

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

Email: info@open-dreams.org

Open Dreams Summer Academy Application 2024

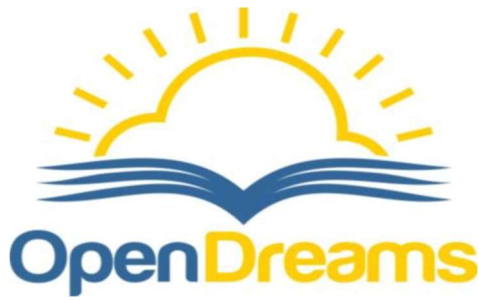
Open Dreams Organization is an International NGO founded in 2013 to help high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds attend university and achieve quality education at no major cost to them. Over the past years, we have worked with highly motivated students from Cameroon who have successfully 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. On July 27th, 2024, we will be celebrating “Open Dreams at 10”, #OD@10.

Primarily, our model works by providing **Open Dreams Education Hubs**, physical office locations where we have educational resources including books, computers, projectors, Internet access, program facilitators, and spaces 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. At our incubation, young dreamers have a chance to push their creativity to the limit, nurturing and testing their concepts under mentorship. 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 Bamenda, Douala, and Yaoundé – 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 who 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 foreign 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 playing guidance-counsellor roles. Scholars are strictly 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, some who achieve high scores will be registered for these tests – those not selected will be expected to cover their test registration costs. 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 2024 Open Dreams Summer Academy will run from July 8th – August 23rd, 2024 in Bamenda, Douala, and Yaoundé while the community service component will run from August 26th – 30th, 2024. Anyone applying from outside Bamenda, Douala or Yaoundé must have the provision to spend this time in the town of choice



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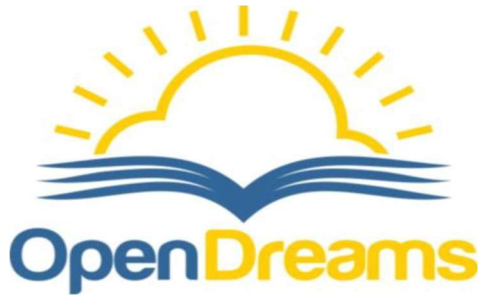
at his/her own cost if he or she gets accepted into the program. Those who cannot make it to Bamenda/Douala/Yaoundé, who meet the eligibility conditions of joining Open Dreams, will be able to explore the online mentorship program (Project Moon) and also participate in regular Zoom sessions. As long as they have the right qualifications, and demonstrate commitment and excellence, they will enjoy similar privileges like those who attend the summer academy. The application window opens on March 4th 2024, and closes on June 14th, 2024. Interviews shall be conducted from June 18th – 22nd, 2024, both in-person and online. Decisions shall be released via email between June 26th and July 1st, 2024.

I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- 1. Students must be currently in high school and must have scored at least 25 points at the GCE Ordinary Level or they must be 2023 high school graduates with at least 20 points at the GCE Advanced Level. For additional information, visit our website.*
- 2. 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. This applies only to students who are currently in high school.*

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Secondary and High school transcripts*
- 2. Ordinary Level Certificate and Advanced Level Certificate or Bacc where applicable*
- 3. Open Dreams Scholar 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 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 few words, describe your most significant extracurricular achievements. (50 words max)*
 - 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 or the law as a political tool and how has any of them 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.*



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3. There will be an interview component on WhatsApp or Zoom and at the Open Dreams hubs in Bamenda, Douala and Yaoundé.

III. [APPLICATION FORM \(Deadline: June 14th, 2024\)](#)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

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



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IV. Community Engagement and others

1. Did/do you belong to any club(s) on campus? If yes, explain

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.....

2. Did/do you hold any leadership role on campus or in the community? Explain.

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.....

3. Have you ever been involved with any NGO/Community Based Organization?

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.....

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

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5. Do you have any medical condition you may want us to know?

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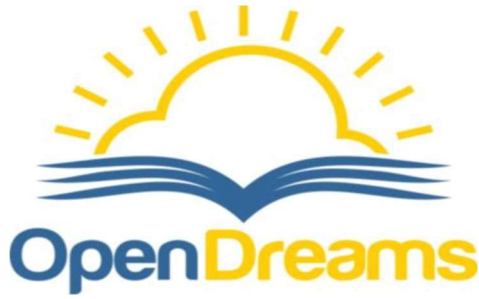
V. Parental Approval

Your son/daughter is applying to Open Dreams for mentorship. Besides other academic and community engagement exigencies at Open Dreams, this program may necessitate your son/daughter to travel abroad for academic studies or to attend professional development programs in the community. 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, paying a 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 academic studies etc. Sign below to endorse your son's/daughter's interest in being part of the Open Dreams Community.

Name of Parent/Guardian:.....

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

Signature and Date:.....



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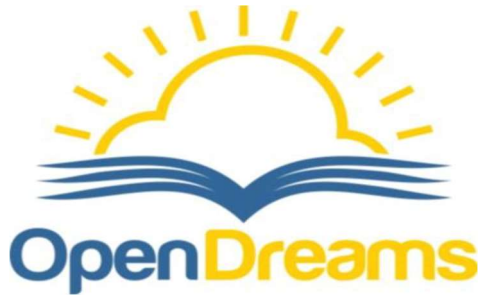
Completed application forms should be emailed to info@open-dreams.org latest June 14th, 2024. Alternatively, visit www.open-dreams.org/summer for the online application.

Provide honest answers to the following questions:

- 1) How many of you are in your household?
- 2) Do your parents own a 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 need to be aware of? If yes explain.....
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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, “Equalizing 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 at no major cost to them. Open Dreams Scholars attend top universities in the world, in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Details about Open Dreams are available at www.opendreams.org. For general inquiries, send an email to 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 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 the student to 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 in the student’s academic progress, conduct

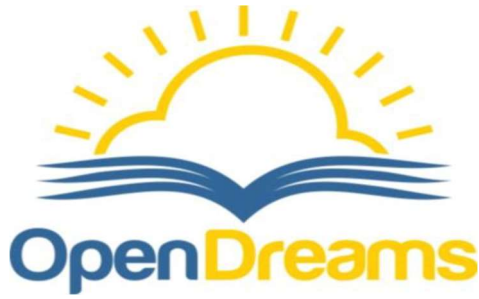
NAME OF APPLICANT _____

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

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.....
.....

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 student 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 underline one of the options below)

(a) Enthusiastically (b) highly (c) averagely (d) barely (e) I do not endorse this student

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 it directly to

info@open-dreams.org by June 14th, 2024, latest.

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Open Dreams Summer Academy, #ODSA2023

Open Dreams, Equalizing Access to Educational Opportunities for community impact