

## ACADEMIC YEAR and ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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In Japan, the academic year starts on April 1st and ends March 31st in following year. Almost all schools divided the academic year into two or three academic terms. Many universities including Chuo University use the semester system. Each semester includes 15 or 16 academic weeks as well as vacations. For instance, Chuo University's academic calendar for 2011 is as follows:

1st (spring) semester April 1 - August 5  
Summer vacation August 6 - September 20  
2nd (fall) semester September 21 - February 2  
Winter vacation December 26 - January 4  
Spring vacation February 3 - March 31

Most elementary, junior and high schools follow a trimester system. Because of the differences in weather conditions by region in Japan, there is no strict national standard on the trimester system. A sample academic calendar in the Tokyo region is as follows:

1st trimester April 8 - July 20  
Summer vacation July 21- August 31  
2nd trimester September 1 - December 24  
Winter vacation December 25 - January 7  
3rd trimester January 8 - March 24  
Spring vacation March 25 - 31, and April 1 - 7