I have applied for an internship at the HCGES because I’ve heard from it by a museum and memorial place in Hesse (Germany) that I’ve voluntarily worked in. The offering sounded very interesting to me, and when I got accepted, I felt very happy and excited about this opportunity. When I arrived in Israel at the end of January, I stepped in the office a few days before I started work and was welcomed very warmly by the center staff who helped me with my first steps at the university.

During my internship, I could gain many interesting insights in the work of the center, its teaching program, and some research projects. Besides a short literature research on the discussion and articles on “euthanasia” and “eugenics” in the German context after the Shoah and the Second World War, I had the possibility to join one of its seminars during spring semester and do supporting research tasks, for example historical research on Weimar chancellor Franz von Papen which really broadened my perspective and has raised my interest. I also got the great opportunity to travel to Jerusalem twice in the frame of my internship and do some research in the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People at the Hebrew University on Yitzchak Fritz Baer, his correspondence to Leo Strauss and others, and the rediscovery of Isaac Abravanel. This research was highly interesting to me and helped me to gain some more knowledge and make some additional experiences concerning archive work; it really broadened my mind, inspired me, and motivated me to deepen my knowledge in this subject to extend my area of study.

Furthermore, I had the opportunity to gain an insight concerning the organization of national and international conferences and other events at the center. For example, I was actively involved in the organization of a conference on “Parallel Societies in Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Identitarian Societies – Living Together, Living Apart in Germany, Europe, and Israel” that was organized by the HCGES in cooperation with the Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam. In the frame of the conference, I furthermore was involved in the maintenance of the conference’s participants, especially the one of young researchers of Social Sciences, and German and European Studies from all over the world. It was very interesting, enjoyable, and helpful for me to see how such a conference was organized, and helped me to gain new perspectives on academic events in general.

In a nutshell, the time at the center, and in the state of Israel in general has broadened my mind, and, as far as I may make this estimate on myself, influenced my personal, intellectual, and social development and confidence in a very positive way. Furthermore, I am very thankful for the warmly support of the center staff and looking forward to come back to Israel someday.

photo: Charlotte Trottier