

## ACADEMIC YEAR and ACADEMIC CALENDAR

In Japan, the academic year starts on April 1<sup>st</sup> and ends March 31<sup>st</sup> 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:

1 <sup>st</sup> (spring) semester	April 1 - August 5
Summer vacation	August 6 – September 20
2 <sup>nd</sup> (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:

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