

**Full name: Arnon Cohen**

**Email: [arnonc@tau.mail.ac.il](mailto:arnonc@tau.mail.ac.il)**

**Degree Program at TAU: MBA**

**Host University: New-York University**

**Exchange: Spring 2018**

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**About the Country and City:**

New York City is the biggest city in the United States. Manhattan is the main island of the city, which has all the major locations at, including NYU. The city is the financial capital of the USA and the world. It is a very busy city and filled with people at all times. The city is very global, people from all around the world are living or visiting the city all year long, it has a mixture many cultures and languages.

**About the Host University:**

The NYU business school location is in Greenwich Village on 4<sup>th</sup>. Street. There are 2 major subway stations near the campus with many lines, so it's very easy to get there from any place in Manhattan.

Stern business school has a large network of social clubs, in many variations. For example, there are clubs for ethnic group, social groups, business related groups, sports etc. For example, the Jewish club, the beer club, the tech club, the private equity club and the soccer club. You may sign up for the clubs or connect to its members for limited access to events organized by it. The list of the clubs can be found on an app called Campus Groups which has the all the information. The clubs may host public events which are open to sign up for every Stern student, and private events which are available for club members only. For many clubs there is a lifetime signup fee, which means you will gain access to any event and information hosted by the club for life.

There are two career centers, the NYU career center and the Stern one. The Stern career center is recommended for those who are seeking for internship opportunities in NY. They offer LinkedIn enhancement sessions, help in writing CV and can direct to internship opportunities in many fields.

### **Courses and Professors:**

#### **Corporate Finance (Andres Liberman):**

The course is a basic course for many advanced finance courses in Stern. It is mainly reviewing in broader and more strategic look the fundamentals of finance course, and its essence is to tackle the theory of Modigliani and Miller and understand the effects on it on the basic assumptions. Its taught in a very constructive way with weekly problem set homework in a fair level, two group case studies, midterm and a final test. I recommend on prof. Andres Liberman, he teaches in a very constructive and clear way, and available for questions.

#### **Entrepreneurial Finance (Glen Okun):**

Glen Okun is one of the most recommended professors in Stern. He teaches many Entrepreneurial related courses on each semester. This course is considered one of its favorites because it connects the fundamentals on entrepreneurship, the finance, venture capital and private equity material. The course is not easy for students without finance background, but it's very interesting and taught in a way that encourages a lot of personal thinking. The grading based on two case studies, an individual one and a group one, which includes class presentation. The case studies are not easy, and the instructions are very amorphous.

#### **Digital Music Business (David Ellner):**

Very unique course, with a very unique professor. I recommend of taking this course for students who are passionate about music and are curious about understanding the ecosystem of the music industry, and its evolution throughout the years. Professor Ellner has experience in working at the largest music labels in the United States and teaches the course for more than a decade. The grade is based mainly on a final group assignment, which is relatively easy, and includes research on one topic related to the music industry and presenting it in the final class. The course holds a few guest

lecturers from nowadays music industry corporations (such as Spotify, Pandora and record label's managers).

Digital Currency, Blockchains, and the Future of the Financial Services Industry (David Yermack and Andrew Hinkes):

The course covers many topics related to the crypto industry, mainly with connotation to investments and financial implications. It includes many guest lectures from the crypto industry. The grade is based only on a very long and thorough individual final paper. The final paper can be written almost on any related subject, although the topic can be chosen from a provided list. It requires research and relatively thorough writing. I recommend on this course only for students with great interest in the crypto world. I also recommend of taking the course as an audit class for students who are not willing to write the final paper, most of the lectures are informative and are very up to date.

Python Fundamentals and Programming (Navin Manglani):

The course gives the basic of programming in the Python language. It mainly aims for giving the tool set for implementation of the Python programming in the data science area. It does not require any programming prior knowledge and experience. The grade is based on a midterm, final exam and a group programming assignment which is relatively short and basic.

**Accommodation:**

I stayed at the university's housing called the Palladium Hall. Its located on 14<sup>th</sup>. Street next to Union Square. Its approximately 12 minutes walking distance from the campus. The studio apartments on the 14 - 16 floors of the building are all given to graduate students. The rooms are very small, but very effective. They contain a single bed, desk, closet, drawer, a small kitchen and bathrooms. The price is not cheap but the advantages of it in my opinion are first of all the location. Then the facilities in the building (laundry rooms, sports center, food area, study area, printing, mail services etc.) and the fact that you come to the city knowing you're "all set".

### **Visa:**

The Visa process consists of a few stages. NYU send the initiation to TAU, which contacts the student, and providing him the relevant documents, which consists the most important document with is the DS-2019. The next steps are to pay the fees, fill online embassy forms, and attend an interview in the embassy itself.

### **Transportation:**

Transportation in NYC is very simple and easy to use. The MTA is the company that runs all the subway trains and busses around the city. It has a useful app that shows the current service in all the lines around the city. A MTA card can be purchased in any subway station and can be used on trains and busses. The subway system in most places runs 24/7 and in a decent frequency.

### **Insurance and Health Services:**

In order to be an exchange student in NYU you need a health insurance that has to comply with the university's requirements. It offers its own insurance plan, which is very expensive. I would recommend on doing an insurance plan by a company called ISO. The plan ISO offer is suitable to NYU and is cheaper. The NYU health center respects the ISO insurances and it's very easy to use the health services using this insurance, just like the NYU one. ISO offers very cheap prices for students under the age of 30.

### **Living Expenses:**

NYC is one of the most expensive cities in the world. My expenses were around \$25k.

### **Food:**

New York has all the kinds of food from around the world to offer. I recommend using Yelp and Foursquare application for restaurants searching and tips. I also recommend on using the Seamless application for ordering food and takeout. Food is a very important feature to the New York experience in my opinion!

**Nightlife:**

New York has many nightlife centers. They include bars in all kinds, music events, night clubs and many more. My favorite areas to go have a drink are the East Village, Soho and Greenwich Village. I also recommend on exploring Williamsburg and Greenpoint neighborhoods in Brooklyn. There are a few very nice bars around the campus which are worth a visit at happy hours, such as The Half Pint, The Amity Hall, Off the Wagon, the Red Lion and West 3<sup>rd</sup>. For clubbing there are a few very fancy nightclubs and rooftops worth going, such as The Marquee. For more extreme clubbing there are the warehouse club scene in Brooklyn, such as the House of Yes. For music shows I recommend signing up to Songkick app to know which music events are happening in the city according to your musical taste. I recommend on checking out the following venues for rock shows: the Gramercy Theatre, Irving Plaza and Playstation Theatre.

**Tips:**

Every Thursday between 6 - 10 pm there is a networking beer and wine event in the campus called Beer Blast. It's a good opportunity for exchange students to network with the rest of the Sternies. I recommend attending it and to not schedule classes at Thursday evenings.