



QUICK START GUIDE

Universe Awareness
Student Ambassador Programme

Welcome!

Let's inspire our children
with our wonderful
cosmos



Universe Awareness is endorsed by UNESCO and the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and is an integral part of the IAU Strategic Plan 2010–2020, called Astronomy for the Developing World.

Whenever you feel that help is needed, please write us to ambassadors@undawe.org

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1

Overview



Do you want to gain first-hand experience in astronomy outreach or help to inspire the next generation of citizens, scientists and astronomers?

We are inviting university students from all over the world to join the Universe Awareness Student Ambassador project and help us achieve our goals.

Use the beauty and grandeur of the Universe to encourage young children (between 4 and 10 years old), particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds, to develop an interest in science and technology. Use cultural aspects of astronomy to foster in children a sense of global citizenship

To get started as a UNAWE student ambassador, all you need is enthusiasm, passion and a basic knowledge of science!

What we will need from you:

1

All Student Ambassadors are required to participate in at least one UNAWE activity every 6 months.

2

Write to us when you start an activity.

3

Send us a report when the activity is completed.

2

How to start?



Choose one type of activity to begin with.

- If you chose to organise an event, please read Event Organising (page 9).
- If you want to help with online services and translation, please go to Online Services and Translations (Page 15).
- If you would like to develop and support existing local or global UNAWE projects, please go to Local / Global UNAWE Projects (Page 18).
- If you have a different idea, please contact us: ambassadors@unawe.org

After successfully completing this activity you can start a second and/or re-propose the first. We encourage you to follow a long-term activity so that it will have a stronger effect that will be sustainable in the community. A longer activity will also benefit you in terms of learning and experience.

If your activity relates to organizing an event or supporting local UNAWE projects, within a week following each event you must fill in a short report about the activity as well as providing photos from the event. This will help UNAWE understand how effective your activity is, generate statistics, and help you with future activities while showing others what you learnt.

Please contact us if:

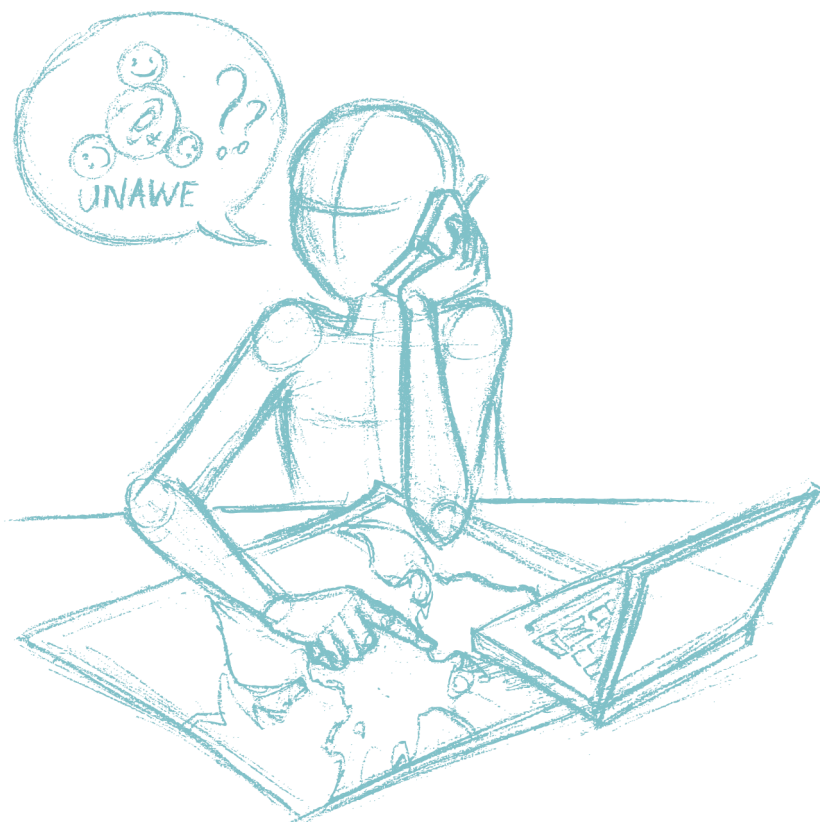
- 1 You are starting a new activity
- 2 you have questions
- 3 you need UNAWE materials for your activities (posters, flyers, educational material);
- 4 you feel that your programme has come to an end

3

Contact your local UNawe group

If your country already has a national programme, it is always a good idea to contact local UNawe coordinators (<http://www.eu-unawe.org/network/national/> and Appendix B) in order to seek advice, share experiences, and plan future activities.

Local contacts can, for instance, help you overcome initial difficulties in planning an event, or can propose that you join a nationwide activity for UNawe.





Events are a central way of spreading the UNAWE mission. They allow us to reach large portions of the community, interact with children, and inspire with our wonderful cosmos.

The UNAWE team has developed many resources (<http://www.unawe.org/resources/>) that you can take inspiration from.

If you need help or advice, don't hesitate to contact us at ambassadors@unawe.org

1

Identify the type of event

Examples:

- Organise a UNAWE activity session at a primary school, local nursery, observatory, planetarium, hospital, etc.

Check past activities:

UNAWE IN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE NETHERLANDS

<http://www.unawe.org/updates/unawe-update-1223/>

WORKSHOP IN COLOMBIA

<http://www.unawe.org/updates/unawe-update-1224/>

- Organise a UNAWE workshop during an Open House Day at a university or other institute.

(e.g. how to teach Astronomy to young kids in a fun and interesting way; understand how to observe the night sky; how to build a telescope; modern Astronomy news; etc.).

Check past activities:

DEADLY MOON AT DUTCH SCIENCE FESTIVAL

<http://www.unawe.org/updates/unawe-update-1140/>

A FULL CLASS AT THE DUTCH SCIENCE FESTIVAL

<http://www.unawe.org/updates/unawe-update-1145/>

UNAWE AT THE FESTIVAL OF EUROPE IN BELGIUM

<http://www.unawe.org/updates/unawe-update-1236/>

- Organise a UNAWE workshop at your local community centre or library.

Check past activities:

HANDS ON WORKSHOP IN MOROCCO

<http://www.unawe.org/updates/unawe-update-1217/>

2

Organise the event



2.1 Identify the location and date of the activity. You can make use of specific festivity dates or join other events, such as festivals, open days, etc.



2.2. Make a detailed plan of your activity (choose the target age, number of people attending the activity, and UNAWE resources from the website or develop your own resources).

See Attachment A for ideas for activities you can do with the children, as well as available resources.



2.3. Make an appointment with someone from your city that may be able to help you. Present her / him with your idea for an activity (in the form of a short presentation).



2.4. Try to involve friends / colleagues / professors. You should aim at having one person from the organisation for each 15-20 expected participants.



If you are in your country of residence: call the principal or responsible of the location you have chosen and give them an overview of your idea (make an appointment for the meeting.) If you need help contacting them, please send us an email, and we will try to help you.



If your country has a UNAWE National Programme: contact your local representatives so they can give you support and advice. (see Appendix B - Page 22)

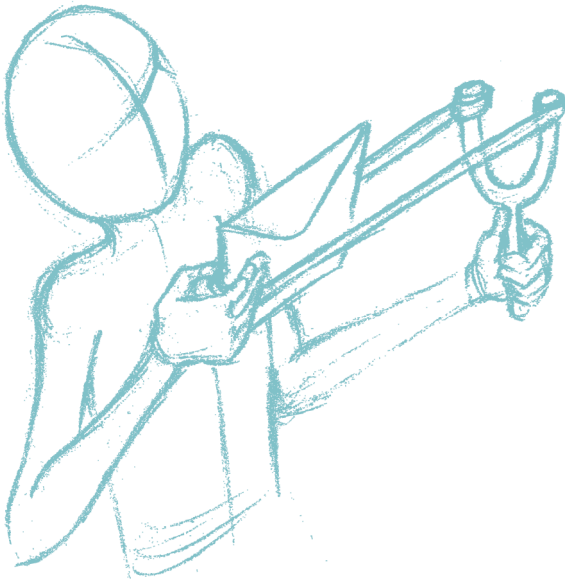
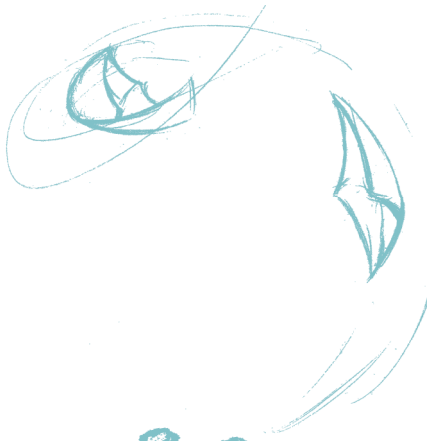


If you are an expat student and don't know the language/s of the country you are in: contact your embassy or consulate and organise a UNAWE session for children of expats! If you need help with the contacts, please send us an email, and we will try to make you.

3

Send an email to ambassadors@unawe.org

- Date of the activity.
- Place.
- Short description.
- If you will have any support (people or organization).
- If you need any material or any other help.



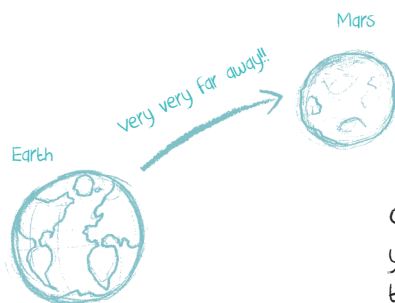
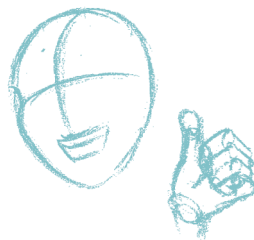
4

When the day comes...

Enjoy yourself, be positive, and be ready to answer questions!
A few suggestions:

Be enthusiastic

Children will take their lead from you, so the most important tip is to be lively, engaged and interested.

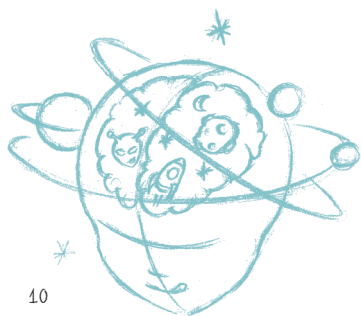


Keep things simple

Concepts adults take for granted can be lost on a younger audience, and this becomes apparent with topics such as astronomy.

Use analogies

Instead of saying that the average Earth/Mars distance is 225 million km, explain that Mars is so far away that even in a fast rocket ship it would take six months to get there.



Encourage creativity

Astronomy is a brilliant topic for children to flex their creative muscles with. They love to imagine advanced spaceships, strange planets, and weird aliens

Know your stuff

Make sure you have a reasonable level of knowledge. You never know which questions you will be asked, so be prepared. Having a mental list of interesting facts and analogies will help.

Spark discussions

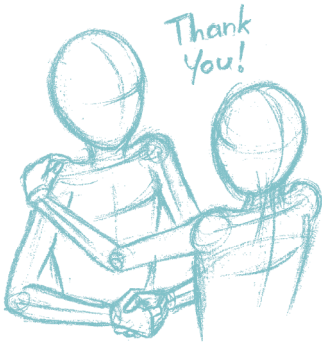
An excellent way of keeping children involved is to encourage discussion and participation. A simple way of doing this is to avoid giving a straightforward presentation, asking questions instead.



Encourage friendly competition

Children are naturally competitive and this can be used to our advantage. A good idea is to prepare an astronomy quiz based on the information that you will have given them, preparing little rewards such as certificates (on an A4 word processed sheet, for example).

Realise that you are appreciated



By taking the time to help communicate astronomy to children, you will not only inspire the next generation to take an interest but will also learn new skills and improve your abilities. Children will greatly appreciate your efforts and will gain much from the experience.

5

After the activity is complete: Fill in the report for the activity



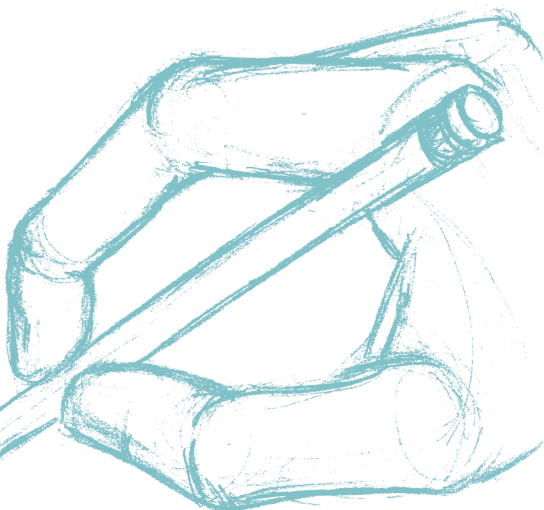
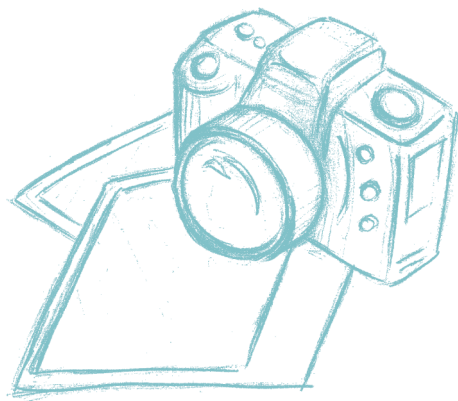
5.1. After you have organised an event, please send a report to www.unawe.org/activity-report/



5.2. If you have translated a resource or have developed a new one for your event, please send it to us so that we can analyse it and add it to our list!



5.3. Add photos to your report so we can show it as an example.



ONLINE SERVICES / TRANSLATIONS



Online communication is fundamental for UNAWE. The internet transcends distance barriers and is, nowadays, accessible even in the most unprivileged countries. It's the fastest and easiest way to reach educators and children around the globe.

You could help with Social Media and Translations:

1

Social Media



If you want to support existing online communication, you can be of great help. We will provide you with all the information needed to learn how and when to send a new update to each network.



<https://twitter.com/unawe>



<http://www.facebook.com/unawe>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/unawe>



<http://pinterest.com/unawe/>



<http://goo.gl/FYAiX>

2

Translation

We are always in need of new translations to overcome language barriers, especially for:



2.1 Space Scoop

Space Scoop (<http://unawe.org/kids/>) is the adaptation of the latest astronomy press releases for children. Space Scoop challenges the way science is often perceived by young children as an outdated and static subject or as too technical to be accessible to common people.

It's a great tool for teachers and educators who want to bring astronomy into their classrooms. Space Scoop is currently available (or partially available) in English, Dutch, Italian, German, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, Chinese, Icelandic, Indonesian, Maltese, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Sinhalese, Slovenian, Swahili, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Tetum.



2.2 Resources

In the last 5 years UNAWE has developed a variety of activities for children. Most of the activity guidelines (<http://www.unawe.org/resources/education/>) are available only in English and are therefore not necessarily accessible to teachers in all countries, especially in less developed communities. If you could translate some of these guides, we would be very thankful. This way more non-English-speaking kids can take part in fun and educational activities.



Send an email to Pedro Russo russo@strw.leidenuniv.nl explaining that you have chosen online services or translations as your plan, and he will help with the next steps.



Are you a native speaker of a language not listed above? It would be great to have Space Scoop translated into your language too, so please contact us!



Do you speak one of the listed languages? Your help would still be greatly appreciated, so don't hesitate to contact us.

SUPPORT NATIONAL AND GLOBAL PROJECTS



If your country has not yet joined the UNAWE network (<http://www.unawe.org/network/national/>) and you want to start a collaboration between your country with UNAWE, please let us know by sending an email to:

Pedro Russo russo@strw.leidenuniv.nl

If your country is in the UNAWE network, don't hesitate in contacting your local coordinator (<http://www.unawe.org/network/national/> and Appendix B - Page 22). For instance, it might be possible for you to support a local UNAWE teacher training workshop.

Teacher training in UK

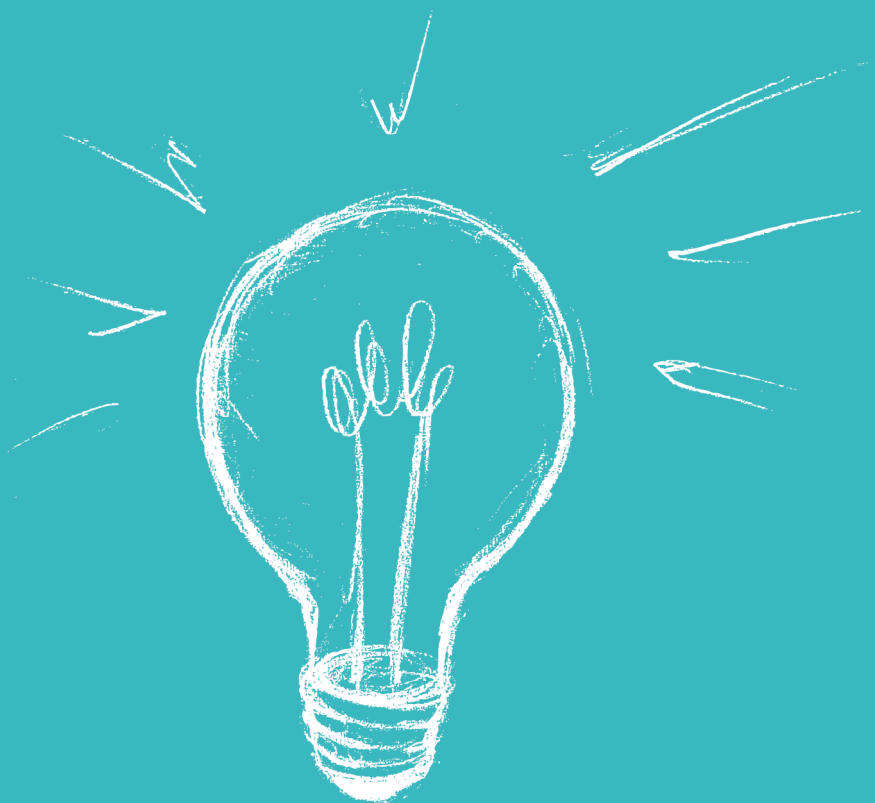
<http://uk.unawe.org/updates/UKTT/>

Teacher training in Tanzania







<http://www.unawe.org/updates/unawe-update-1259/>

Appendix A:

Resources / Ideas



This appendix contains ideas for activities you can do with children, along with the materials you need and links to more detailed guides. Most of the activities are suitable for traditional classrooms as well as open days, planetariums, science fairs, etc.

Name of Activity (type)	Target Age/ Time / Supervision	Description	Materials Needed	Link to guide QR code
Deadly Moons (Astronomy / Art)	4-12 y.o. 1 hour Supervised	Inspire kids with exotic bodies of the Solar System. Show children images of moons, and make them draw their own 'deadly moon'.	White/black paper, crayons/ pastels/ pencils, Powerpoint slide show	http://unawe.org/resources/education/deadly_moons_guide_158/ 
Create a Rainbow! (Demonstration)	All ages 20 minutes Supervised	In this activity, children create a rainbow using very few and simple household objects and a little bit of sunlight!	A bucket, a small flat mirror, a sheet of white paper and sunshine!	http://www.unawe.org/resources/education/NRC_create_rainbows/ 
Eclipse in the Classroom! (Demonstration)	6-14 y.o. 45 min (preparation) 30 min (activity) Supervised	Build a model of the Sun / Earth / Moon system in the classroom, show them the reciprocal motions and play with eclipses!	Tape, glue, cardboard tubes, torch, scissors, aluminium foil, wire, a Styrofoam ball (or an orange), a ping pong ball, wire	http://www.unawe.org/resources/education/science_school_eclipses 
Astro Origami (Astro / Art)	6-14 y.o. 45 min (preparation) 30 min (activity) Supervised	Introduce the children to geometry, and make them fold their own sunray. A collaborative effort will create a big sun!	Sun coloured squares of stiffened paper	http://unawe.org/static/archives/education/pdf/unawe_paper_sunrays_guide.pdf 
Super Saturn! (Astro / Art)	6 years and up 30 minutes Supervised	Explore the planet Saturn in a creative way. Use imaginative craft ideas to illustrate how Saturn's rings are formed	Polystyrene ball, cardboard cutter, pencil, old CD, glue, needle and thread	http://www.unawe.org/static/archives/education/pdf/super_saturn_guide_114.pdf 
Safe Sun Viewer (Demonstration)	5 years and up Supervised	Introduce children to solar observation safely.	A cardboard box, white cardboard, scissors, tape, aluminium foil, a small nail.	http://unawe.org/resources/education/safe_sun_viewer_guide_176/ 

Appendix B:

Local Contacts





<http://www.unaue.org/network/national/>

Universe Awareness Student Ambassador Programme
is a EU Universe Awareness programme funded by the
European Union under grant agreement n° 263325.

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Design & Illustrations: Charlotte Provot

Edited by Sarah Roberts

This Quick Start Guide is licensed under a Creative Commons
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produced by funding from the European Union.

Printed in the EU

ISBN: 978-94-91760-02-0



