

## ***The institution and its surroundings***

“El cherif Bouchoucha” University Center of Aflou, which has been functioning since 2012 as an annex to the Amar Thelidji University of Laghouat, was created at the beginning of the 2016/2017 university season by Presidential Decree No: 16/ 230 of September 01, 2016, it has become, through its attraction and juxtaposition, a place of training favored by many students from the region and neighboring states, which has led to a rapid and significant increase in the number of its students and number of teachers and staff.

### **1. Know the region, the city and the establishment:**

#### **A. the region:**

The “El Cherif Bouchoucha” university center is located in Jebel Amour; it is a mountain range of Algeria located in the center of the country and constituting part of the Saharan Atlas. Called in the Middle Ages djebel Rached, from the name of the Berber tribe Béni Rached. It owes its current name to the Bedouin Arab tribe of Amours

#### **B. population:**

The population of Jebel Amour is entirely Arabic-speaking, it is the domain of the Arab tribe of Amours. It was during the 13th century that one of the main fractions of the Amours began to penetrate the massif. They drive out or absorb former semi-nomadic Zenetic Berber occupants, the Maghraouas beni Sinjas who had previously dislodged the Beni Rached (the first occupants that can be named), who partly left their country for Tell Oran.

Villages and cultivated areas were once numerous; there are still many vestiges of it today, including some ksour which are still inhabited. The Agalet, who today occupy the northern slope and the border steppes, are believed to be the descendants of a part of the Beni Rached who did not emigrate.

Practicing pastoral and horse breeding, the Loves were once nomadic and some have remained so, moving in the summer to the northern plains. The Amours, who became semi-nomadic mountain people when they occupied the massif, are now practically sedentary; new villages are built on the plain and the agglomerations of administrative origin have extended. Aflou is the main agglomeration and plays the role of chief town. Around this city are multiplying the orchards and the cereals and pulses which extend at the expense of the course.

The region is also known for the manufacture of high wool carpets (frāš). Guy de Maupassant refers to it twice in his short story "Allouma". (Allouma is a short story by Guy de Maupassant, published in 1889).

### **C. The city:**

Aflou in Arabic (أفلو): is a town in Algeria, in the wilaya of Laghouat in western Algeria. Second most populated city of the wilaya, its equidistant geography between the localities of Tiaret, Djelfa, Laghouat and El Bayadh reinforces its attractiveness for local development. Culminating at 1400 m, the city is one of the highest in the country.

Nicknamed "capital of Jebel Amour", the best-watered massif of the Saharan Atlas<sup>1</sup>, its abundant rainfall and high altitude produce abundant grass favorable to grazing, favoring extensive family livestock farming.

#### **.1Etymology**

A proposed etymology for Aflou could come from the Amazigh word "eflou", meaning "graze!" it is an inaccurate folk etymology, but refers to the fact that the locality was known to nomads as an excellent place for grazing. Another suggested etymology would come from the Amazigh word for cloud ("aflou") whose frequent presence causes heavy rain and snowfall.

#### **.2History**

The region was populated in prehistoric times by nomadic peoples from North Africa. Rock carvings bear witness to their presence. For example, in Sfissifa, one can observe a well-preserved fresco of an elephant protecting his baby elephant from a panther. However, the town of Aflou only saw the light of day in the 19th century, in the heart of a vast syncline depression. At the time of French colonization, it was an administrative annex of the military circle of Tiaret.

In 1874, Aflou became a mixed commune of the department of Oran. In 1957, it was attached to the new department of Tiaret. In 1974, it was integrated into the wilaya of Laghouat.

Aflou retains several buildings dating back more than a century, such as the city's ancient mosque, built 115 years ago.

During the Algerian war, Aflou was the scene of several military operations. Several ambushes and skirmishes took place there. The city has several times participated in diverting the attention of the French army whose operations are concentrated in the north of Algeria and consequently easing the pressure on the insurgent regions of the north such as Oranie. Among these ambushes, we recall that of El-Khoteifa which took place on October 2, 1956 about forty kilometers southwest of Aflou near Taouiala. This clash, which left 40 dead and 5 arrests on the French side, was intended to loosen the grip imposed by the army around the region and to free the Algerian fighters detained in Aflou prison. This clash was the prelude to another larger-scale clash: that of Chouabir, considered by many historians to be one of the major battles of the Algerian war because it caused heavy human and material losses to the French army: more than 1,300 soldiers were killed, nearly 500 were wounded, and significant material damage was inflicted on the army, while on the Algerian side, the toll rose to 25 dead, including 11 civilians.

Sheikh Mohamed Bachir El Ibrahimi was placed under house arrest by the French authorities at the start of the outbreak of the Algerian war (1955/1956). The city of Aflou was for a time a place of detention where the most virulent of the Algerian prisoners were gathered to break the protest that shook the detention centers in the north. All the leaders and agitators of all tendencies between (300 and 400) as well as ulemas, communists, union leaders and PPA, Belekouicem Mahmoud, Bachir Boumaza, Roula Laarbi, Roula Rabiâ, Boumenna Mohamed, Amira Mahmoud, Demane debbih, Djermane Rabeh, Boudjenana Ahcène was one of them.

## **.2Fact sheet of the Aflou University Center**

### **A. Campus Area**

The Aflou University Center covers an area of 14 hectares:

- 4.3 hectares for 1000 educational places.
- 2.7 hectares for the university residence (500 beds.)
- 7 hectares empty space

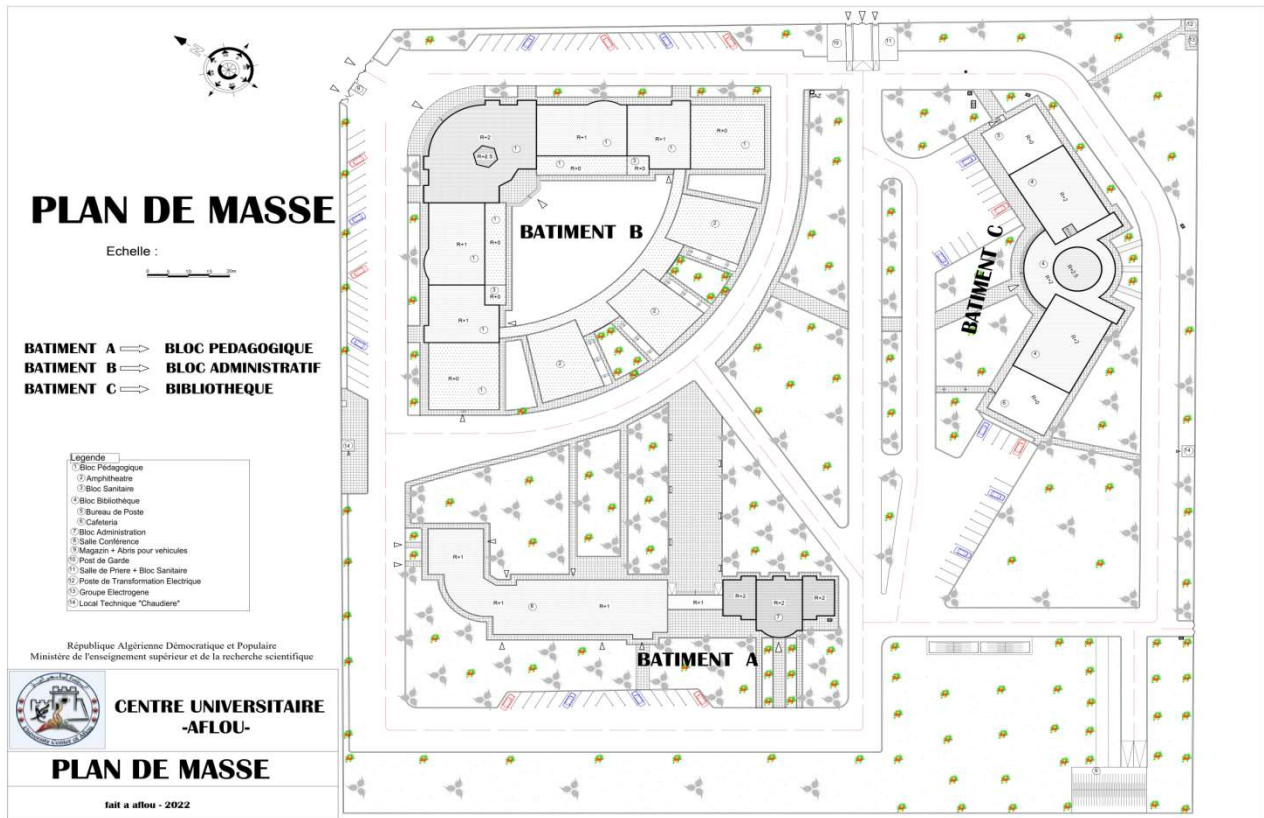


Figure 1 : Plan de masse

## B. Educational infrastructure

**Table 1: Pedagogical infrastructure available 1000 places**

Bloc Pédagogique	Nombre
Amphithéâtre de 200 places.	01
Amphithéâtre de 150 places.	02
Salle de conférences 300 places	01
Salle de conférences 90 places (Doctorant)	01
Salle de Cours 80 places.	09
Salle de Travaux Dirigés 30 places.	20
Salle de Travaux Pratiques (informatique) 30 places.	04
bibliothèque (250)	
Stockage des livres (Rayonnage)	01
Salle d'informatique (Internet)	01
Salle des Revues et Périodique	01
Salle de Lecture pour Enseignants	01
Salle Lecture pour Etudiants	02
Bloc Administratifs	27
Foyer pour étudiants	01
Bureau de Poste	01

## C. Geographic aspects

The Aflou University Center is located in the historic capital of the famous Djebel Amour on the Saharan Atlas Mountains at an altitude of 1400 m which occupies an equidistant position between four wilayas:

- The wilaya of El Bayadh to the west.
- The wilaya of Djelfa to the east;
- The wilaya of Laghouat in the south;
- The wilaya of Tiaret in the north;

The city of Aflou is a capital of Daïra which includes several municipalities occupying an area of 405 km<sup>2</sup>, the population of the 12 municipalities of the northern part of the Wilaya of Laghouat reached in 2012 nearly 214,162 inhabitants. However, if this city will be promoted Wilaya delegated as part of a new administrative division project, it will bring

together the four neighboring Dairas, namely, Oued Morra, Brida, Gueltat Sidi Saad, and



El Ghicha.

***Figure 3: Location of the municipality of Aflou in the wilaya of Laghouat***

Located in the northern zone of the wilaya which represents an immense homogeneous geographical and climatic space and whose vocation is essentially agro-pastoral in nature with great steppe agricultural, forestry, tourist, mining and archaeological potential. The Daïra of Aflou depends on a Wilaya that is part of the pastoral wilayas. It was also part of the Hauts Plateaux composed of the three Wilayas of Djelfa, M'Sila and Laghouat. Finally, it should be added that the Aflou region is also part of the subset having as support "Oued Touil" grouping the Wilayas of Tiaret, Djelfa and the South of Médéa.

#### **D. Historical aspects**

The first traces of human presence in the Djebel Amour region date back to the Neolithic in the prehistoric era, between 6000 years and 9000 years before our era, in fact, eleven rock engravings are listed in the region of El ghicha alone , including the famous engraving that Unicef has adopted as its emblem, representing an elephant protected by its mother and watched by a panther, , the other drawings show mammoths, felines, rhinos, zebras, ostriches, in addition to sun and moon worship rituals. The city's public park also preserves a stone with Roman inscriptions from the Agnab region. There are also other more recent ruins dating back to Islamic periods, including the Ksar of Touilla, built in 1727 by the Turks, as cited by Ibn Hattal at-Telimssani in his work which traces the companion of Dey Mohamed el-Kabir. There is also in the region of Er-reha in El-ghicha a water mill built by the Spaniards around 1760.

The Jebel Amour region showed fierce resistance to French troops, we know that it was visited by the Emir Abdelkader in 1838 as part of the popular mobilization against the French offensive towards Algeria where he was welcomed by the local people with love and enthusiasm, it is said that the nobles of the region offered him a mare as a form of obedience. Later during the period from 1863 to 1876, a son of the region, the Cherif Bouchoucha triggered an armed revolution that extended to the far south.

During the war of independence, Jebel Amour, which depended on the fifth region, and southern Oran experienced several battles, including:

On October 3, 1956, the battle of El-khoutaifa which resulted in 45 dead and five French prisoners in addition to material damage;

On October 4, 1956, the Battle of Chouabir which resulted in 1,375 French deaths in addition to material damage and the acquisition of several weapons and ammunition;

On April 30, 1957, the battle of Djebel An-nadour which resulted in 35 dead and 75 French prisoners and the acquisition of 35 weapons;

On June 16, 1957, the battle of Khnag En-nemra which resulted in 40 French dead and several wounded;

May 19, 1957, The Battle of Khnag Abderrahmane; August 1957, the battle of Es-souma...etc.

Of course, the enumeration of the exhaustive list of all the battles of this fighting region goes far beyond the scope of this report, hence the need to create a structure dedicated to the preservation of this honorable part of the national memory.

## **2. Socio-economic environment**

### **A. Irrigated agriculture in the Aflou region**

Faced with the challenges of modernizing the agricultural sector and food security, the Algerian public authorities have, since the discovery of the water potential of the southern regions (steppe and Sahara), initiated several agricultural policies and programs to achieve these objectives. These regions have become the hope of Algerian agriculture with the emergence of new agricultural poles which have contributed 27% to national agricultural production (MADR 2021). The Aflou region is one of these agricultural centers which experienced remarkable agricultural dynamics during the period 2000-2021, which translates into a 20-fold increase in the areas (cultivated) of potatoes and onion (DSA de Laghouat, 2021). This region supplies the national potato market with a production of 1,150,000 quintals (DSA 2021), i.e. 97% of the total production of the wilaya of Laghouat and a third of the production of the wilaya of Mascara (apple capital land in Algeria). As for onion cultivation, it represents 63% of the wilaya's production with yields close to international standards (600 q/ha compared to 500 q/ha in the Netherlands – FAO data, 2014).

### **B. Pastoral farming in the Aflou region**

Examination of agricultural data from the Aflou region shows that the main vocation of this region is pastoral farming. Agro-pastoral activity remains dominant, and constitutes the main economic activity of the rural population of the Aflou region. Indeed, the area used by livestock activity occupies more than 95% of the total agricultural area (approximately 566,493 ha). The useful agricultural area represents 5% of the total area of the Aflou region, of which 49% of this area is devoted to rainfed cereals (barley and wheat). Dry cereal farming and pastoral farming remain the main characteristics of agropastoral systems in the Aflou region, like most steppe regions. The rangelands in the region are subject to continuous degradation due to several anthropogenic and physical factors. In the steppe regions, animal pressure on the rangelands is above the norm. The theoretical



average potential animal load in the Aflou region is estimated at 3 hectares per sheep, which classifies these rangelands in the category of degraded rangelands.

In the region of Aflou, sheep are largely in the majority in the composition of the herds with 751,444 heads, or 38% of the total workforce of the wilaya of Laghouat. Cattle represent 11,642 head, approximately 55% of the wilaya's overall cattle herd.

### **3. Environment and science**

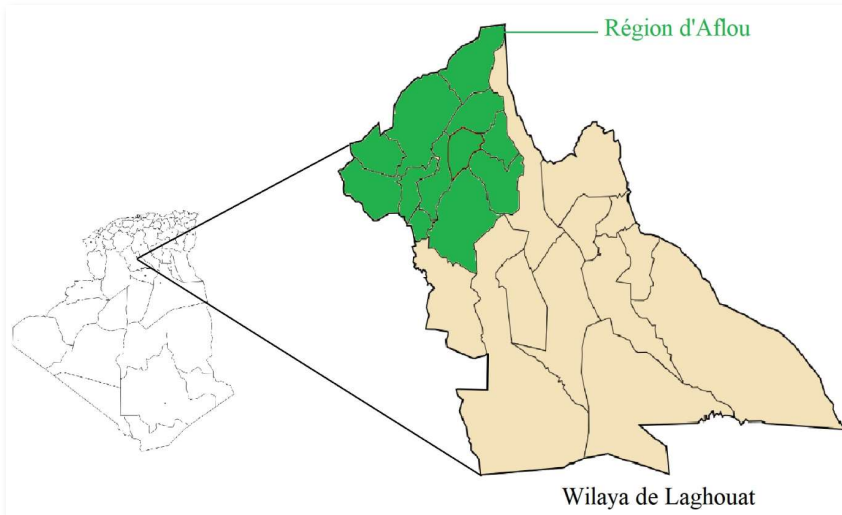
The interaction between the University Center of Aflou and its local environment has considerably improved in recent years compared to the past, indeed, since the development of the strategic project of the establishment, the center has established fruitful relations with companies, research centers, and higher education establishments operating in the territory of the wilaya of Laghouat, which will certainly contribute to the development of scientific research within the establishment and improve its educational performance. This ecosystem is mainly composed of the following entities:

- A. Amar Telidji University – Laghouat
- B. Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) – Laghouat;
- C. Center for Research in Islamic Sciences and Civilization;
- D. Medicinal plant research unit.
- E. DMN, SONATRACH – Hassi rmel;
- F. AMOUDA Cement Company - El-Beidha
- G. Technical Platform for Physico-Chemical Analysis-Laghouat;
- H. CRSTRA – Taouiala Branch;The observation and experimentation station in the steppe environment (Taouiala) is part of the Center for Scientific and Technical Research on Arid Regions (CRSTRA Biskra). It is responsible for i) carrying out scientific and technical research programs on arid regions and/or regions threatened by drought or desertification; ii) undertake and/or participate in any multidisciplinary research relating to Arid Regions; ii) establish a scientific and technical database on Arid Regions and ensure its processing, conservation and dissemination; and iv) participate in any research on understanding and addressing human vulnerability to environmental change. It contains two analysis laboratories: (water, soil and plant and animal analysis) and has several researchers from various fields of research: zootechnics, plant improvement, plant ecology, zoology and agricultural economics and rural development.



**Figure 2: Observation and experimentation station in the steppe environment (Taouiala)**

The objective of this type of training is to found, in parallel with the technical disciplines of the university curriculum, engineers or masters in agronomy and zootechnics with skills in the creation of companies and start-ups "engineer-entrepreneur profile". , while developing their knowledge of market analysis, risk management, financial and legal analysis, opportunity identification and technical and organizational innovation.



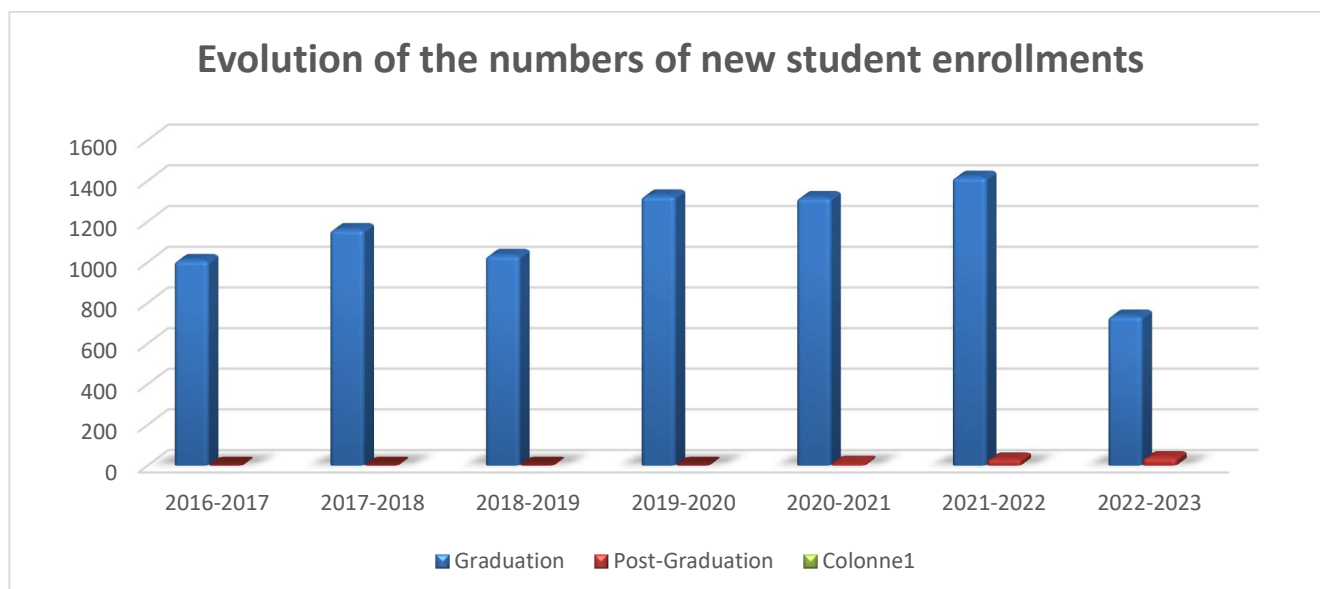
**Figure 4: Location of the Aflou region in the wilaya of Laghouat**

## *Key figures*

### .1Number of students

**Table 3: Evolution of the numbers of new student enrollments 2016/2023**

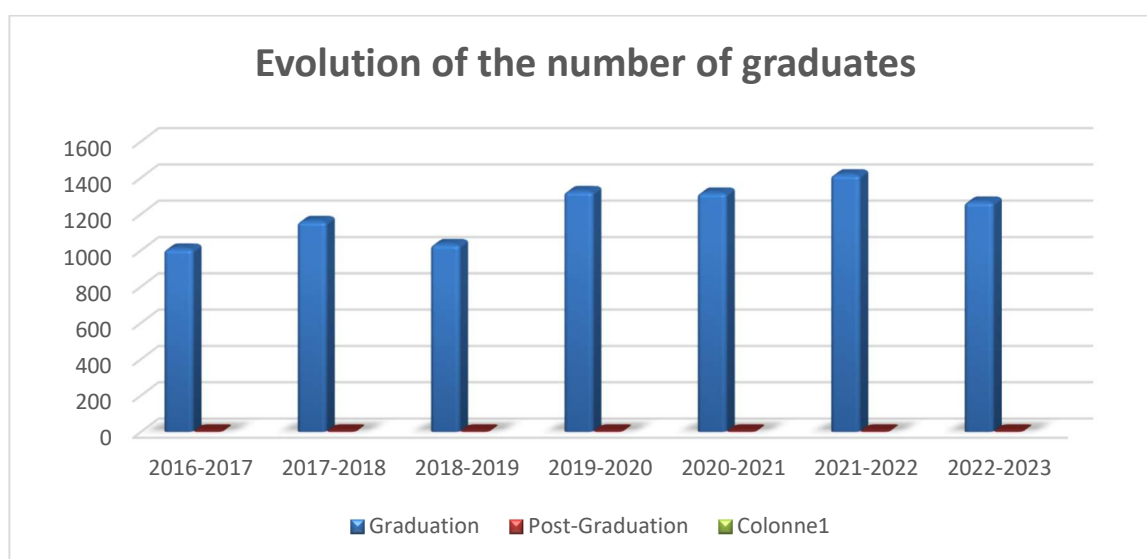
Année Universitaire	Graduation	Post-Graduation	Total
2016-2017	1009	0	1009
2017-2018	1161	0	1161
2018-2019	1034	0	1034
2019-2020	1326	0	1326
2020-2021	1318	09	1327
2021-2022	1418	30	1448
2022-2023	736	38	774



**Figure 5: Evolution of the numbers of new student enrollments 2016/2023**

**Table 4: Evolution of the number of graduates 2016/2023**

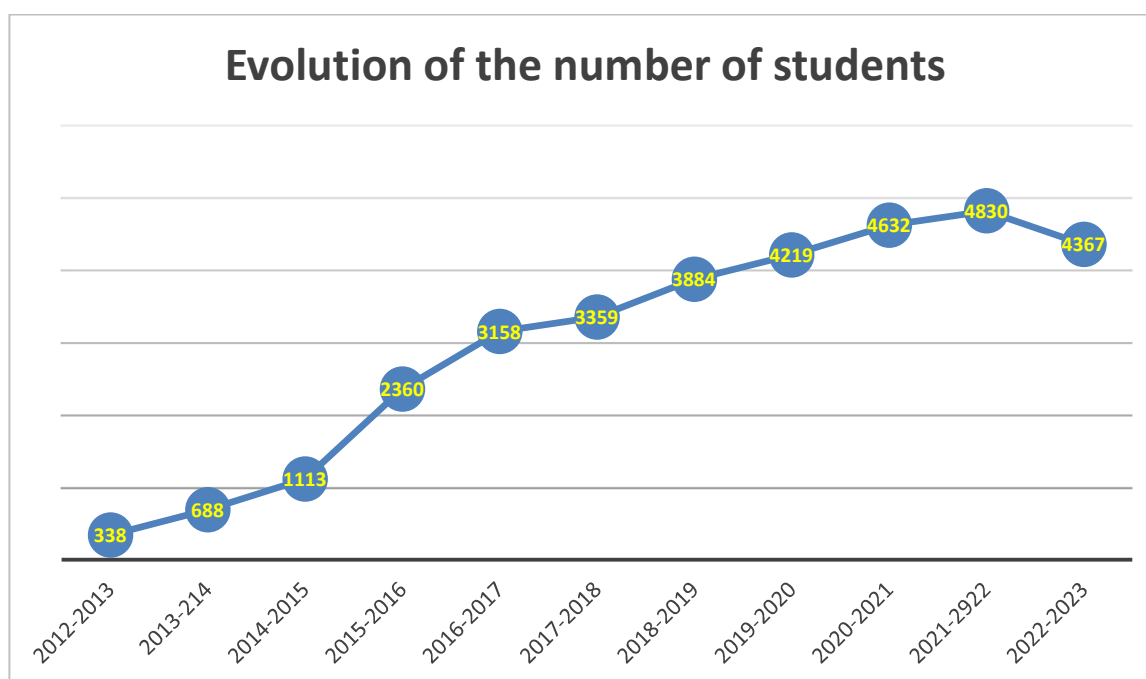
<i>Année universitaire</i>	<i>Graduation</i>	<i>Post-Graduation</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>2016-2017</i>	<i>1009</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>1009</i>
<i>2017-2018</i>	<i>1161</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>1161</i>
<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>1034</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>1034</i>
<i>2019-2020</i>	<i>1326</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>1326</i>
<i>2020-2021</i>	<i>1318</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>1318</i>
<i>2021-2022</i>	<i>1418</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>1418</i>
<i>2022-2023</i>	<i>1268</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>1268</i>



**Figure 6: Evolution of the number of graduates 2016/2022**

**Figure 6: Evolution of the number of graduates 2016/2022**

Année	Nombre d'étudiants inscrits
2012-2013	338
2013-2014	688
2014-2015	1113
2015-2016	2360
2016-2017	3158
2017-2018	3359
2018-2019	3884
2019-2020	4219
2020-2021	4632
2021-2022	4830
2022-2023	4367

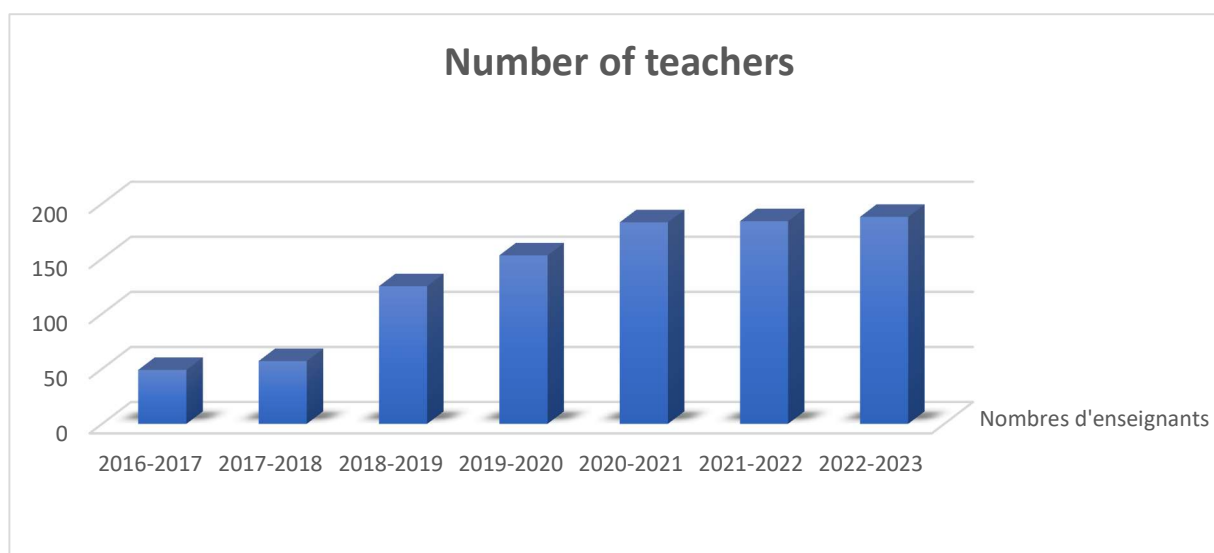


**Figure 7:: Evolution of the number of students**

## Teachers

**Table 7: Evolution of the number of teachers 2016/2022**

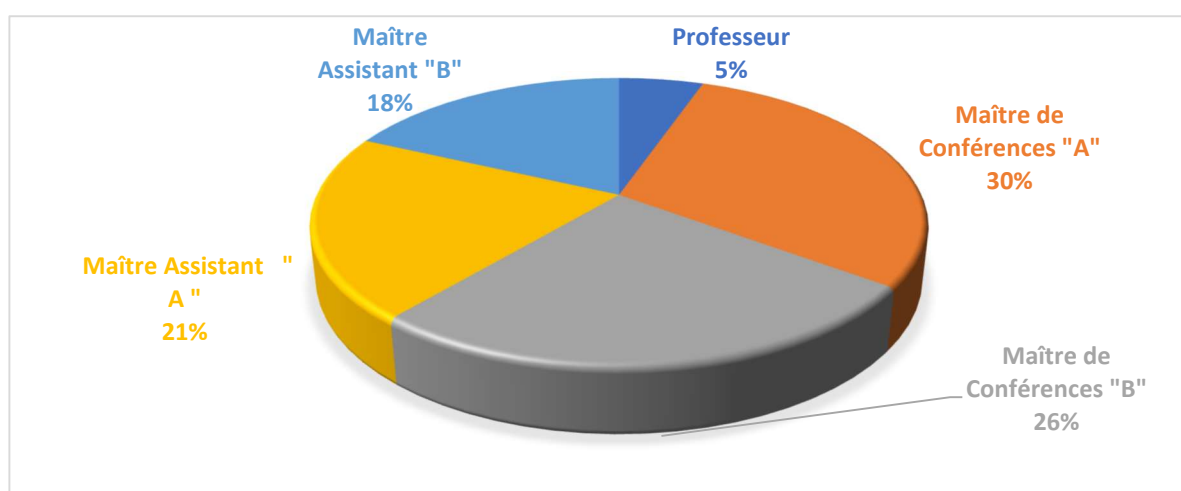
Année universitaire	Nombre d'enseignants
2016-2017	49
2017-2018	57
2018-2019	125
2019-2020	153
2020-2021	183
2021-2022	184
2022-2023	188



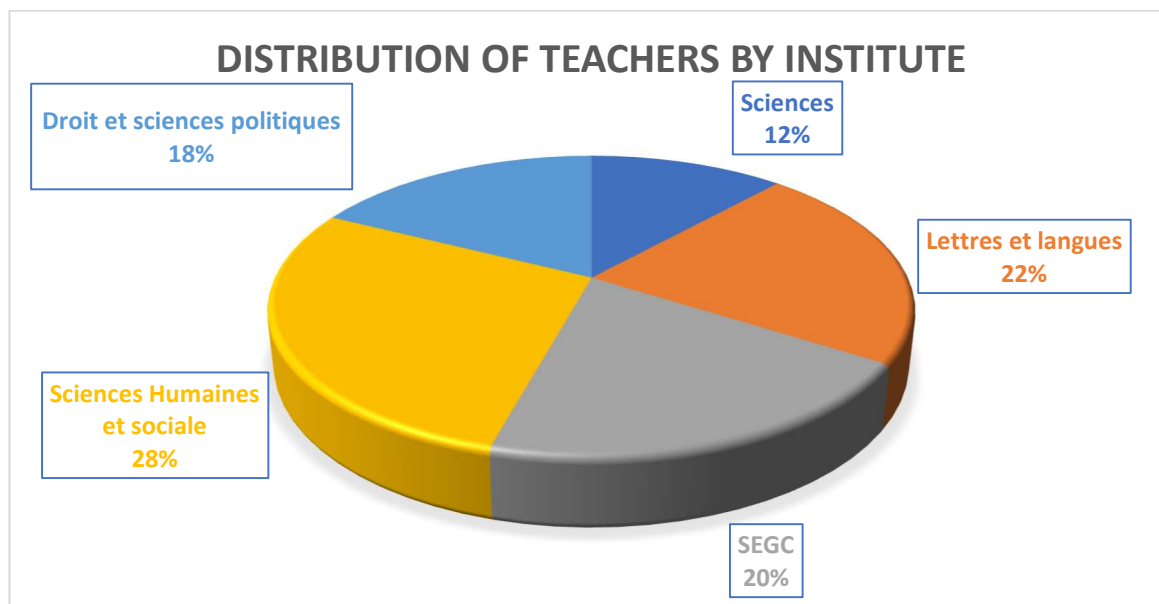
**Figure 9: Evolution of the number of teachers 2016/2022**

**Table 8: Distribution of teachers by institute and by scientific grade**

Institut	Effectif des enseignants par grade					
	Pr.	MC-A	MC-B	MA-A	MA-B	Total
Sciences	1	1	4	5	11	22
Lettres et langues	4	12	13	10	3	42
SEGC	1	10	13	7	7	38
Sciences Humaines et sociale	3	22	10	9	9	53
Droit et sciences politiques	1	11	9	8	4	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>188</b>



**Figure 2 : Distribution of teachers by scientific grade**



**Figure 11: Distribution of teachers by institute**

**Table 10: Status of ATS staff (including contractual) 2022/2021**

<b>Niveau de qualification</b>	<b>Sexe</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	
<b>Encadrement</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Application</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Maitrise</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>Exécution</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Contractuelle</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>162</b>