



2021 Academic Calendar

(Senate approved 16 September 2020)

1. Academic Calendar

With reference to the COVID-19 impact and the indication that institutions will most likely receive the final grade 12 results later in 2021 (instead of between the 6th to 8th of January), amendments to the Senate approved 2021 Academic Calendar are listed below:

- a) Start of academic activities for **senior students** is on **15 February**, instead of 1 February. Which is two weeks later than normally planned. The start of academic activities for **first year students** is on **8 March**, three weeks later than the senior students (lost academic time to be made up with possible online intensive revision sessions in the April recess week). The start date for first year students is based on the grade 12 results release date of 23 February, instead of the first week of January normally. Allowing for a registration period of one and a half weeks;
- b) The first semester recess period (2 to 11 April) may be used for revision and to **catch up on academic activities, in particular for first year students** (due to their slightly later academic start date). Academic activities during the recess period will be determined and arranged by the relevant academic Departments;
- c) Supplementary and special assessments move one week later than normal in January;
- d) First two weeks in February (and last week in January) becomes academic research time;
- e) Autumn recess in the first semester moves two weeks later;
- f) Winter (mid-year) recess moves two weeks later and is shortened with one week;
- g) **Winter recess is two weeks long**, and the supplementary assessments are scheduled in the next week;
- h) Supplementary assessments in the second semester, will still be concluded in the same year; and
- i) Academics resume duties on 14 January for the year and the end of year recess period for academics start on 11 December.

Calendar details:

Academic activity	Dates
University re-opens for support employees	4 January
Academic employees, not involved in enrichment or academic development programmes, resume duty	14 January
Second Semester (of previous year) Supplementary Assessments	18 to 22 January
Online Registration (for senior students)	18 January to 12 February
Online Registration (for first year students)	23 February to 5 March
Second Semester (of previous year) Special Assessments	3 to 9 February
Academic Research	25 January to 12 February
First Semester (for senior students)	15 February to 25 June
First Semester (for first year students)	8 March to 25 June
Mid-semester Recess (First Semester). This recess period may be used to catch up on academic activities	2 to 11 April
Study Period for Students	29 May to 2 June
First Semester Final Assessment	3 to 25 June
Winter Vacation	26 June to 11 July
First Semester Supplementary Assessments/Academic Research	12 to 16 July
Second Semester	19 July to 3 December

First Semester Special Assessment	29 July to 4 Aug
Mid-semester Recess (2nd Semester)	4 to 12 September
Study Period for Students	23 to 27 October
Second Semester Final Assessment	28 October to 19 November
Study Period for Students	20 to 26 November
Second Semester Supplementary Assessments	29 November to 3 December
Start of Summer Holiday for students	4 December
Start of December Holiday for academic staff	11 December
Start of December Holiday for support staff	16 December
Second Semester (Special Assessment)	10 to 14 January 2022

Public and University holidays:

Description	Dates
New Year's Day	1 January
Human Rights Day	21 March
Public Holiday due to Human Right's day on Sunday	22 March
Good Friday	2 April
Family Day	5 April
University Holiday	26 April
Freedom Day	27 April
Worker's Day	1 May
Youth Day	16 June
National Women's Day	9 August
Heritage Day	24 September
Day of Reconciliation	16 December
Christmas Day	25 December
Day of Goodwill	26 December
Public Holiday due to Day of Goodwill on Sunday	27 December

Important notes:

Academic classes start for senior students	15 February
Academic classes start for first-year students	8 March
University re-opens for support employees	04 January
University re-opens for academic employees	14 January
Lecturing Timetable Switches	The lecturing timetable of a Monday will be followed on 22 April and 18 August. The lecturing timetable of a Friday will be followed on 21 September.
University Holiday	26 April
University closes for the December Holidays	15 December

2021 Academic Calendar Mapping

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- - Assessments
- Supplementary Assessments
- Special Assessments
- Academic classes
- Recess
- University Holiday

- Study Break
- Academic Research
- Public Holidays
- Public School Holidays