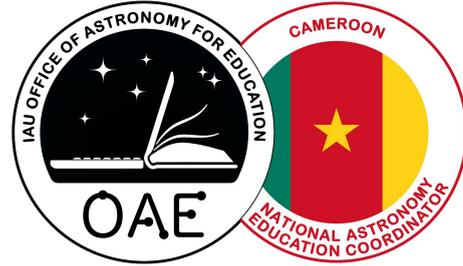


Astronomy Education in Cameroon



This overview is part of the project "Astronomy Education Worldwide" of the International Astronomical Union's Office of Astronomy for Education.

More information: <https://astro4edu.org/worldwide>

Structure of education: Cameroon has two educational sub-systems (English and French) operating simultaneously, one based on its British colonial past and the other on its French colonial past. We have free state Primary and Subsidized Secondary Education. In government schools, primary education became free for all children in Cameroon in the year 2000 but parents pay minimal Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) levies. The government is the largest provider of primary education. In the cities, the number of privately-owned primary schools are rising but they charge very high fees for higher quality education, involving ICT. Secondary/high school education is equally highly subsidized by the government and some households can afford it. But there are many private and prestigious mission secondary/high schools which charge very high fees, families who can afford them or students who do not gain admission into government secondary/high schools resort to the mission/private institutions. The percentage of students advancing to the Ordinary Level and the number of students attending universities have increased as a result of the government's policy of creating schools in every neighborhood and at least a university in each region of the country. Cameroon's education can be described as follows: 3 years optional pre-school (1 year pre-nursery and 2 years nursery) from age 3 or 5, 6 years in basic primary education (for children aged 5-11), 5 years of secondary education (ages 11-16), 2 years of high school education (ages 16-20). The elementary level classes are known as primary, while the secondary ones are known as forms and the high school ones are known as lower and upper sixth forms.

Education facilities: Class sizes range from 10 to 500 per class. Most Cameroon schools have access to running water and average internet connections. In some smaller communities without secondary schools, students cover very long distances everyday to go to attend schools in different communities with schools, while a few that can afford rent in halls closer to Schools. Staying away from home is also common private schools. School buildings are well-managed.

Governance and organisation: The National Ministry of Basic Education develops the primary school curriculum while the Ministry of Secondary Education develops the secondary school curriculum. Public schools are run by the central government. Private schools are run as a social service provided by private partners with support from central, regional and local government.

Teacher Training: Primary and secondary school teachers study undergraduate degrees (three or four years) in education at a university, then write entrance exams into the training field, After one and two more years respectively, they become qualified for teaching. Or after obtaining the A/L, they can write entrance concours into the training field and spend two and three more years respectively. There is no specific way for university lecturers to be trained. After your PhD, you can start teaching as a

private lecturer. In 2020, the president of the Republic recruited PhD holders by a presidential degree. The recruitment of 2000 lecturers through evaluation of documents will end in 2021.

Astronomy in the curriculum: There are no specialised school courses in astronomy in Cameroon. Some topics of Astronomy like the solar system, the Galaxy, planets, moon, sun, gravity, etc. are seen from the first year of secondary school Physics, Geography, Geology/SVTEEB etc.

Astronomy education outside the classroom: There is only the Astronomy Club of Cameroon carrying out Astronomy activities, created by Mbonteh Roland Ndunge. The only Astronomy materials we have are three Bresser telescopes and an SSV telescope. But we have formed a solid base since the NOC Committee members are all over the country. That would help us to easily disseminate Astronomy Education in the ten regions of the country if we have the resources. There is more to be done here for Astronomy Education.

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