

MEET MARIA, OUR NEW BRITISH ASSISTANT...

Maria was recently interviewed by Mrs Garcia's 201 students.
Here is her portrait.

Family & Friends (by Orianne, Lily, Sofia)

Maria is 20 years old.

Her mother is German and her father is English.

Her mother is a marketing manager at a software company.

Her father owns his own company and sells branded products to companies.

Her parents separated when she was 3 years old and she lives with her mother and her younger sister whose name is Clara.

She has blond hair like her but she is taller.

They are both studying in the same university, but Clara wants to be a doctor or something in medicine.

They have a good relation.

Her mother is very proud of her, she's trying to help her as much as possible in her career choices.

When she said that she was going to leave for France for several months, her mother was very happy because she wants the best for her, but a little sad too because she was leaving for several months, even if she will come to visit her all the same.

She has already made many friends in Perpignan, especially language assistants who do the same work as her. They all are 20 years old. And she also has friends in "Lycée Arago".

Studies & Education (by Eleen, Simon, Firmin, Paul)

Where did you do your studies?

Before going to Cardiff University in Wales, where I still am, I first studied in England.

What did you study?

Specialized in languages, German and French, as well as Chemistry and Art.

What's the major difference between the French and the British education systems?

Contrary to France where you have to study a lot of subjects, in England, students only need to choose 3 optional subjects for their A-Levels. It's the main difference between the two education systems.

Why did you choose French and not another language?

I loved French at school, so I decided to continue studying that subject at university.

I didn't choose German because my mum is German and I already speak this language at home.

How long do you still need to study?

I started university when I was 19 and I have completed my 3rd year.

I have only 1 more year to do now.

Hobbies, Likes & Dislikes (by Lisa, Sacha, Lorenzo)

What is your favourite artistic activity?

I really like to draw

Do you do any sport?

Yes, I practise gymnastics, tennis and basketball

What is your main hobby?

Gymnastics and drawing are my major hobbies

Do you like animals? If yes, what is your favourite?

Yes, I love animals, my favourite are dogs

Do you play any musical instrument?

Yes, I play the violin

What do you do exactly in Perpignan ?

I work as a language assistant. It means I am in Jean Lurçat to teach English to the students.

Past life and Travels (by Krystalle, Lou-Hann, Ronanenn)

Krystalle : *Before France, where did you travel ?*

I went to Hong Kong, to California... I visited a lot of places in Europe, like Austria, Greece, Sardegna, Corsica...err....Spain, I went to Spain...err... Morocco, the north of Africa...Florida ... a lot places (laugh). I want to travel more in Europe I want to go to Hungary and I want to go to Prague and Vienna

Ronanenn : *Yes, Vienna is very beautiful !*

Yes, and maybe in the future, South Africa and Australia, but I need money for that, so... (laugh)

Ronanenn : *What country do you like the most ?*

Ah ok...hum... I think in the summer I was in Portugal and I really liked Portugal, because of the weather and the culture and the food

Ronanenn : *Good food, yes right ?(laugh)*

Yeas, excellent food, but I also really like Venice, I went to Venice in Italy and I love the topics of the arts

Ronanenn : *Yes, it is very beautiful, but I think it is dirty...*

Yes, true, but I went in winter, so it was really cold, but I was very beautiful

And the food !pizzas, spaghetti... everything ! (laugh)

Ronanenn : *Can you tell us about a child memory you have ?*

Child memories ?Em...it is a very difficult question, what do you mean ?

Ronanenn : *A good memory which has impacted you ?*

Ok... it is a very difficult question... I don't know, I'll go back to this question in one minute if you don't mind

Krystalle : *What did you like to do when you were a child ?*

What I did like to do ? Oh... I liked doing lots of sports, so I did ice skating for a bit and I loved to draw when I was younger and play with my sister

Lou-Hann : *Are you nostalgic about something ?*

Wow, it's a very deep question (laugh) hum, nostalgic ? I don't know ! (laugh)

Ronanenn : *Now you are in France, do you miss something from home?*

I miss my friends, my mom my family

And the English culture sometimes

Ronanenn : *What do you mean ?*

Hum...like how easy it is to go a shop in England and just get what you want

In England, I just go to Tesco, it's a supermarket where you can get everything you need

Ronanenn : *So, you think in France we have small shops ?*

No, it is just ... It's not small ! I went to Auchan the other day and omg it's so big ! I was so overwhelmed !(laugh)

But I think there are just different types of food here and in England we have our own food... everything is grown in England like English farms, the milk from English farms like vegetables from English farms and I think it is very different here and the traditions too.

Ronanenn : *Like Thanksgiving or Christmas ?*

Yes, I would said that these are the things I miss the most

Lou-Hann : *What was your dream job when you were young ?*

I wanted to be a children doctor, but my grades at school weren't good enough, so I decided to start studying languages because I was interested in that.

Now I think I made the right choice because I think studying medicine is very hard and I don't think I could do that.

Life in England, opinion on France & Perpignan (by Alicia, Anaïs, Brayan)

Maria lives in the outskirts of Oxford with her mum and her sister. She loves her country and her city, even if it is small, smaller than Perpignan in fact !

Maria finds it difficult to choose between France and England: England is her home country, but on the other hand she really loves France...

She has German origins (from her mum's side) and speaks this language fluently.

Her favourite English traditions are the Sunday roast that she eats at the pub with her friends (roast beef, roast potatoes and Yorkshire puddings) and to spend Christmas with her family.

When we asked her opinion on Perpignan, she said it was a very cute city

(by Chloé, Adelaïde, Alizée)

Do you like France? Perpignan ?

Yes, I love the weather ! It is wonderful, and the shops !

What do you love or hate about France and French people?

I love the history of France, the differences between France and England, your culture and your food especially “pain au chocolat” as well as your “tarte aux pommes”

What I don't like however is when people tell me I have an accent !!

Why did you choose to come to France this year and not another country ?

I had the choice between France and Germany, but I liked France better.

Before, had you already visited or come to France?

Yes, I had been to Saint Malo, Bordeaux, Calais and to the Alps region.

Don't you have any regrets to have come here?

No, I don't, but I miss my sister because I have a fusional relation with her and it's hard to be apart. And I also miss my friends, even if I can call them with Facetime and Skype. They are traveling too.

Have you had time to visit Perpignan yet?

Yes, I visited the Castillet, the Palais des Rois de Majorque and I went to the Raoul Duffy exhibition in the Rigaud Museum. It was great !

Future & Ambitions (by Alia, Zoé, Sarah)

Maria wants to pursue her studies in psychology or business in France. Or maybe, she will just look for a job.

If she can she would first like to work in England and after she would like to find an occupation in Germany or France because she loves this country.

When she was a child, she wanted to become a doctor but she realized she would not succeed because she had very bad marks in science.

When asked about her future personal life, Maria says she wants to have a family. It's very important for her, and she would like to have 2 kids.

