

When we think of an immigrant, we usually think of someone who is poor, who has made a lot of sacrifice and spent many difficulties to settle in our country.

The Erasmus group of the IES Manuel de Falla thought that is not always like that. There are two types of immigration, one that comes from rich countries, mainly from North and Central Europe, and another from poor countries, mostly from Africa. In our school we find both: a teacher from Ireland and a student from the Republic Saharawi. The two people we have interviewed.



**NAME:** Kenny Mulholland, Mark Anthony

**ORIGINAL COUNTRY:** Ireland

**ENGLISH TEACHER**

**Why did you leave your country?**

I wanted to travel and know the world.

**When did you arrive to Spain?**

I arrived in Spain the first time in 2000 because I was in an Erasmus program in Seville.

**Why did you come to Spain?**

The first time that I went to Spain was because I wanted to go to South America because I wanted to cooperate with an American NGO, so I needed to speak Spanish before. Spain it was the best country to do it.

Besides, in my family there is a tradition of going to another country for a period of time.

**How did you come to Spain?**

I went to Sevilla with an Erasmus grant.

**What have you done since you were here?**

I have studied a lot, I have traveled around the world, I got a job and I formed my own family.

**Has it been difficult to adapt?**

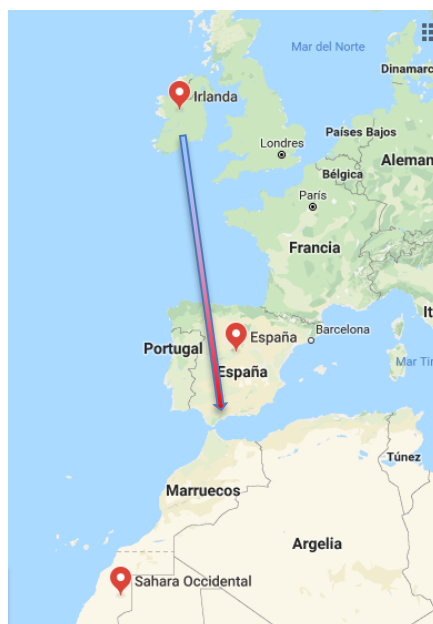
No, I didn't get any difficulties compared with other immigrants. The only problem I had, was to validate my Ireland studies.

**What are the disadvantages of living out of your country?**

As I said before, I hadn't got any difficulty to adapt to Spain. I'm from Dublin and Ireland is into the European Union, so it has been very easy for me to live in Spain. Only one thing. I miss my family. They are so far away.

**How often do you see your family?**

I go there once a year and they come to Spain twice a year.



**Since you were here, has your personal situation improved?**

No, my personal situation has always been good.

**Do you think that you are going to come back to your country?**

No because I have my job and my family here.



**NAME:** Hamdi, Toutou

**ORIGINAL COUNTRY:** Saharawi Republic  
**STUDENT**

**Why did you leave Saharawi Republic?**

Because I wanted to study and in the Sahara it is impossible to do it. Besides finding a job is very difficult there, especially for a woman.

**Why did you choose Spain?**

Mainly because Spain helps Saharan people a lot and the quality of living here is better than in my country. Besides I have more opportunities to find a job.

**When did you come to Spain?**

The first time was in 2001, during a summer holiday with the help of a NGO. The next year I came to Spain to stay and study.

**How did you come here?**

With an association called Salam Pa that it helps children to come to Spain in summer because in the Sahara is so hot.

**What have you done since you arrived here?**

I've studied and worked.

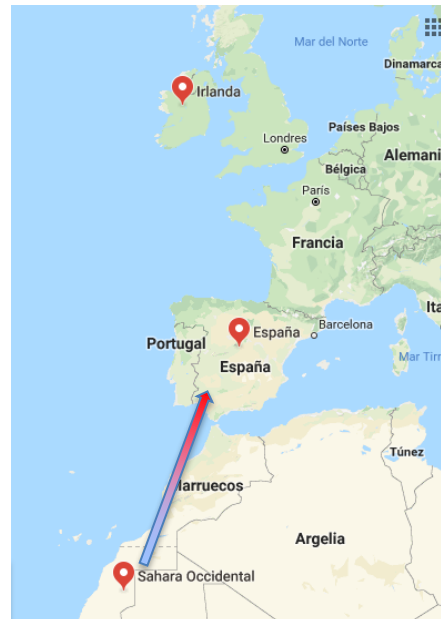
**Have you had difficulties to adapt?**

No, Spanish people know our situation and they help us a lot.

**When have you been here since?**

I've been here for 17 years. Since then I have been there twice to visit my family.

**What are the disadvantages of living outside your country?**



I would like to see my family and I can't do it. This has been the main difficulty. Having the right documents has been another difficulty.

**How is the feeling of having your family so far away?**

It feels bad. You want to have always your family next to you to help them and give them the basic necessities. Sometimes I send food, medicine and money to my family through other people.

**Those people are inside the organization?**

No, close people as family, friends, ...

**Why can't you bring your family here?**

Because it costs a lot of money to get a passport and a visa. That is very expensive for me.

**How often do you meet to your family?**

I visited my mother and my brother last summer but I haven't seen my sister for a long time.

**Since you were here, has your personal situation improved?**

Yes, a lot because I was so lucky having a great host family.

**How were the first moments.?**

It was very difficult. The education here is very different.

**What are the things that surprised you the most?**

When you turn on the tap and the water comes out. It was amazing for me.

**Do you think that you are going to come back some day?**

Yes, but only for visits.

