



### **Academic Calendar - A Statement from your School Presidents**

As you all know from the ping-pong ball stations at the library, the university is looking to consult you all on the academic calendar – specifically Semester 2.

#### **Why am I being consulted?**

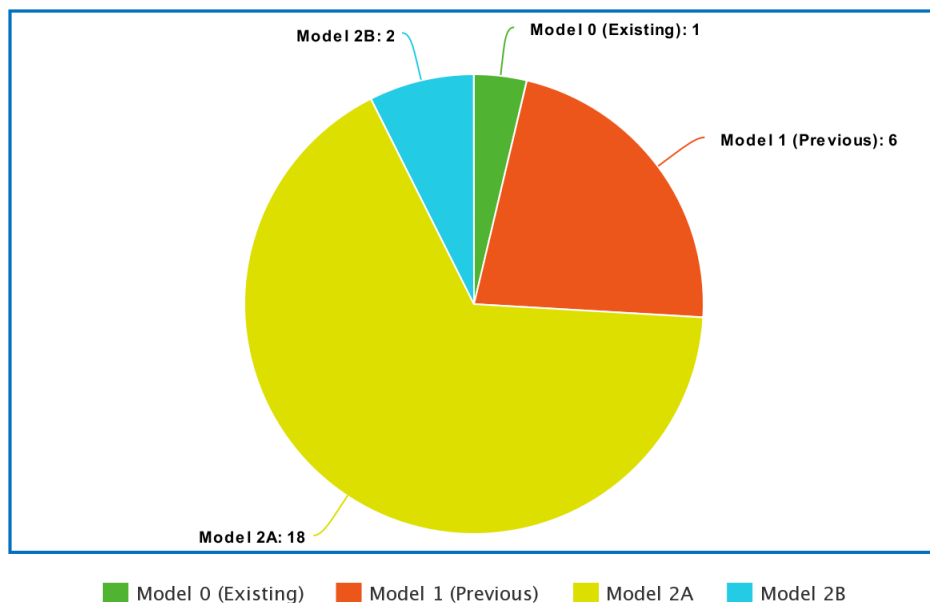
- A survey conducted by the Students' Association in 2021-22 indicated widespread student and staff discontent with the Academic Calendar for Semester 2.
- A major reason cited was academic burnout due to a shorter winter break and no spring break.

#### **How will the survey results be used?**

- This survey is purely consultative, not a vote.
- HOWEVER - If there is a significant consensus for one particular model, the university will endeavor to change it for the next academic year (2024-25).
- If further consultation is necessary, then it will be pushed to 2025-26.
- We believe that it is in the student body's interest to come to a consensus, though the choice is ultimately your own.

#### **What do School Presidents think?**

- At our weekly EduCom meeting, after much deliberation, here is what we think:



- A majority believed that Model 2A is a good compromise between staff and student needs.

### How do I participate in the survey?

- The ping-pong balls are promotional.
- Please fill in this form to make your voice heard:

[https://standrews.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_71A8LXdQHoQvj3U](https://standrews.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71A8LXdQHoQvj3U)

### I want to make an informed decision, what are some pros and cons of each model?

#### **Model 0**

– This is the existing model

Pros	Cons
Longer summer break – Easier to find longer-term work and internships over the summer – More time to conduct research for faculty	Only one week of Independent Learning – Academic burnout in semester 2 – ILW only used for academic assignments, no designated time for rest– Less time for dissertation work – Inability to attend Spring insight weeks
More time between the end of exams and graduation/results day – More time for staff to mark exams – More time for fourth years to travel before graduation	Shorter winter break – Less time for staff to mark semester one exams – Less time for staff and students to spend time with family over the holidays – Less time for international students to return home – Less vacation time for fourth years to work on dissertations
	May Dip during exams – Many students unable to attend
	Does not account for Spring/Insight weeks– Anyone looking for a career/graduate job in a Business-related industry will be affected.

#### **Model 1**

- It is important to note that this was the original model followed by the university but was changed due to significant staff discontent.

Pros	Cons
Longer winter break – Staff have more time to mark Semester 1 exams – International students able to travel home – More time with family over holidays	Break does not align with school holidays – Staff considerably unhappy with this as they are unable to spend time with family during Easter
2-week break – Less academic burnout – Ability to take longer holidays for travel or work	Does not account for Spring/Insight weeks– Anyone looking for a career/graduate job in a Business-related industry will be affected.

– Two chunks of learning rather than many breaks	
Fits with the spring holidays of most UK universities – English students would be more connected with their friends and family – Allow students to apply for and participate in spring internship programs	
May Dip before exams – keeping with St Andrews tradition: its cultural/symbolic purpose of washing away academic sins for examination would remain relevant	

### Model 2A

Pros	Cons
11 weeks of teaching	Does not account for Spring/Insight weeks- – Anyone looking for a career/graduate job in a Business-related industry will be affected.
Longer winter break Longer winter break – Staff have more time to mark Semester 1 exams – International students able to travel home – More time with family over holidays	9 weeks (about 2 months) of teaching only broken up by ILW which is technically still meant for independent studying.
ILW and Spring Break separate – Like a pomodoro calendar: Less academic burnout – Both breaks centrally located to allow periodic rest – allow the teaching staff to do exam prep in a clear-cut time frame, and it would give plenty of time for Study Skills sessions – having three groups of teaching weeks allows for more wrap-up/revision/project work in the last two weeks	International students are unable to work during ILW as it is still technically term time.
May Dip before exams – keeping with St Andrews tradition: its cultural/symbolic purpose of washing away academic sins for examination would remain relevant	‘Floating’ final 2 weeks of teaching is not great for Computer Science. They require a minimum of 2 weeks for a practical, essentially making this ‘no-man’s-land’.
– Compromise between staff needs for Easter holidays and student needs for longer inter-semester breaks. – Also ideal for mature students and those with caring responsibilities.	

## Model 2B

Pros	Cons
<p>Longer winter break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– More time for staff and students with family</li> </ul>	<p><b>Only 10 weeks of teaching</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No changes to fee structures</li> <li>– Fewer contact hours for students</li> <li>– Staff and students overburdened to cover the same volume of academic work over a shorter time period</li> <li>– Some schools (like Chemistry) might lose accreditation rights</li> <li>– Less time for students to complete coursework and revise</li> </ul>
<p>1 week of break aligns with school holidays and falls within many Spring insight weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– St Andrews Business School able to compete with other UK Business Schools</li> <li>– May impact university rankings</li> <li>– Insight Weeks affect Graduate Roles and therefore aligning our holidays with them might help students be more employable.</li> </ul>	<p>'Floating' final 2 weeks of teaching is not great for Computer Science. They require a minimum of 2 weeks for a practical, essentially making this 'no-man's-land'.</p>
<p>May Dip before exams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– keeping with St Andrews tradition: its cultural/symbolic purpose of washing away academic sins for examination would remain relevant</li> </ul>	<p>International students are unable to work during ILW as it is still technically term time.</p>