



Laila Elhouta

20 years old | Green Tech Institute, 2nd year
and 1337, 1st year | 1 sister and 1 brother

Hometown: Marrakech

“ I would like to go into politics ”





Laila Elhouta

« Why do we find it normal for a child to sleep on the street? »

Laila, a determined young woman, is coding her way to success with a clear ambition: to help others one day. Her passion and perseverance make her a role model to follow closely.

Laila arrives early for the interview. Thanks to one of her colleagues from 1337, she finds the studio and settles in while we finish recording another interview. We are surprised to find her there because our meeting was supposed to be at the café. This already reveals her resourcefulness and determination, traits that will only be confirmed during our conversation.

These qualities show early on in her life. In high school, Laila insisted on leaving private school and enrolling in a public school: «Our house was next to a high school, and I saw the public school students leaving and having fun. I wanted to try that experience.» After years of refusals, her parents finally relented, on the condition that she

maintained good grades. This personal choice marked a turning point in her life.

At this school, an English teacher she admires tells her about UM6P. She submits her application without knowing much



about the university. It's only on the day of the entrance exam that she discovers the university, its facilities, and the opportunities it offers. Still, she hesitates between preparatory classes and the GTI program at UM6P. «In the end, I followed my heart, which told me to come here.»

Leaving her family home helps Laila discover herself. She learns to manage her finances, her time, and to study without being pushed by her parents. This allows her to gain confidence, and naturally, the

way her family views her changes: «Today, my parents know that I know what I'm doing.» When she decides to also join 1337 alongside her GTI program, her family doesn't question her decision, despite the demands of both courses. Laila never doubts her abilities. Hyperactive, the young woman gets bored quickly. She confesses that summer vacations have always been a nightmare for her. When asked if she never gets tired, she laughs: «Everyone asks me that.» For her, it's all about organization. When she finishes working on her GTI assignments, she switches her student cap for the one at 1337, where she becomes «Samaka»**.

Laila admits that it took a lot of hard work to overcome the challenges she faced. When she joined 1337, she had never coded before. «On the first day, I sat in a corner and cried,» she says, laughing. But she perseveres and passes the entrance exams: «That's something I love about myself: I never give up, even when it's hard.»

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With clarity, Laila also recognizes her weaknesses, particularly her difficulty in expressing her needs, even to her family. «I don't know why,» she says, recalling the many times she preferred to handle things on her own. When asked about her

best memory at UM6P, her eyes fill with tears: «The first day, when I came with my parents, I saw the pride in their eyes.»

One day, Laila wants to become a businesswoman like her father, to have a solid financial foundation. But what she wants above all is to help others: «I wonder why it's normal for a child to sleep on the street, or for elderly people to be neglected. Why do people normalize these things?» While waiting for the right moment to act on these issues, Laila focuses on her studies and concludes: «One day, inshallah... I will become a politician.»



* «13» is the nickname given by 1337 students to their school

** Samaka, literally «the fish.» At 1337, all students and staff have a nickname inspired by something specific about them. Laila is «Samaka,» the fish, because this is the meaning of her family name.