

I pack my bags: from the Hasliberg via Olomouc to Glasgow
Leila Albrecht, KA 2015-17

I packed my bags ... with edginess, eagerness, elation

I remember clearly the joy I felt as my mother called me. I was on the Berlin subway as she told me that Ecole had awarded me a scholarship. Following the interview, I had been excited and edgy for weeks, knowing I would be able to attend the Ecole only if they were able to help me out financially.

Now, three years later, and eight months after graduating, I am a volunteer in the Czech Republic in a high school with students learning German. I was recently surprised by a phone call from Benno, asking if I would consider writing something for the Ecolianer. Hence, my meandering through Ecole memories.

I packed my bag ... with a slap in the face

In the two years I attended the Ecole, I took part in seven theatre performances. During an improv rehearsal for "WARUM?!", I had the feeling that my character had to ought to slap Jonas in the face. Turns out I'm not as good an aim as I thought. In the following rehearsals I painstakingly had to learn not to laugh while I slapped him in the face, while making sure I would not cause his eardrum to burst. In the end, the slap in the face at the premiere was the best and most effective.

I packed my bags ... with pink-coloured apples

As leader of the Gender Sexuality Alliance along with Lena, and as an active member of Polygon, my experience at Ecole taught me how to lead projects. For example, I finally updated the Meiringen Concept, which had been sitting in notebook for a few years, mouldering away. The biggest project I undertook was organizing an excursion for the Alliance to Zürich, to attend the LGBTQ+ film festival called "Pink Apple". We travelled with the Ecole van and two teachers, laughing and discussing the films we had seen the whole way back. I remember especially discussing the striking decision of one director to have a transman played by a woman prior to his coming out, and afterwards by a man.

I packed my bags...with a witch hunt

Now I am working on a play with sixteen-year-olds in Olomouc. We are staging "The Crucible" (called The Witch Hunt in German) by Arthur Miller. I asked the students to speak clearly and to act decisively. This was completely new to them. They sat in their chairs, eyes wide open as I explained to them various improvisation games; they had been learning German only for nine months. Recently, two students came to the staffroom, asking me to play the game Murder with them.

I am going to pack my bags...with Mathematics and Gender History

As of September, I will be heading to a new place: this time I am off to Glasgow, where I will be studying. For a long time, I was unsure if I wanted to head to Scotland. It helped me immensely to visit Sarah, also a former Ecole student, in Glasgow. She gave me good advice regarding the housing situation, and how I should go about applying for housing. During my visit last year, I really liked the feel of older Scottish people and international students living side by side. This Scottish city is, with its bars and art scene, very lively. I so look forward to studying Math and Gender History there.