



Diputación
de Granada



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Escuela Municipal
de Apoyo al Extranjero



**INTERVIEW WITH TEACHERS MARIA
AGUILA LUQUE AND JALILA TAOUFIKI
BENCHAIB, TEACHERS AT THE
MUNICIPAL SCHOOL FOR FOREIGN
SUPPORT IN GRANADA**

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At the beginning of the school year, an interview was granted by the two teachers of the Municipal School of Support for Foreigners in Granada, Maria Aguila Luque and Jalila Taoufiki Benchaib, for the Granada Acoge Association, this is the interview.

Maria, how did the idea of creating this project come about?

The idea arose after several years living in Granada, and seeing every day the number of people who are from other countries and are in Granada, every day when I go out shopping, to the bars, to the theater, or anywhere in Granada, I always feel multiculturalism,

to a large number of people who are from other countries and are in Granada, it is something that I said, we must encourage the promotion of an open mentality towards other people, because Granada is multicultural and diverse.

I think it is very important to adopt inclusion projects and generate opportunities and support for these people, who currently constitute a large part of the population of Granada.

I also looked in other provinces and saw that there was a Municipal School for foreigners, but not in Granada, which is why I started said school.



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- **What are the essential points or ideas you are working on in this project?**

The essential ideas on which we have created this project are the idea of equality and support for people from other cultures who are in Granada, and who may have needs for care, for their integration, and who do not feel like foreigners in Granada, make them feel granadan@s.

We are aware of the difficulty of being in a place foreign to someone's culture, and therefore the idea is to eliminate the obstacles and obstacles of being in Granada.

- **Why was this idea in Granada?**

It was in Granada because it is a city in which a large number of people from other countries, cities and towns currently live, and who for various reasons find themselves in Granada, and deserve first, our respect, and second, attention and support.

I think that diversity and multiculturalism in Granada is something that also drives development as a city, and therefore, is favorable.

- **Tell me about your association and your goals**

Our association promotes economic development and entrepreneurship, and from this perspective we support diversity and multiculturalism in Granada, aware that said diversity has a positive impact on the city, since on the one hand the people who come to Granada, whether temporarily or permanently they will in some way contribute in one way or another to developing and being part of the city of Granada. On the other hand, foreign people also contribute to Granada with a cultural and human wealth that is also present in its history.

- **What do you take into account when looking for collaborators in your project?**

When hiring collaborators, we take into account that they are people with an open and tolerant mentality, and that they have training or experience in working with foreign people.

We also promote training to serve foreigners in Granada, we start from people with knowledge of languages, since it is very important to know the language of the foreigner to be able to serve them.

- **How did you meet Jalila Taoufiki, collaborator on this project?**

I was taking a course from the Junta de Andalucía that trained me to teach, and there I met Jalila.

We were both getting the professional certificate to provide training and teaching to the students.

We did the internship together and gave classes to the students at an institute in Granada.

- **Jalila, how do you feel about this project and what goals move you?**

I feel this project as a great project, in which I have the opportunity to teach, which is my vocation, and to also be able to help other foreign people who are in Granada, and many times they do not have other support, or if they do, they need more help.

I love the project, from the moment María told me the idea of creating a Municipal School of Support for Foreigners, it seemed like a super good and important idea to promote in a city like Granada.



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- **Maria, what are the goals you hope to achieve in the development of this project?**

We mainly hope to make the mentality towards foreigners more tolerant, first of all.

Secondly, we want to promote the inclusion and integration of people from other countries in Granada, giving them support so that they do not feel like foreigners in a city as welcoming and wonderful as Granada.

And we also want to promote culture towards people who do not have resources.

- **Do you have funding for this project?**

We have started this project and we are developing it without external resources, we are financing it with our own resources and money.

We would like them to finance us something, but the truth is that we are doing it with our own financing.

We think it is a good project for Granada, and that idea moves us towards the development and values that we promote.



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