**Q&A FS1A: Academic Calendars**

**(for Foreign Schools)**

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| Question | Response |
| Is this session designed for schools in the USA? | This session is designed for foreign schools, those located outside the of US and its territories. |
| Our Phd students have the same start and end academic year dates as our graduate taught students. Even though their programmes are not credit-based, they have regular meetings with their supervisors and collect ‘milestones’ on a termly basis. The programmes are therefore clearly structured. Can we therefore assume that those programmes would fall under standard terms? | Terms are periods of time in which all coursework begins and ends (which usually result in the earning of credits). If the coursework in a "term" in this program doesn't begin and end within term dates, then you must use non-term payment periods. |
| Does a programme following the quarter school standard terms require 4 disbursements? | It depends on how many quarters are in the defined academic year. Usually there are 3, which would mean 3 disbursements, but if there are 4 quarters in the academic year definition, there would be four disbursements. |
| Thank you for your response: "Terms are periods of time in which all coursework begins and ends (which usually result in the earning of credits). If the coursework in a "term" in this program doesn't begin and end within term dates, then you must use non-term payment periods." - The 'milestones' are collected on a termly basis, hence there is a termly submitted/,measured coursework. Can you provide an example where a Phd programme would follow standard terms? | It is more likely in a taught program, where students begin and end courses within the term dates. If students are expected to start and complete academic work within the defined dates of the term, AND the work that was begun in one term does not extend into the next term, a research program could be paid in terms. |
| Regarding academic calendars, we consider that our school’s calendar fits in the Standard term Scheduled Academic Year (SAY) calendar. We would like to understand the difference between this and the Borrower Based Academic Year 1 Calendar. Additionally, if there were the case that we had a student applying for FSA programs for the Spring term, but our school calendar run’s from August to June, will the funds of this student be assigned under a SAY calendar basis or a BBAY 1 calendar basis? | SAY and BBAY 1 are very similar. For more details see page 3-135 of the 19-20 Handbook. With SAY, if a student enrolls in spring, you could do a Spring only loan with a fall/spring academic year. For BBAY 1, you would need to do a 2-term loan, Spring/Fall of the next year, or spring/summer. BBAY 1 loan periods must include the number of terms in the SAY. |
| Thanks for your answer. In the case we only make one disbursement in the Spring semester. The loan limits must be the total corresponding for first year or it should only be half of the loan limits as it is only one disbursement in the year? | For a one-term loan like this, you can award up to the annual maximum for an academic year if the student has need. The annual amounts tie to an academic year. You would only be required to prorate the loan if it was for a final period of study less than an academic year for an undergraduate student. |
| Can I assume that MPhil/PhD programmes are all non-term programmes? | It depends on their structure. If they are taught, they may be term-based. If they are only research, they may well be non-term. |
| Sorry, I missed the regulatory citation for the definitions just mentioned about 22 minutes into the presentation - could you post it here in the chat? | You can download the slides from your agenda. I'm not sure exactly what citation was at 22 minutes. Once you download the slides, you'll have all the citations. |
| Please remind me. What does BBAY mean? | BBAY - Borrower-Based Academic Year - An academic year standard that may be used to measure annual loan limit progression (i.e., when a borrower becomes eligible for their next annual loan limit). Unlike a Scheduled Academic Year (SAY), a BBAY3 follows an individual student’s academic progress and does not begin and end at the same time each year. |
| Can you please post the Foreign Schools contact information (e-mail and mailing address) in the chat? Or will I be able to access this slide deck (separate from the recording) later? | To contact the Department with follow-up questions about this session: Email: FSA.Foreign.Schools.Team@ed.gov Phone: 202-377-3168 Fax: 202-377-3486 Mail: U.S. Department of Education Multi-Regional and Foreign Schools Participation Division Union Center Plaza, 7th Floor 830 First Street, NE Washington DC, 20202 (20002-5340 if overnight/courier) |