Christmas) or 7 January 2013 (Orthodox Christmas) 29 March and 1 April 2013 (Catholic Easter) or 3 and 6 May 2013 (Orthodox Easter) Students and teachers have right to a holiday on family Slava (one day) Islamic holidays: 19 August 2012 and Kurban 25 October 2012 (1 st day of Ramazan) Hebrew holidays: 26 September 2012 (1 st day of Yom Kippur) Public holidays: 1 November 2012 (Day of Truce in World War I) 15 – 16 February 2013 (Sretenje) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) |

SERBIA (CONTINUED)

| | |
|---|---|
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Usually teacher are back in school in second half of August but right to vacation and number of days is determined as prescribed in collective agreement. Timetable of holidays is determined based on yearly work plan in the institutions. Teachers are usually on holiday from 15-16 July to 20 August |
| End of teachers' school year | |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

National holidays that are set by the Parliament are non-working for all, but national holidays of minorities are usual working. Councils of National minorities have set the dates of National holidays to be celebrated for national minorities: Hungarian, Bosniac, Bunjevci, Croatian, Rusyn, Ukraininan, Macedonian, German, Roma, Bulgarian, Czech, Slovak

After the dates listed as end of the school year, pupils/students can take exams in August in case they fail subject during the school year. After passing these resits, pupils/students finish the school year or repeat grade.

SLOVAKIA

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 28 June 2013 | 28 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 2 days 31 October – 2 November 2012 | 2 days 31 October – 2 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 7 January 2013 | 2 weeks 24 December 2012 – 7 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 day 1 February 2013 1 week, according regions: 18 – 22 February 2013 Košice, Prešov 25 February – 1 March 2013 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 4 – 8 March 2013 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava | 1 day 1 February 2013 1 week, according regions: 18 – 22 February 2013 Košice, Prešov 25 February – 1 March 2013 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín 4 – 8 March 2013 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava |
| Spring/Easter | 4 days (Easter holidays) 28 March – 2 April 2013 | 4 days (Easter holidays) 28 March – 2 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2013 | 9 weeks 1 July – 30 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 6 days 1 September 2012 15 September 2012 1 November 2012 17 November 2012 1 May 2013 8 May 2013 | 6 days 1 September 2012 15 September 2012 1 November 2012 17 November 2012 1 May 2013 8 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Usually one week before beginning of the school year | Usually one week before beginning of the school year |
| End of teachers' school year | Usually, one week after summer holidays begin | Usually, one week after summer holidays begin |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Official school year: 1 September to 31 August. If 2 September is Friday, Saturday or Sunday starting date of school year is next Monday.

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

SLOVENIA

Organisation of school time in single structure education and general upper secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Single structure education | General upper secondary education |
|---|--|--|
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 24 June 2013 14 June 2013 (final grade) | 24 June 2013 27 May 2013 (final grade) |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 | 1 week 29 October – 2 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 1 week 24 December 2012 – 1 January 2013 | 1 week 24 December 2012 – 1 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week 18 February – 22 February 2013 (Eastern region) 25 February – 1 March 2013 (Western region) | 1 week 18 February – 22 February 2013 (Eastern region) 25 February – 1 March 2013 (Western region) |
| Spring/Easter | 1 day 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) | 1 day 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) |
| Third term | 1 week 29 April – 3 May 2013 | 1 week 29 April – 3 May 2013 |
| Summer | 10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2013 | 10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 8 February 2013 (<i>Prešern Day</i> – Day of Slovene Culture) | 8 February 2013 (<i>Prešern Day</i> – Day of Slovene Culture) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | At least 10 days before students | At least 10 to 15 days before students |
| End of teachers' school year | Beginning to mid-July 2013 | Beginning to mid-July 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The school year officially lasts from 1 September to 31 August, however, the lessons end in June.

Single structure education: Slovenia has a single structure compulsory school of 9 years with no differences among separate stages.

Teachers' school year starts 10 to 15 days before the pupils'/students' school year and lasts until the beginning or mid July. The precise length depends on the individually allocated days of annual leave (from 22 to 35 days) and tasks and obligations appointed by the head teacher.

SPAIN

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year ^(1, 2) | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | Between 6 and 14 September 2012 | Between 6 and 18 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | Between 20 and 28 June 2013 | Between 20 and 28 June ⁽³⁾ 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | - | - |
| Christmas/New Year | At least 2 weeks between 21 December 2011 and 7 January 2012 | At least 2 weeks between 21 December 2011 and 7 January 2012 |
| Winter/Carnival | Between 2 and 3 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾ | Between 2 and 3 (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾ |
| Spring/Easter | About 10 days between 23 March and 8 April 2013 | About 10 days between 23 March and 8 April 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | 11 weeks between late June and mid-September | 11/12 weeks between late June and mid-September |
| Public/religious holidays | 12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities). | 12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities). |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 30 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |

Additional notes:

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

⁽²⁾ The total minimum number of school days is 175 in Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Education in all Autonomous Communities.

⁽³⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes finish two or three weeks earlier than in the rest of stages. This time is used to prepare the university entrance examinations.

⁽⁴⁾ In the different Autonomous Communities, the education authorities allocate a certain number of days (between 3 and 6) for Carnival, bank holidays or other free days or grant freedom to schools to allocate these days along the whole school year at their convenience.

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the starting and the end of students' school year 2012/13 in the different Autonomous Communities

| | Primary education | | General secondary education ⁽¹⁾ | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| | Starting (2012) | End (2013) | Starting (2012) | End (2013) |
| Andalucía | 10 September | 22 June | 17 September | 25 June |
| Aragón | 10 September | 21 June | 14 September | 21 June (lower secondary) 26 June (upper secondary) |
| Asturias | 13 September | 21 June | 17 September | 25 June |
| Baleares | 13 September | 21 June | 13 September | 21 June |
| Canarias | 10 September | 21 June | 13 September | 21 June |
| Cantabria | 13 September | 21 June | 13 September | 21 June |
| Castilla y León | 10 September | 21 June | 10 September (pupils attending primary education schools) 13 September | 21 June |
| Castilla-La Mancha | 10 September | 20 June | 13 September | 25 June |
| Cataluña | 12 September | 21 June | 13 September | 21 June |
| Ceuta | 10 September | 21 June | 10 September | 21 June |
| Extremadura | 14 September | 28 June | 14 September | 28 June |
| Galicia | 12 September | 21 June | 17 September | 21 June |
| La Rioja | 6 September | 21 June | 10 September | 25 June |
| Madrid | 10 September | 25 June | 11 September (first year of lower secondary) 12 September (second year of lower secondary and upper secondary) | 26 June |
| Melilla | 10 September | 21 June | 10 September | 21 June |
| Murcia | 10 September | 21 June | 17 and 18 September | 21 June |
| Navarra ⁽²⁾ | Not before 5 September | Not later 20 June | Not before 10 September | Not later 20 June |
| País Vasco ⁽²⁾ | Not before 6 September | Not later 21 June | Not before 6 September | Not later 20 June |
| C. Valenciana | 7 September | 21 June | 14 September | 21 June |

Additional notes:

⁽¹⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes finish two or three weeks earlier than in the rest of stages. This time is used to prepare the university entrance examinations.

⁽²⁾ In these Autonomous Communities schools are free to establish their own calendar taking into account the limit starting and ending dates established by the educational authorities.

Source: School calendars of the 17 Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in compulsory education (*grundskola*) and in general upper secondary education (*gymnasieskola*) 2012/13 school year

| | Single structure compulsory education (<i>grundskola</i>) | General upper secondary education (<i>gymnasieskola</i>) |
|--|--|--|
| Starting date of students' school year 2012 | Late in August | Late in August |
| End of students' school year 2013 | Mid-June | Mid-June |
| According to the Compulsory School Ordinance and the Upper secondary School Ordinance a school year consists of at least 178 school days and at least 17 holidays – the exact dates vary on regional and municipality level. | | |
| Autumn holidays 2012 | 29 October – 2 November 2012 | 29 October – 2 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year 2012/2013 | Start between 19 – 21 December 2012 End between 7 – 11 January 2013 | Start between 19 – 21 December 2012 End between 7 – 11 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival 2013 | One week between 11 February – 8 March 2013 | One week between 11 February – 8 March 2013 |
| Spring/Easter 2013 | One week between 25 March – 5 April 2013 | One week between 25 March – 5 April 2013 |
| Summer 2013 | About 10 weeks | About 10 weeks |
| Public/religious holidays | Public holidays outside school holidays are: 29 March 2013 (Good Friday) 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2013 (the National Day) | Public holidays outside school holidays are: 29 March 2013 (Good Friday) 1 April 2013 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) 9 May 2013 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2013 (the National Day) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Mid-August | Mid-August |
| End of teachers' school year | Mid-June | Mid-June |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

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

SWITZERLAND

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | Staggered between 13 August and 3 September 2012 | Staggered between 13 August and 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | Staggered between 21 June and 19 July 2013 | Staggered between 21 June and 19 July 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | Between 1 and 3 weeks Staggered between 2 September and 4 November 2012 | Between 1 and 3 weeks Staggered between 2 September and 4 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 22 December 2012 and 6 January 2013 | Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 22 December 2012 and 6 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 26 January and 3 March 2013 | Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 26 January and 3 March 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 23 March and 12 May 2013 | Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 23 March and 12 May 2013 |
| Third term | - | - |
| Summer | Between 5 and 10 weeks Staggered between 22 June and 1 September 2013 | Between 5 and 10 weeks Staggered between 22 June and 1 September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 1 August 2012 20 May 2013 | 1 August 2012 20 May 2013 |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 1 August 2012 | 1 August 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 31 July 2013 | 31 July 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

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

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

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

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

| Canton | Beginning of students' school year 2012/13 | End of students' school year 2012/13 | Summer holidays 2013 |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Aargau | 13 August 2012 | 19 July 2013 | 20 July – 11 August |
| Appenzell Innerrhoden* | 13 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 18 August |
| Appenzell Ausserrhoden | 13 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 11 August |
| Bern* | 13 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 11 August |
| Basel-Landschaft | 13 August 2012 | 28 June 2013 | 29 June – 11 August |
| Basel-Stadt | 13 August 2012 | 28 June 2013 | 29 June – 11 August |
| Fribourg* | 23 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 21 August |
| Geneva | 27 August 2012 | 28 June 2013 | 29 June – 25 August |
| Glarus | 13 August 2012 | 28 June 2013 | 29 June – 11 August |
| Graubünden* | 20 August 2012 | 28 June 2013 | 29 June – 18 August |
| Jura | 20 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 18 August |
| Lucerne | 20 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 18 August |
| Neuchâtel | 20 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 18 August |
| Nidwalden* | 20 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 18 August |
| Obwalden* | 20 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 18 August |
| St. Gallen | 13 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 11 August |
| Schaffhausen | 13 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 11 August |
| Solothurn | 13 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 11 August |
| Schwyz* | 13 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 11 August |
| Thurgau | 13 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 11 August |
| Ticino | 3 September 2012 | 21 June 2013 | 22 June – 1 September |
| Uri* | 20 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 18 August |
| Vaud | 27 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 27 August |
| Valais* | 16 August 2012 | 21 June 2013 | 22 June – 18 August |
| Zug | 20 August 2012 | 5 July 2013 | 6 July – 18 August |
| Zurich* | 20 August 2012 | 12 July 2013 | 13 July – 18 August |

* with variation between regions / municipalities

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

| Canton | Autumn 2012 | Christmas / New Year 2012/13 | Winter 2013 | Spring / Easter 2013 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Aargau* | 29 Sept. – 14 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | variable | 13 – 28 April |
| Appenzell Innerrhoden* | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 2 Jan. | 9 – 17 Feb. | 6 – 21 April |
| Appenzell Ausserrhoden | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 2 Jan. | variable | 6 – 21 April |
| Bern* | 22 Sept. – 14 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | variable | 6 – 21 April |
| Basel-Landschaft* | 29 Sept. – 14 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 2 Jan. | 9 – 24 Feb. | 23 March – 7 April |
| Basel-Stadt | 29 Sept. – 14 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 2 Jan. | 9 – 24 Feb. | 28 March – 7 April |
| Fribourg* | 13 – 28 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 9 – 17 Feb. | 29 March – 14 April |
| Geneva | 20 – 28 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 9 – 17 Feb. | 28 March – 7 April |
| Glarus | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 26 Jan. – 3 Feb. | 29 March – 14 April |
| Graubünden* | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 23 Feb. – 3 March | 13 – 28 April |
| Jura | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 9 – 17 Feb. | 29 March – 14 April |
| Lucerne | 29 Sept. – 14 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 2 – 17 Feb. | 29 March – 14 April |
| Neuchâtel | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 23 Feb. – 3 March | 29 March – 14 April |
| Nidwalden* | 29 Sept. – 14 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 2 – 17 Feb. | 29 March – 14 April |
| Obwalden* | 29 Sept. – 14 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 2 – 17 Feb. | 29 March – 14 April |
| St. Gallen | 29 Sept – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 2 Jan. | variable | 6 – 21 April |
| Schaffhausen | 29 Sept – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 2 Jan. | 26 Jan. – 9 Feb. | 13 – 28 April |
| Solothurn* | 29 Sept – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 2 – 17 Feb. | 6 – 21 April |
| Schwyz* | 29 Sept. – 14 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 23 Feb. – 3 March | 27 April – 12 May |
| Thurgau | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 26 Jan. – 3 Feb. | 29 March – 14 April |
| Ticino | 27 Oct. – 4 Nov. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 9 – 17 Feb. | 29 March – 7 April |
| Uri* | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 2 – 10 Feb. | 29 March – 14 April |
| Vaud | 13 – 28 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 16 – 24 Feb. | 28 March – 14 April |
| Valais* | 24 Oct. – 4 Nov. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 9 – 17 Feb. | 29 March – 7 April |
| Zug | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 2 – 17 Feb. | 13 – 28 April |
| Zurich* | 6 – 21 Oct. | 22 Dec. – 6 Jan. | 9 – 24 Feb. | 20 April – 5 May |

* with variation between regions / municipalities

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year

| | Primary education | General secondary education |
|---|---|---|
| Starting date of students' school year | 17 September 2012 | 17 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 14 June 2013 | 14 June 2013 |
| Christmas/New Year | – | – |
| Winter/Carnival | 2 weeks 28 January – 8 February 2013 | 2 weeks 28 January – 8 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | – | – |
| Third term | – | – |
| Summer | 13 weeks 14 June – 16 September 2013 | 13 weeks 14 June – 16 September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 25-26 October 2012 (Religious Holiday) 29 October 2012 (Republic Day) 23 April 2013 (Children's Day) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) | 25-26 October 2012 (Religious Holiday) 29 October 2012 (Republic Day) 23 April 2013 (Children's Day) 1 May 2013 (Labour Day) |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Beginning September | Beginning September |
| End of teachers' school year | Beginning July | Beginning July |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

For primary and general secondary education, a school year must be not less than 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June.

A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-week holiday, called mid-school year holiday. The summer holidays are between June and September. Decisions on ending/starting semester dates are made by the Ministry.

Source: The work schedule of Ministry of National Education.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND AND WALES

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | The first week of September 2012 | The first week of September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | Between 18 and 23 July 2013 | Between 18 and 23 July 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 1 week Either 22 – 26 October 2012 or 29 October – 2 November 2012 | 1 week Either 22 – 26 October 2012 or 29 October – 2 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 2 weeks Between 19 December 2012 and 7 January 2013 | 2 weeks Between 19 December 2012 and 7 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 1 week Either 11 – 15 February 2013 or 18 – 22 February 2013 | 1 week Either 11 – 15 February 2013 or 18 – 22 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 2 weeks 29 March – 12 April 2013 | 2 weeks 29 March – 12 April 2013 |
| Third term | 1 week 27 – 31 May 2013 | 1 week 27 – 31 May 2013 |
| Summer | 6 weeks Between 24 July and the first week of September 2013 | 6 weeks Between 24 July and the first week of September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 6 May 2013 – early May Bank Holiday | 6 May 2013 – early May Bank Holiday |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | The first week of September 2012 | The first week of September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | Between 18 and 23 July 2013 | Between 18 and 23 July 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes: Schools must be open to pupils for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. Teachers are required to be available for five additional days, ie for 195 days in total. The actual dates on which schools operate are not laid down centrally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body.

The table shows the most common patterns for term dates and holidays. Traditionally, the school year is divided into three terms, each of which is divided into two half terms separated by a half term holiday. The dates of school holidays are normally planned to take into account and cover most national public holidays including Easter.

There is currently movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, consistent year on year. The standard school year is divided into six blocks of roughly even length which are more evenly distributed throughout the year: two, approximately seven-week blocks before Christmas, followed by four approximately six-week blocks afterwards. The spring break is taken around the first two weeks of April irrespective of the timing of Easter. A 2008 Local Government Association (LGA) survey found that, since its introduction in 2004/05, 79 local authorities out of 125 had adopted the standard school year fully or in part.

UNITED KINGDOM – NORTHERN IRELAND

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of students' school year | 30 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | 2 days 31 October – 1 November 2012 | 2 days 31 October – 1 November 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | 1.5 weeks 24 December 2012 – 1 January 2013 | 1.5 weeks 24 December 2012 – 1 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | 2 days 18 – 19 February 2013 | 2 days 18 – 19 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | 1.5 weeks 28 March – 5 April 2013 | 1.5 weeks 28 March – 5 April 2013 |
| Third term | – | – |
| Summer | 9 weeks Between 1 July and the first week of September 2013 | 9 weeks Between 1 July and the first week of September 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | 18 March 2013 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 6 May 2013 – early May Bank Holiday 27 May 2013 – late May Bank Holiday | 18 March 2013 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 6 May 2013 – early May Bank Holiday 27 May 2013 – late May Bank Holiday |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | 3 September 2012 | 3 September 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | 30 June 2013 | 30 June 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The table shows the dates on which schools are closed to pupils. Teachers must attend on 5 of these dates for training and development purposes.

Schools are required to be in operation for 200 days a year; however, schools have the discretion to close for up to 5 optional days. Optional days are intended to cover closings throughout the year in special circumstances, for example the death of a person connected with the school, the need to move premises, the start of building work at the school or church holy days. These optional days are therefore likely to differ from school to school.

Schools may also close for up to 5 School Development Days each year.

UNITED KINGDOM - SCOTLAND

| Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2012/13 school year | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Primary education | General secondary education |
| Starting date of students' school year | Mid-August 2012 | Mid-August 2012 |
| End of students' school year | End June/early July 2013 | End June/early July 2013 |
| Autumn holidays | Many schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks in mid-October 2012 but others will take from 1 to 3 days spread out between 3 September and 3 December 2012 | Many schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks in mid-October 2012 but others will take from 1 to 3 days spread out between 3 September and 3 December 2012 |
| Christmas/New Year | Around 2 weeks between 20 December 2012 to 7 January 2013 | Around 2 weeks between 20 December 2012 to 7 January 2013 |
| Winter/Carnival | From 1 day to 1 week between 11 and 18 February 2013 | From 1 day to 1 week between 11 and 18 February 2013 |
| Spring/Easter | About 2 weeks between 25 March and 15 April 2013 | About 2 weeks between 25 March and 15 April 2013 |
| Summer mid-term holidays | Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 6 May 2013 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 29 April and 31 May 2013 | Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 6 May 2013 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 29 April and 31 May 2013 |
| Summer | End June/early July 2013 | End June/early July 2013 |
| Public/religious holidays | Up to 3 days | Up to 3 days |
| Starting date of teachers' school year | Mid-August 2012 | Mid-August 2012 |
| End of teachers' school year | End June/early July 2013 | End June/early July 2013 |

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year. The teachers' school year is longer by 5 in-service days (195 days).

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