

Structure of the Academic Calendar Academic Year 2026/27 Onwards

Contents

Introduction.....	1
Principles	2
General – Applicable to All Taught Courses	2
Undergraduate Courses & Taught Postgraduate Courses: September Start	3
Undergraduate Courses	4
Taught Postgraduate Courses: September Start	4
Taught Postgraduate Courses: January Start	5
Appendix 1 – Week-by-Week Calendar map	7

Introduction

1. Teaching Committee’s Terms of Reference include a requirement to “*Monitor and review ... the structure of the academic calendar*”. Academic Council, as Teaching Committee’s parent body, has overarching responsibility for approving this structure.
2. In December 2024, following an extensive review, Academic Council approved a new academic calendar model for the University. The full proposals agreed by Academic Council, along with a diagrammatic presentation of the calendar, can be found [here](#) and [here](#). The new model has been phased in over two years, with most changes having come into effect in AY 2025/26, with one further, significant, change coming into effect in 2026/27.
3. This document sets out the principles defining the structure of the University’s academic calendar, as previously agreed by Academic Council. A high level, week-by-week, calendar map, for 2026/27 onwards, can be viewed at [Appendix 1](#) below.
4. For this purpose, ‘academic calendar’ is defined as the timing and sequencing of core student teaching, learning and assessment activities, and ‘structure’ is defined as the high-level principles governing that academic calendar. These principles are set out below.
5. The precise dates and times of the activities within the academic calendar, along with associated administrative activities and deadlines, are operational matters and as such will be determined by the University Executive Board, with day-to-day authority delegated to the Office of the Academic Registrar.

Principles

General – Applicable to All Taught Courses

6. For each academic year, standard term¹ dates and key assessment and re-assessment dates will be published for each of three course categories:
 - Undergraduate
 - Taught Postgraduate: September Start
 - Taught Postgraduate: January Start
7. Exceptionally, and only where there is a non-negotiable PSRB requirement or sound and unavoidable pedagogic reason, Teaching Committee may approve an exceptional academic calendar for a named course or courses. The specific term dates for these courses need not be published alongside the published term dates; however, students will be advised to contact the course team for further information. As agreed by Academic Council, where an exceptional calendar is approved, the School to which the course(s) belong will be required to pay for any additional overhead that may be required to support any bespoke arrangements. The principles outlined in this document relate only to courses following the standard calendar model. All courses where no such exceptional arrangements have been explicitly approved will be required to follow the relevant standard calendar model listed above.
8. The University operates two teaching semesters, each of 12 weeks duration. These semester dates are common for all three course categories.
9. The first teaching day of Semester 1 will normally be no earlier than 21 September and no later than 27 September each year. Therefore, to ensure compliance with this principle, every five or six years (depending on when leap years fall) the calendar shall undergo a one week 'correction'.
10. A standardised week numbering system will be observed. Week 1 is the first week of Semester 1 teaching. Week 52 is Enrolment and Welcome week for new September starters, which immediately precedes Week 1. In those academic years where Week 1 undergoes a one-week correction (see paragraph 9 above), a 'Leap Week' shall be inserted into the calendar between Weeks 51 and 52.
11. The latest a final coursework submission deadline may be set will be 1.00pm on the Thursday of the final week of each Exam Period. The dissertation / project submission deadline will be 1.00pm on the Thursday of the week indicated.
 - In the case of PGT dissertations and projects, this deadline will be a fixed, common deadline across all courses, and may not be varied by the Course or Module Leader.
 - In the case of Coursework for taught modules, the final deadline is the last date which a Module Leader may set as the deadline for any assessment component. It is expected that this late deadline will only be used exceptionally, by those modules where the full exam period is needed to undertake the assessment in question, such as practical projects. Module Leaders are encouraged to set deadlines earlier than this in order to:

¹ While the University operates a semesterised system, 'term dates' is the commonly used and understood phrase to describe the structure of an academic year. Therefore, to aid understanding, public-facing documents refer to 'term dates'.

- i) avoid assessment bunching;
- ii) avoid student overload resulting from coursework deadlines at the same time as examinations, and
- iii) ensure sufficient time for the completion of marking and moderation, taking account of the fact that many students have approved extensions following approval of Reasonable Adjustments and Mitigating Circumstances claims, which reduces the time available to mark.

Students will be notified by the Module Leader of the actual submission deadline for each assessment component.

12. The student spring vacation is fixed at the end of Semester 2. Therefore, given the movement of Easter, in some academic years the Easter bank holiday weekend will not coincide with the spring vacation.
13. All initial assessment In-Class Tests (ICTs) must take place during designated teaching weeks – i.e. within Semester 1 or Semester 2. With the exception of referral/deferral ICTs, no ICT may take place during a designated Exam Period. It is the responsibility of Module and Course Leaders to ensure that referred/deferred ICTs are scheduled at a time convenient to the students concerned, avoiding clashes with other teaching or exams.
14. Results will be published on the Tuesday of the week following the end of the Assessment Period. NB: the precise timing of the publication of results is an operational matter (see paragraph 5 above). The decision to move the publication of results from the last Friday of the Assessment Period (which was the case up to and including AY 2024/25) to the following Tuesday was taken after approval of the academic calendar by Academic Council. This decision was taken following consultation with Senior Tutors and other colleagues and is intended to ensure optimum availability of academic and pastoral support to those students who need it.
15. These principles apply to all courses delivered by the University of Westminster, and to courses leading to a University of Westminster award but delivered by collaborative partner providers under a franchise agreement. Courses delivered by collaborative partner providers under a validation agreement may operate a modified academic calendar structure to suit local requirements, provided that any such structure is consistent with the agreed academic regulations. The partner provider, UoW liaison tutor and UoW TNE Director will agree a structure and dates suitable for both parties.

Undergraduate Courses & Taught Postgraduate Courses: September Start

16. Week 52: Enrolment and Welcome week for new September starters.²
17. Weeks 1 - 12: Semester 1 teaching.
18. Weeks 13 – 15: Three-week student Christmas vacation, immediately following the end of Semester 1.

² Enrolment for some courses may start on the Friday and Saturday of the previous Week. The international welcome programme, for overseas students, takes place the previous week.

19. Weeks 16 & 17: Examination Period 1 (EP1), immediately after the Christmas vacation and immediately before the start of Semester 2. During EP1, examinations will be held for modules delivered and completed in Semester 1. The final Coursework deadline that may be set for these modules is in Week 17.
20. Weeks 18 – 22: Marking and assessment processing, culminating in Progression and Award Boards (PABs) in Week 22 and the publication of Semester 1 results in Week 23. This is known as **Assessment Period 1 (AP1)**.
21. Weeks 18 – 29: Semester 2 teaching.
22. Weeks 30 & 31: Two-week student Spring vacation, immediately following the end of Semester 2.
23. Weeks 32 & 33: Examination period 2 (EP2), immediately after the Spring vacation. During EP2, in addition to exams for Semester 2 and year-long modules, Referral and Deferral exams will be held for students referred and/or deferred in Semester 1 modules. **NB: This represents a change from previous years.** The final Coursework deadline that may be set for these modules will be in Week 33.
24. Weeks 33 – 38: Marking and assessment processing, culminating in PABs in Week 38, and the publication of Semester 2 results and Semester 1 Refer/Defer results in Week 39. This is known as **Assessment Period 2 (AP2)**.
25. Week 43: Exam Period 3 (EP3). During EP3, Referral and Deferral exams will be held for students referred or deferred in Semester 2 modules and year-long modules. The final Coursework deadline for these modules that may be set will be in Week 43.
26. Weeks 44 – 46: Marking and assessment processing, culminating in PABs in Week 46 and the publication of results in Week 47. This is known as **Assessment Period 3 (AP3)**.

Undergraduate Courses

27. One week of each semester (usually Week 6 in Semester 1; Week 23 in Semester 2) may be designated, at the discretion of the Course Team and approved by the College, as a 'Student Engagement Week' (SEW). Student Engagement Weeks should contain scheduled activities, and student participation and engagement is not optional.

Taught Postgraduate Courses: September Start

28. Weeks 34 – 45: This 12-week block is designated as Semester 3. This is not a standard teaching Semester, and no taught modules shall be delivered in Semester 3. However, in accordance with the requirements of UK Visas & Immigration, and thus in order to protect the University's visa sponsor licence, at least two scheduled³, on-site activities (typically, but not necessarily, related to students' dissertation or project work), must take place during this semester.

³ 'Scheduled' means recorded in the University's timetabling system, in order that student attendance can be monitored in accordance with our UKVI obligations.

29. Week 52: Deadline for submission of dissertations and projects. Work on dissertations and projects may start at any point during the academic year and will vary from course to course.
30. Weeks 1 – 6 (of next academic year): Marking and assessment processing of dissertations and projects, culminating in PABs in Week 6 and the publication of results in Week 7. This is known as **Assessment Period 6 (AP6)**.
31. Weeks 7 – 17 (of next academic year): Dissertation Refer / Defer period. The deadline for submission will be in Week 17.
32. Weeks 18 – 22: Marking and assessment processing (of referred/deferred dissertations and projects), culminating in PABs in Week 22 and the publication of results in Week 23. **This is Assessment Period 1 (AP1)**.

Taught Postgraduate Courses: January Start

33. Week 17: Enrolment and Welcome week for new January starters.
34. Weeks 18 – 29: Semester 2 teaching.
35. Weeks 30 & 31: Two-week student Spring vacation, immediately following the end of Semester 2.
36. Weeks 32 & 33: Examination period 2 (EP2), immediately after the Spring vacation. During EP2, examinations will be held for modules delivered in Semester 2. The final Coursework deadline that may be set for these modules will be in Week 33.
37. Weeks 34 – 38: Marking and assessment processing, culminating in PABs in Week 38 and the publication of Semester 2 results in Week 39. This is known as **Assessment Period 2 (AP2)**.
38. Weeks 34 – 45: This 12-week block is designated as Semester 3. This is not a standard teaching Semester, and no taught modules shall be delivered in Semester 3. However, in accordance with the requirements of UK Visas & Immigration, and thus in order to protect the University's visa sponsor licence, at least two scheduled³, on-site activities (typically, but not necessarily, related to students' dissertation or project work), must take place during this semester.
39. Week 43: Exam Period 3 (EP3). During EP3, Referral and Deferral examinations will be held for students referred and/or deferred in Semester 2 modules. The final Coursework deadline that may be set for these modules will be in Week 43.
40. Weeks 44 – 46: Marking and assessment processing, culminating in PABs in Week 46 and the publication of results in Week 47. This is known as **Assessment Period 3 (AP3)**.
41. Weeks 1 – 12 (of next academic year): Semester 1 teaching.
42. Weeks 13 – 15 (of next academic year): Three-week student Christmas vacation, immediately following the end of Semester 1.
43. Weeks 16 & 17 (of next academic year): Exam Period 1 (EP1). During EP1, exams will be held for modules delivered and completed in Semester 1, as well for Year-Long modules.

- 44. Week 17 (of next academic year): Final Coursework deadline, and the deadline for submission of dissertations and projects. Work on dissertations and projects may start at any point during the academic year and will vary from course to course.
- 45. Weeks 18 – 22 (of next academic year): Marking and assessment processing, culminating in PABs in Week 22 and the publication of Dissertation, Semester 1 and Year-Long module results in Week 23. This is known as **Assessment Period 1 (AP1)**.
- 46. Weeks 23 – 33 (of next academic year): Dissertation Refer / Defer period. The deadline for submission will be in Week 33.
- 47. Weeks 32 & 33 (of next academic year): Exam Period 2 (EP2). During EP2, Referral and Deferral exams will be held for students referred and/or deferred in Semester 1 and Year-Long modules. The final Coursework deadline for these modules will be in Week 33.
- 48. Weeks 34 – 38 (of next academic year): Marking and assessment processing (for referred/deferred Semester 1 and Year-Long modules, and dissertations / projects), culminating in PABs in Week 38 and the publication of results in Week 39. This is **Assessment Period 2 (AP2)**.

Appendix 1 – Week-by-Week Calendar map

Week No.	Assessment Period	2026/27 onwards					
		UG		PGT Sept Start		PGT Jan Start	
		Teaching*	Assessment	Teaching*	Assessment	Teaching*	Assessment
52		Enrolment		Enrolment			
1		Sem 1		Sem 1			
2		Sem 1		Sem 1			
3		Sem 1		Sem 1			
4		Sem 1		Sem 1			
5		Sem 1		Sem 1			
6		Sem 1 (SEW)		Sem 1			
7		Sem 1		Sem 1			
8		Sem 1		Sem 1			
9		Sem 1		Sem 1			
10		Sem 1		Sem 1			
11		Sem 1		Sem 1			
12		Sem 1		Sem 1			
13		Winter Break		Winter Break			
14		Winter Break		Winter Break			
15		Winter Break		Winter Break			
16	AP1		Exams: S1 1st sit		Exams: S1 1st sit		
17	AP1		Exams: S1 1st sit Final CW deadline		Exams: S1 1st sit Final CW deadline	Enrolment	
18	AP1	Sem 2	Marking	Sem 2	Marking	Sem 2	
19	AP1	Sem 2	Marking	Sem 2	Marking	Sem 2	
20	AP1	Sem 2	Board Prep	Sem 2	Board Prep	Sem 2	
21	AP1	Sem 2	Board Prep	Sem 2	Board Prep	Sem 2	
22	AP1	Sem 2	Boards	Sem 2	Boards	Sem 2	
23		Sem 2 (SEW)	Results	Sem 2	Results	Sem 2	
24		Sem 2		Sem 2		Sem 2	
25		Sem 2		Sem 2		Sem 2	
26		Sem 2		Sem 2		Sem 2	
27		Sem 2		Sem 2		Sem 2	
28		Sem 2		Sem 2		Sem 2	
29		Sem 2		Sem 2		Sem 2	
30		Spring Break		Spring Break		Spring Break	
31		Spring Break		Spring Break		Spring Break	
32	AP2		Exams: S2 1st Sit + S1 R/D		Exams: S2 1st Sit + S1 R/D		Exams: S2 1st sit

Week No.	Assessment Period	2026/27 onwards					
		UG		PGT Sept Start		PGT Jan Start	
		Teaching*	Assessment	Teaching*	Assessment	Teaching*	Assessment
33	AP2		Exams: S2 1st Sit + S1 R/D		Exams: S2 1st Sit + S1 R/D Final CW deadline		Exams: S2 1st sit Final CW deadline
34	AP2		Marking	Sem 3	Marking	Sem 3	Marking
35	AP2		Marking	Sem 3	Marking	Sem 3	Marking
36	AP2		Board Prep	Sem 3	Board Prep	Sem 3	Board Prep
37	AP2		Board Prep	Sem 3	Board Prep	Sem 3	Board Prep
38	AP2		Boards	Sem 3	Boards	Sem 3	Boards
39		Summer Break	Results	Sem 3	Results	Sem 3	Results
40		Summer Break		Sem 3		Sem 3	
41		Summer Break		Sem 3		Sem 3	
42		Summer Break		Sem 3		Sem 3	
43	AP3	Summer Break	Exams: S2 R/D Final CW deadline	Sem 3	Exams: S2 R/D Final CW deadline	Sem 3	Exams: S2 R/D Final CW deadline
44	AP3	Summer Break	Marking	Sem 3	Marking	Sem 3	Marking
45	AP3	Summer Break	Board Prep	Sem 3	Board Prep	Sem 3	Board Prep
46	AP3	Summer Break	Boards	Summer Break	Boards	Summer Break	Boards
47		Summer Break	Results	Summer Break	Results	Summer Break	Results
48		Summer Break		Summer Break		Summer Break	
49		Summer Break		Summer Break		Summer Break	
50		Summer Break		Summer Break		Summer Break	
51		Summer Break		Summer Break		Summer Break	
52					Dissertation 1st sit deadline		
1	AP6				Marking	Sem 1	
2	AP6				Marking	Sem 1	
3	AP6				Marking	Sem 1	
4	AP6				Board Prep	Sem 1	
5	AP6				Board Prep	Sem 1	
6	AP6				Boards	Sem 1	
7				Dissertation R/D	Results	Sem 1	
8				Dissertation R/D		Sem 1	
9				Dissertation R/D		Sem 1	
10				Dissertation R/D		Sem 1	
11				Dissertation R/D		Sem 1	
12				Dissertation R/D		Sem 1	
13				Dissertation R/D		Winter Break	
14				Dissertation R/D		Winter Break	

Week No.	Assessment Period	2026/27 onwards					
		UG		PGT Sept Start		PGT Jan Start	
		Teaching*	Assessment	Teaching*	Assessment	Teaching*	Assessment
15				Dissertation R/D		Winter Break	
16	AP1			Dissertation R/D			Exams: S1 1st sit
17	AP1			Dissertation R/D	Dissertation R/D submission deadline		Exams: S1 1st sit Dissertation +Final CW deadline
18	AP1				Marking		Marking
19	AP1				Marking		Marking
20	AP1				Board Prep		Board Prep
21	AP1				Board Prep		Board Prep
22	AP1				Boards		Boards
23					Results	Dissertation R/D	Results
24						Dissertation R/D	
25						Dissertation R/D	
26						Dissertation R/D	
27						Dissertation R/D	
28						Dissertation R/D	
29						Dissertation R/D	
30						Dissertation R/D	
31						Dissertation R/D	
32	AP2					Dissertation R/D	Exams: S1 R/D
33	AP2					Dissertation R/D	Exams S1 R/D CW + Dissertation R/D deadline
34	AP2						Marking
35	AP2						Marking
36	AP2						Board Prep
37	AP2						Board Prep
38	AP2						Boards
39							Results

* Semester 3 is not a standard teaching Semester, and no taught modules shall be delivered in Semester 3. However, in accordance with the requirements of UK Visas & Immigration, and thus in order to protect the University's visa sponsor licence, at least two scheduled⁴, on-site activities (typically, but not necessarily, related to students' dissertation or project work), must take place during this semester.

⁴ 'Scheduled' means recorded in the University's timetabling system, in order that student attendance can be monitored in accordance with our UKVI obligations.