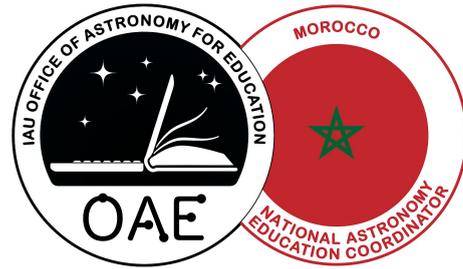


Astronomy Education in Morocco



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: Moroccan education is compulsory for six years of primary school followed by optional middle (three years) and high school (three years). Seventeen percent of schools are private versus 73% public schools at primary level with 10% of middle and high schools being private versus 90% being public. There are some schools established by other countries, like French, American or Spanish schools. There are also some rare religious schools for Jews and Christian. The languages of education are Arabic and French.

Education facilities: Schools have classrooms, a yard, toilets, administration facilities and sometimes a media room, and rarely a hall for artistic performances. Class sizes range from 32 to 48 students. Internet access is available only in the computer science classroom and the library room but not in the classrooms. Some schools do not have internet access at all. Transportation to school is not available for all but is growing, especially in villages near cities, to avoid school dropout. Running water is available. The condition of the buildings is generally moderate.

Governance and organisation: It's the central government who is responsible for the curriculum

Teacher Training: In order to be a teacher, a person needs to obtain a bachelor degree then submit to a written and oral test to get access to a one year training course in centers of education and training. After that, the person does an internship during a year before getting a certificate of professional competence. During their career, the professor may benefit from several training courses.

Astronomy in the curriculum: Astronomy is not a separate subject in school. In primary school it is integrated into the subject of scientific activity (starting from the third level: the solar system, eclipses, the movement of the earth around itself and around the sun, the phases of the moon, the definition of the sun and the seasons). Astronomy appears in middle school physics covering the components of the atmosphere, shadows, light diffusion, and the interpretation of the solar and lunar eclipse. High school physics deals with the interpretation of the phenomena of eclipses and lunar eclipses, cosmic attraction (Earth – Moon – Solar System – Galaxies), the movement of the earth, the moon, satellites around the sun and the earth, the movement of planets and satellites, Kepler's Laws and the orbital motion of satellites. We can find astronomy also in Geography (explanation of seasons and climate, Solar system and geographic coordinates), Islamic courses (as mentioned in verses of the holy Quran) and Arabic language courses (mentioned in classic Arabic poetry and literature).

Astronomy education outside the classroom: There are few and rare cases in some astronomical and scientific clubs or associations. The only planetarium facility is out of order. We have a unique

observatory in Oukaimeden that is rarely visited by schools. There are youth associations and clubs that include astronomy in their activities.

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