



Patricia, you have been with us in Méntrida from the beginning of our academic year and we would love to get to know you better, your likes and hobbies. Also we would like to know a little bit about your country, that is so far but so close to Spain. In order to do that, we would like to ask you some questions if you don't mind.

Where are you from?

I'm from Concord. It is located in the state of Massachusetts, just 30 minutes by car outside Boston, the capital city of our state.

What are your favourite colour and animal?

My favourite colour is purple, my favourite animal is the penguin and I don't have a favourite sport.

Do you like your president Obama?

Yes, I do like Obama, and as a lot of people all over the world, I have high hopes for him.

Is Méntrida the first place you have been in Spain? For how long have you lived in Spain?

No, it isn't. I studied in Granada. I have lived in Spain for one year and a half.

Do you speak Spanish?

Yes, I do. But in Méntrida, in our school I'm terribly forgetful and I can't remember my Spanish, so I have to speak only English.

How many languages do you speak?

I speak English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. I'm now learning Arabic

Why have you chose to come to Spain?

I was actually supposed to study in Paris, but I had a "mid-college" crisis and decided to go to Spain instead at the last minute. I ended up falling in love with Spain

So, do you have a favourite Spanish food?

Patricia: Yes, I love "patatas bravas"

Tell us something about your country.

What I really love about the U.S. is its diversity. We are a country of immigrants, which is definitely reflected in our traditions, our food, our art, etc. I think it makes us a very interesting, dynamic country.

Do you miss your country?

No, I don't. But I miss the people, the culture and I sometimes miss understanding why someone does something. We have some big cultural differences.

Can you explain those differences to us?

There are two really big cultural differences: the first is the use of expressions such as "please", "thanks" and "excuse me". They are less common in Spain. The other difference is that people are not as afraid to say what they think to your face, here.

You have in Boston one of the most famous universities in the world: Harvard

Yes, but we call them "colleges". Harvard is not the only college in Boston. In fact, we have more than ten colleges there. It is not difficult to study in some of these colleges but it is really difficult to study in Harvard. They demand very high grades.

And finally what is your opinion about students in Méntrida?

I really enjoy my time with them, and I'll be sad to say goodbye, but I have to say students are very talkative. Much more than American children. I think I probably yell "Silence!" in my sleep now - Ha, ha!!! But children from Méntrida really are very sweet too, and a lot more affectionate than children back home. I actually had a little trouble getting used to all the hugs at first! Americans are known for being a little "cold" in the sense that they are used to having a lot of personal space, but Spaniards touch a lot more! I have had to adapt to that... I guess you can say that the children here are making me "thaw out".

Patricia nació en Concord (Massachusetts); habla inglés, español, portugués y francés y está aprendiendo árabe; le gusta Obama, como presidente, y tiene puestas en él muchas esperanzas; ha vivido también en Granada y reconoce que le gusta mucho España.

De Estados Unidos le gusta, sobre todo, la diversidad de razas y culturas ("Somos un país de inmigrantes muy dinámico, lo cual nos enriquece"). Le gusta: el color morado, los pingüinos, las patatas bravas, España y los españoles. Sin embargo, en nuestra cultura echa de menos expresiones como "gracias, lo siento, por favor o perdone".

Los niños de Méntrida me derriten. Los voy a echar mucho de menos cuando tenga que irme.