

**Extracts from an interview with Sallah Eddine Dassy, 18 years old, in the 3rd year of a Business Engineering degree at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management**

Regarding my schooling, I was already doing well in primary school and skipped a year there. My mother was really supportive, she had a good relationship with everyone in my educational environment.

In the 3rd year of secondary school, I spent a year in Morocco and was home-schooled; the same for the 4th-year curriculum in the same year. Apart from my mother, I didn't have much support. It's difficult to be disciplined when you're at home, I had to make an effort and want to work, at an age when you're mostly thinking about having fun...

When I took my 4th-year exams, I passed nearly all of them a year early. I enrolled at a secondary school anyway, but as I only had to pass two subjects, I didn't work very hard in class. The prefect advised me to take the higher education admission exams, as I wasn't allowed to sit the CESS (the exam at the end of secondary school) because I was too young.

I bought the syllabuses, studied in my bedroom (it was during Covid) and sat the exams. I spent all summer on it. When I passed, it was a nice surprise and I had to make a choice quickly. When I looked at the programmes for several courses, the Business Engineering course caught my eye straight away. Summer came to an end, and **I was admitted to University at the age of 15.**

As the admission exams took place during Covid, everyone was at home, so there was no longer the social aspect to take into account. The transition to University went well, I got on well with a lot of people, most of whom didn't know my age. In the first year, it was a real challenge, I really liked it. I can't yet say what I want to do after my studies, it changes as I discover new applications for my studies. I'm sure it will become clear during my Master's degree!