Academic Calendar for 2026

(SENATE approved 12 June 2024 -S 169/2024)

Academic activity	Date(s)
University re-opens for professional support staff	5 January
University re-opens for academic staff	12 January
Online registration (for returning and first-year students)	12 January to 6 February
Previous year's Special Assessments	12 to 16 January
Academic staff research period	12 January to 6 February
First Semester	9 February to 22 May
Mid-semester recess (First semester)	28 March to 5 April
Study period for students	23 to 27 May
Final Assessment (First Semester)	28 May to 19 June
Winter recess for students and academic staff	20 June to 5 July
Supplementary Assessments (First Semester)	6 to 10 July
Academic staff not involved in supplementary assessments - research period	6 to 10 July
Second Semester	13 July to 16 October
Special Assessment (First Semester)	27 to 31 July
Mid-semester recess (Second Semester)	29 August to 6 September
Study Period for students	17 to 21 October
Final Assessment (Second Semester)	22 October to 13 November
Study Period for students involved in Supplementary Assessments	16 to 22 November
Supplementary Assessments (Second Semester)	23 to 27 November
Start of the December holiday for students	28 November
Start of December holiday for academic employees	7 December (close of business)
Start of December holiday for support employees	15 December (close of business)
Special Assessments (Second Semester modules) to be concluded in January of the new year (2027)	11 to 15 January 2027

Public and University holidays:

New Year's Day	1 January
University Holiday	2 January
Human Rights Day	21 March
Good Friday	3 April
Family Day	6 April
Freedom Day	27 April
Workers' Day	1 May
Youth Day	16 June
National Women's Day	9 August
Public Holiday due to National Women's Day on Sunday	10 August
Heritage Day	24 September
University Holiday	25 September
Day of Reconciliation	16 December
Christmas Day	25 December
Day of Goodwill	26 December

ACADEMIC CALENDAR MAPPING FOR 2026 (SENATE approved 12 June 2024 -S 169/2024)

Assessments	Study Break		
Supplementary Assessments (No leave for academics during supplementary assessments. Research period for staff not involved in supplementaries)	Public School Holidays		
	From	To	
	28 March	7 April	
	27 June	20 July	
	3 October	12 October	
	9 December		
~~Special Assessment (Date)~~	Academic recess (additional to the student recess periods)		
Academic activities	Student/Academic Recess		
Public Holidays	University Holiday		

Notes

Notes	
University re-opens for support employees	5 January
University re-opens for academic employees	12 January
Start of academic activities	9 February
University Holiday	2 January & 25 September
Start of December holiday for academic employees	7 December (close of business)
Start of December holiday for support employees	15 December (close of business)
Timetable switches	To be confirmed

Calendar grid for the year 2026 (January–December) showing colour-coded days for assessments, study breaks, public/school holidays, academic activities, student/academic recess, public holidays and university holidays.

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