



Hila Aroch

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Program: MBA

Host University: NYU

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### **Exchange Experience**

The exchange in NYU is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Firstly, you get to live in the best city in the world. Exploring NY not as a tourist is an experience you would never forget. Secondly, you get to learn from the most impressive professors, when classes are highly interesting and provide you with hands on assignments and tools for work life.

### **NYC and NYU**

NYC offers all the things you will ever dream of: endless restaurants, shopping areas, museums, parties, rooftops, shows, and more. You can never get bored here. As life here is very convenient, you can also travel quite a lot in the states. At NYU you can find any hobby club that you are interested in, for example if you are an adventurous you can sign in to the adventures club that will take you for skiing/hiking etc (there's a membership fee). The campus of Stern is located in one of the best areas in the city – Noho. It is a young, vibrant area that connects between the East Village and Soho and is full of bars, restaurants and many cool places to hang out. The campus offers tons of events, that you will be notified via email. Every Thursday from 6pm-9pm there's a happy hour called: Beer Blast. Every week it is in a different place, and you will need to pay at the entrance 15\$ for unlimited drinks. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and socialize with full time students.

## **Courses and Professors**

Foundations of Fintech (David Yermack| Vasant Dhar| Yannis Bakos| Kathleen DeRose) – this was my favorite course. The course was taught by 4 amazing professors. I highly recommend it to anyone who's interested in the Fintech industry, and especially in blockchains and AI. It was a pretty demanding course with a quiz, final exam and 4 case studies, however I highly recommend it.

Innovation and Design (Luke Williams) – This course was one of the best I've taken. Half of the course you will get hands on experience with an industry you would like to disrupt. The professor was amazing and in one of the classes he even brought an apple designer as a guest lecture. This is a fun course and not very demanding.

Managing growing companies (Glen Okun) – Okun is one of the most “famous” professors in Stern. In this course you will review every week a different company and analyze it together with the professor in class. This class is interesting, fun and not very demanding (only 2 case studies).

Tech industry drivers (Dan Gode) – This course sounds very interesting, but actually it was my least favorite course. Firstly, the professor is very free style and doesn't have an agenda for each class. In addition, this course is very demanding, when every two weeks you need to submit the same paper and just analyze a different company from a tech/financial perspective. I didn't connect neither to the teaching style of the professor nor the course topics.

## **Accommodation**

If you're not interested in living in the dorms, the best option is to find a sublet in either Israelis Facebook groups or an apartment in an app called StreetEasy. Finding a furnished apartment is not easy but doable. Apartments in NY are taken fast just like in Tel Aviv, so if you like something you need to be prepared with all the paperwork and close it immediately. I recommend living in the following areas: Noho, East Village, West Village, Soho and Chelsea.

## **Visa**

Since I hold another kind of visa, I didn't need a student visa.

## **Transportation:**

Subway is very easy and can get you anywhere. The best option is to get the monthly unlimited pass for 122\$. In addition, Uber and Via (which is shared rides, like “Monit Sherut”) is pretty cheap.

## **Health Insurance**

Since I had a different visa, I did not need a health insurance. However, before you starts the semester NYU requires to fill out a form with your medical history, signed by your doctor. Make sure you received 3 shots twice of M.M.R. otherwise, they will require you to get these shots again before the semester starts.

## **Living Expenses – Food, Nightlife**

NY is a very expensive place to live in. However, the city offers a variety of all options from the cheapest to the most expensive, so it really depends how much you're willing to spend. There are endless restaurants and things to do at night. If you're into Brodway shows, you should sign up for the lottery every day and once you win you can get really cheap tickets for the best shows (<https://lottery.broadwaydirect.com>). In addition, you can go to the theater of the "Book of Mormon" 2 hours before the show, and sign up for the lottery, which takes place every day outside the theater. The odds to win are very high, and you can get a ticket for front row in 30\$! (<https://bookofmormonbroadway.com/tickets>).