

## **The Cameroonian education system**

The education system in a country is a formal organization of academic, academic and professional pathways. In Cameroon, the education system is dependent on the colonial legacy. As the country has been under the tutelage of France and Great Britain, its educational system has been subdivided into two subsystems, namely: the French-speaking subsystem and the English-speaking sub-system, "of which is reaffirmed the national option of biculturalism "(see orientation law of 14 April 1998). Subsystems coexist, each maintaining its peculiarity in evaluation and certification methods. In addition to public education, private secular and private denominational education occupies a prominent place.

### **MATERNAL EDUCATION IN BOTH UNDER SYSTEMS**

The age of admission to kindergarten is 4 years and studies last 2 years.

The nursery school aims to awaken physical potentialities; socio-emotional and intellectual of the child. She prepares children for entry to primary school. Even if at this level of study, no diploma is issued, it remains however that the grade is an indicative element of admission to the Language Initiation Section (SIL) or at the Special Preparatory Course (CPS) ) for the brightest.

In the field However, we can see that most nursery schools include four sections namely the pre-kindergarten, the small section, the middle section and the large section. The age of access to this is not always respected, we meet more and more very young graduates (15-16 years). While this is the pride of parents and the entire educational community, it is necessary to emphasize that physical maturity goes hand in hand with intellectual maturity. Hence the need to respect the age requirements.

### **PRIMARY EDUCATION IN BOTH SUBSYSTEMS**

The required age is 6 years old. Each subsystem consists of three levels each:

Level I: the SIL (Language Initiation Section) CP (preparatory course) and to some extent the CPS (Special Preparatory course)

Level II: Basic Courses I and II

Level III: average courses I and II.

Primary education is fundamental and obligatory insofar as, for the development of the individual, he must "know how to read, write, make simple calculations and explore his environment ...". After six years of study in the French-language subsystem and seven years in the English-language subsystem, obtaining the Certificate of Primary Study (CEP) or the First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) prepares the student either to vocational training either at the entrance to the college.

### **POST PRIMARY EDUCATION**

At the end of primary school, students have two choices: either to continue their studies or to learn a trade. In the context of immediate professional integration, there are so-called rural craft sections (SAR) / household sections (SM). The legal age is 14 years and the studies last two years.

### **NORMAL EDUCATION**

Normal education (ENIEG, ENIET) is open to candidates holding BEPC (undergraduate study certificate), CAP (certificate of professional competence), PROBATORY or GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF

EDUCATION ORDINARY LEVEL and BAC or of the GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ADVANCED LEVEL. The duration of training varies from one to three years. The education provided is professional and leads to obtaining a CAPIEM (Certificate of Professional Aptitude of Teachers of Primary and Maternal Education) or a CAPIET (Certificate of Professional Aptitude of Teaching Insti tutors Technical). Admission is by competition organized by the Ministry of Basic Education.

## SECONDARY EDUCATION

There are two types of education: general secondary education and technical secondary education.

### 1. GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION IN BOTH SUBSYSTEMS

Admission to the first cycle is by competitive examination and the legal age is thirteen in the English sub-system and twelve in the French sub-system. If in the French sub-system the obtaining of the BEPC is the fruit of four years of study, on the other hand in the English sub-system, it is at the end of five years that one obtains the General Certificate of Education Ordinary / Level ( GCEO / L).

As for the second cycle, the age indicated is sixteen in the French sub-system and seventeen in the English sub-system. In each of its subsystems, the duration of the studies for the GCEO / L and BAC is respectively three years and two years. In addition, the transition to the final year is subject to obtaining the probationary.

### 2. TECHNICAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

It includes two cycles:

The first cycle lasts four years and is sanctioned by the Certificate of Professional Aptitude (CAP).

The second cycle opens its doors to the holders of the CAP and the BEPC. The duration of studies is three years culminating in the awarding of the Technician's Baccalaureate or a Technician's Certificate or the General Certificate of Advanced Level Education which gives access to higher education or active life.

NB: the transition to the final class in the two subsystems is conditioned by obtaining the probationary certificate.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

After high school, students can choose either active life or continue in higher education. In Cameroon, this education is provided by several public and private institutions.

### 1. UNIVERSITIES OF STATE

Admission to the State Universities is based on a file study and is open to candidates holding a Bachelor's degree, a General Certificate of Education Advanced Level or any other equivalent recognized diploma. For the moment, there are eight State Universities, each of which has its characteristics. These are the Universities of Yaounde I, Yaounde II, Douala, Buea, Dschang, N'gaoundere and recently Maroua and Bamenda

### 2. UNIVERSITY INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY (ITU)

Admission to the ITU is by competition for Cameroonians and study file for foreign nationals. They are open to candidates holding a Bachelor's degree, a General Certificate of Education Advanced

Level or any other equivalent recognized diploma. The studies vary between two and three years and lead to a University Diploma in Technology or a Higher Technician Certificate. These institutes number three. They are:

- The IUT of Douala
- IUT of Bandjoun
- The IUT of N'goundéré.

### 3. PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

There are also private universities that provide education just like

University of Central Africa, Catholic University, University of Yaounde South Joseph Ndi Samba, Institute Siantou Superior ...

### 4. GREAT SCHOOLS OF TRAINING

The education provided in these structures is essentially professional. And the majority of these schools are attached to universities. Details will be provided in the submenu After Bac in Cameroon.