



# Salma Qetrani

30 years old | PhD in Agro-Biosciences  
2<sup>nd</sup> year | Married, 1 child (2 years old)

**Hometown:** Marrakech



“ I want  
my son to be  
proud of his mom

”





## Salma Qetrani

“ You have to trust  
that God will take care  
of everything ”

**Mother, wife, daughter, sister, PhD student... Salma gracefully juggles her multiple roles, embodying the power of family, resilience, and faith.**

When she arrives for our first meeting, Salma is exactly as she will be in all the subsequent ones: warm, generous, enthusiastic, and sensitive. After only a few minutes of conversation, she wipes away tears as she talks about her son. «I am emotional,» she explains. Originally from Marrakech, where she joins her husband and son on weekends, this young woman in her thirties is in her second year of a PhD in the Agro-Biosciences department. She wears many hats. What allows her to manage her various roles is her passion: “I’ve always been fascinated by how science can help farmers become more resilient to climate challenges,” she says. Her commitment to agriculture is evident through the numerous internships and jobs she’s held, supporting farmers in rural and mountainous regions. After a brief stint in the agro-food industry, she

lands a job as a medical delegate. Salma, who once saw herself as a “100% scientist,” discovers in herself extraordinary, untapped talents for marketing and sales. Salma, who initially didn’t even have her driver’s license travels across the country, surpasses her objectives, and forms almost familial bonds with her colleagues. “The contact with people was always very pleasant, and I put my heart into this job. But then... there was this dream that haunted me: Salma, you need a PhD!”

It was this dream that drove her to take the next step. In 2017, a distant relative tells her about UM6P. Intrigued and full of hope, she decides to take a chance. On the day of the entrance exam, Salma is overwhelmed by stress: “I wanted this opportunity so much that I lost all my abilities.” Though this first attempt ends in failure, Salma is not the type to give up. A few years

later, she applies again, this time for a special cycle program. But fate has other plans: the pandemic strikes, and her dreams are put on hold. Salma must wait. In 2021, her perseverance finally pays off. This time, she is ready. She takes the interview, more determined than ever, and finally earns her place at UM6P. «I was admitted!» she says, with pride in her voice.

📖 *The challenges  
I've been through have  
shaped the person  
I am today* 📖

At the university, Salma faces new challenges. Surrounded by younger students, more comfortable with the technologies that she is still mastering, she sometimes feels overwhelmed. Torn between her family life in Marrakech and her studies in Ben Guerir, finding balance is difficult for Salma. But she knows she's not alone. «Fate and God have helped me... and certainly my mother's prayers, Alhamdulillah,» she says with gratitude. This faith, which accompanies her every step of the way, is her anchor. Despite the guilt of leaving her child behind to pursue her studies, she holds firm. «One day, he will be proud of his mom,» she whispers, tears welling up in her eyes.

When asked about her greatest academic achievement, Salma does not hesitate for a second: the publication of her first scientific article. «Without the guidance and support of my professors, I would

never have reached this level,» she says gratefully. Her thankfulness doesn't stop there. She speaks of her family, her pillar: her mother, «the fighter,» her late father, «the great man,» her brother, «the social one,» her sister, «the free spirit,» and her husband, «the dreamer.» Again, the tears come.

But behind this apparent vulnerability lies a great inner strength. Salma accepts the difficulties with a rare serenity because she knows it is these challenges that have shaped her. Salma is a sweet person with a soft heart, who we send on her way, ready to pursue her path and achieve one of her dreams: «to be a researcher who makes an impact.»

