



*Equalizing Access to Educational Opportunities*

#### **US Address**

735 Yarmouth Ct, San Diego, CA 92109

#### **Cameroon Address**

Bamenda: Mile 2 Nkwen, Opposite Dreamland

Yaounde: Opposite Auto Ecole Canadienne, Chapelle Obili,

PO Box 8687 Yaoundé

**Website:** [www.open-dreams.org](http://www.open-dreams.org)

**Email:** [info@open-dreams.org](mailto:info@open-dreams.org)

## **Open Dreams Summer Academy Application 2023**

Open Dreams Organization is an International NGO founded in 2013 to help high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds attend university and achieve quality education at no major cost to them. Over the past years, we have worked with highly motivated students from Cameroon who have successfully had placements in some of the best universities in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Though we started our pilot program in Bamenda - Cameroon, our vision is global. We aim to be an organization that provides equal access and the best educational resources and opportunities to students from all corners of the globe, regardless of creed or color. To this end, we have also helped students in Nepal, South Africa, and beyond. As we grow our organization, we will keep striving relentlessly to reach brilliant young students who only need a little impetus to attain their full potential. The year 2023 marks our first decade of operation.

Primarily, our model works by providing an **Open Dreams Education Hub**, a physical office location where we have educational resources including books, computers, projectors, Internet access, program facilitators, and space for our scholars to come for rigorous lessons, mentorship orientation, interactions, computer programming, international education, blogging, public speaking community service learning, entrepreneurial leadership and deep academic work on further educational opportunities available globally. Through the Open Dreams Summer Academy, we train a select-few students who have achieved very good academic records, demonstrated great leadership potential whether at home, school, church or in their communities. We provide them with the tools necessary to prepare for international education. These include, but are not limited to, Internet access, computers, classes on essay writing, SAT/TOEFL/Duolingo/IELTS/GRE preparation materials as well as other resources they need to acquire global competencies etc. In 2022, we kick-started an e-mentorship program (Project Moon) to provide as many services online as we do in the physical spaces in Yaoundé and Bamenda – Cameroon. Going forward, this hybrid mentorship model will allow mentees from any part of the globe to be able to access our mentorship resources 24/7 and also participate in live sessions.

The students that show great emotional intelligence, in addition to academic aptitude, and also excel during the Summer Academy are upgraded to Open Dreams Scholars. Scholars will be paired with mentors to help them navigate the college application process. The mentors are usually graduates of US universities, accomplished Open Dreams Scholars, thought-leaders and models in the society who are very familiar with the college application process. They will connect with our students on platforms including social media, email, and Zoom. Their responsibilities are limited to providing advice and guidance counsellor roles. Scholars are prohibited from seeking financial assistance from their mentors.

Open Dreams Scholars selected from the Academy will be provided with additional educational resources and further college application materials. After several SAT & TOEFL/Duolingo practice tests, they will be registered for these tests. Students who have not comfortably demonstrated through practice tests that they can achieve scores set by their target schools will be required to continue studying until they would have improved on their scores.

The 2023 Open Dreams Summer Academy will run from July 3<sup>rd</sup> – August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Bamenda, Douala and Yaoundé while the community service component will run from August 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Anyone applying from outside Bamenda, Douala or Yaoundé must have the provision to spend this time in the town of choice at his/her own cost, if he or she gets accepted into the program. Those who cannot make it to Bamenda/Douala/Yaoundé, who meet the eligibility conditions of joining Open Dreams, will be able to



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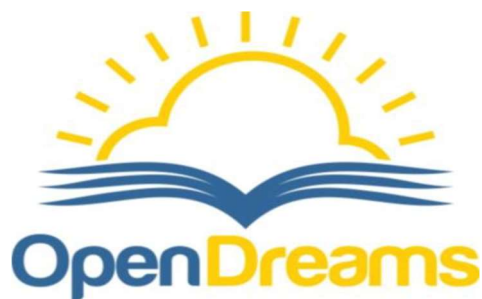
explore the online mentorship program (Project Moon) and also participate in regular zoom sessions. The application window opens on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2023, and closes on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Interviews shall be conducted from June 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Decisions shall be released via email from June 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

1. *Students must be currently in high school (lower or upper sixth) and must have scored at least 25 points at the GCE Ordinary Level or they must be 2021 or 2022 high school graduates with at least 20 points at the GCE Advanced Level. You may visit this link for supplementary information - <https://www.open-dreams.org/post/how-do-i-become-a-member-of-open-dreams>*
2. *Current high school students should seek institutional endorsement from their high schools. The form should be signed by the Principal, Vice Principal, Senior Master of Discipline, a Head of Department or a school counsellor.*

## II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. *Secondary and High school transcripts*
2. *Ordinary Level Certificate and Advanced Level Certificate or Bacc where applicable*
3. *Open Dreams Summer Academy Application Form*
4. *A recent passport-size photograph to be included in your profile.*
5. *Any other certificate or testimonial of your accomplishments in leadership.*
6. *Six Application Essays (four short-answer essays and two essays of discretionary length), which have to be typed and attached to the application form or submitted online via email or through the application portal available at the Open Dreams website:*
  - a. *What do you hope to gain as an Open Dreams Scholar? (100 words max)*
  - b. *What are your academic and career ambitions? If you want to become a Lawyer or Engineer or Doctor, explain why. What is your motivation to pursue this particular discipline or profession? (250 words)*
  - c. *In 50 words maximum, describe your most significant extracurricular achievements.*
  - d. *State one community challenge you are passionate about addressing and what you have done this far in line with addressing it. (50 words max)*
  - e. *Is the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon affecting you in any way? What role are you playing to contribute to peace-building and harmonious cohabitation?(50 words max)*
  - f. *What do you think about the use of the Internet as a political tool and how has it affected you, your family, a business you know, or the local economy of your town or region? (100 words max)*
2. *Two letters of recommendation: Each student who wishes to apply is expected to obtain one letter of recommendation from his/her teacher attesting to his/her tendencies, conduct, leadership skills, attitudes, intellectual promise, sense of maturity, extra-ordinary abilities etc. A second letter of recommendation will be in the form of an institutional endorsement from the student's high school. The Institutional Endorsement Form is part of this application package.*
3. *There will be an interview component on WhatsApp or Zoom and at the Open Dreams hubs in Bamenda, Douala and Yaoundé.*



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### III. APPLICATION FORM (Deadline: June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

#### APPLICANT INFORMATION

<b>Title</b>	Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date of Birth</b> (DD/MM/YYYY)	/	/	<b>Gender</b>	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Last</b> (Family) <b>Name</b>			<b>First</b> (Given) <b>Name</b>			<b>Preferred</b> <b>First Name</b>
<b>Current</b> <b>Address</b>					<b>City</b>	
<b>Postal</b> <b>Code</b>		<b>Province</b>		<b>Country</b>		
<b>Permanent</b> (Home) <b>Address</b>					<b>City</b>	
<b>Postal</b> <b>Code</b>		<b>Province</b>		<b>Country</b>		
<b>Applicant Phone:</b>						
<b>Applicant Email</b>						
<b>No. of points at the GCE</b> <b>Ordinary Level</b>		<b>No. of points at the GCE Advanced</b> <b>Level or (BACC Grade)</b>				
<b>Please provide the name and contact details for the School Principal or School Official whom we may contact about your application.</b>						
<b>Name and Phone number</b> <b>of your advisor in school</b>						
<b>Email Address:</b> <b>Academic advisor</b>						



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**IV. Community Engagement and others**

1. Did/do you belong to any club(s) on campus? If yes, state the club(s) and your role(s).  
.....  
.....
2. Did/do you hold any leadership role on campus or in the community? Explain.  
.....  
.....
3. Have you ever been involved with any NGO/Community Based Organization?  
.....  
.....
4. Do you have any special skills or are you gifted in some way that might be very helpful to Open Dreams or your college application program? If yes, explain.  
.....  
.....  
.....
5. Do you have any medical condition you may want us to know about?  
.....  
.....

**V. Parental/Guardian Approval**

Your son/daughter is applying to Open Dreams for mentorship. Besides other academic and community engagement exigencies at Open Dreams across Cameroon, this program may necessitate your son/daughter to travel abroad for studies or to attend several professional development programs beyond Cameroon. The entire mentorship journey requires parental support in areas such as providing basic finances for internet data at home, taxi money to get to the Open Dreams Center and back, fee for SAT / IELTS / TOEFL / GRE / GMAT test; supporting your son/daughter in establishing a passport and permitting your son/daughter to travel abroad for studies etc. Sign below to endorse your son's/daughter's interest to be part of the Open Dreams Community.

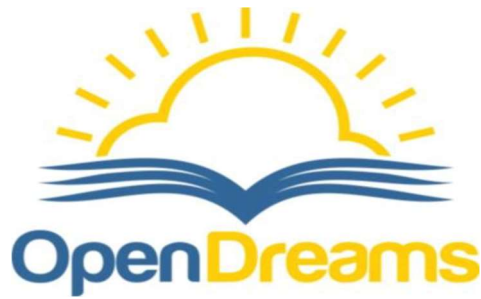
Name of Parent/Guardian:.....

Phone number/email address of parent:.....

Signature and Date:.....

*Completed application forms should be emailed to [info@open-dreams.org](mailto:info@open-dreams.org) or dropped at any of the Open Dreams Centers or handed to the Regional Hub Coordinators no later than June 16th, 2023.*

*Alternatively, visit <https://www.open-dreams.org/odsa2022-applications> for the online application.*



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## Financial Imperatives

The tuition for the Open Dreams Summer Academy and year-long mentorship program is Five Hundred Thousand Frs CFA (500,000 frs). Need-based financial aid, up to 100% tuition, is available on a case-by-case basis. Students with demonstrated financial need are encouraged to apply, providing us with as much information as possible when applying for aid. We strive to ensure that the cost of attendance will not prevent anyone from participating in the Open Dreams Academy.

Provide honest answers to the following questions:

- 1) How many of you are in your household? .....
- 2) Do your parents own a private car? .....
- 3) What is the profession of your mother? .....
- 4) What is the profession of your father? .....
- 5) Is any of your parents on retirement? If yes, which of them? .....
- 6) Who takes care of your school and daily needs? .....
- 7) Has your education ever been interrupted at any point due to finances or are there some very special circumstances about you that we may need to be aware of? If yes explain.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 8) Running the Open Dreams Academy (International Education) is very costly. However, we make it possible for those we select to be able to attend the summer academy and participate in educational and community engagement as well as leadership development programs after the summer academy. How much percentage of the tuition are you ready to pay, if you get selected? Underline the appropriate figure (a) 0 % (b) 10 % - 50,000 frs (c) 20% - 100,000 frs (d) 40% - 200,000 frs (e) 50% - 250,000 frs (f) 80% - 400,000 frs (g) 90% - 450,000 (h) 100% - 500,000 frs.  
Optional - Please, attached an extra sheet, candidly explaining the reason for your choice.

.....  
*Open Dreams Summer Academy, #ODSA2023*

*Open Dreams, Equalizing Access to Educational Opportunities for community impact*



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## INSTITUTIONAL ENDORSEMENT FORM

**Dear Principal/Vice Principal/Dean/Administrator,**

The student who has presented this form to you is applying for admission into the Open Dreams Academic Mentorship Program. Open Dreams is an international non-profit organization (501c3) founded in 2013 in New York, USA, with the mission to equalize access to educational opportunities for community impact. The access organization assists high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds to attend college on scholarship from funding organizations or partner institutions. Open Dreams Scholars attend top universities in the world, in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa, where they are making their mark. Details about Open Dreams are available at [www.opendreams.org](http://www.opendreams.org). For general inquiries, send an email to [info@open-dreams.org](mailto:info@open-dreams.org)

By completing this form, you take a promissory engagement, on behalf of your institution to:

- (1) Be supportive to the student in every way administratively possible;
- (2) Where possible, provide the student with campus mentorship, leadership opportunities or opportunities to serve within the school milieu as a requirement for our program;
- (3) Grant permission, when necessary to the student to be away from school for a day or two in order to take the required standardized tests (SAT, TOEFL) in the city of Yaoundé or Douala.
- (4) Make available to the student, end of semester or term report (transcripts or report cards) on time, to enable them send to colleges which require them.
- (5) Respond as soon as possible to any incoming email with regards to the student's application.
- (6) Update us, should there be significant changes, with regards to the student's academic progress, conduct and all other factors relevant to the college application process.

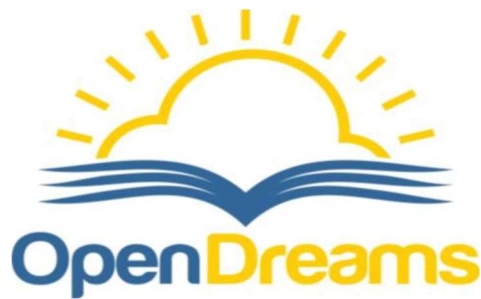
NAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is this candidate of good moral standing on campus? Please explain.

.....  
.....  
.....

2. Does this applicant hold any post of responsibility in the student government? Yes \_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_ If Yes, what post of responsibility? .....



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3. During community service activities (e.g. campus cleaning), does this applicant willingly and actively participate without being followed up? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

4. Is there anything more you may want us to know about this student?

.....  
.....

5. I .....endorse this student (please pick up one of the options below)

(a) Enthusiastically (b) highly (c) averagely (d) barely (e) do not

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Institution and official stamp (where available)

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please, return this form to the candidate in a sealed envelope or email directly to

[info@open-dreams.org](mailto:info@open-dreams.org) by June 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 latest. Thank you for your diligence.

.....

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