



**Full name:** Hadas Avrech

**Email:** [haddas@gmail.com](mailto:haddas@gmail.com)

**Degree Program at TAU:** MBA

**Host University:** NYU (Stern)

**Exchange term:** Fall 2018 (4.5 months)

---

### Exchange Experience

#### **About the country and city**

I don't think NYC needs any introduction, but it was an unusual and once in a lifetime experience experiencing the city from the eyes of a student. Other than the fact that it gives you more time, you have an insider take on what's going on in the city, which for me was a lot of fun.

#### **About the Host University**

Stern has a very unique vibe due to the location of the campus – right in the center of the city. We had the best time and we experienced the city from a totally different perspective. Washington Square Park right outside, amazing restaurants all around for lunch, and bars and comedy shows for after hours.

The team at Stern welcomed us with a very warm welcome, and even though there was a lot of bureaucracy to handle, we felt like someone is there to help.

#### **Courses and professors**

Other than the horrible course registration system (Albert), the courses themselves were a lot of fun. Because everyone in Stern (or most of the students) are full time, there is a feeling that everyone applies themselves, both the students and the professors. I liked all the classes I took, and I liked the fact that in most of them we had to work in groups and you get to know a lot of people.

## **Accommodation – dorms and other solutions**

That was not easy. I came with my husband and we moved 3 apartments, it's Manhattan, it's hard to find a 1BR and it's hard to find something in the area.

## **Visa**

As I said, bureaucracy, but after filing all the needed papers you're good to go (and I did it with a spouse, so it might even took a bit longer for me).

## **Transportation**

We got to NY with a direct flight 1 week before, I recommend not getting there at the last minute, get settled first.

The Subway is great if you live a bit further, but if you can walk from your place it's always better (for me it was a 25 min walk. Yes, also in the freezing cold).

## **Insurance and Health Services**

I took the ISO insurance, it was about 30% cheaper than the one NYU offered, and I had to sign a waiver.

## **Living expenses**

NYC is not cheap, it's not a secret, but only when you live here you feel it. 1BR in the city cost between \$3000-4000 (we paid \$3300). In Brooklyn it'd be cheaper (we also lived in Williamsburg for 5 weeks at first and it was great and cheaper).

## **Food**

We were going out a lot. How can you not to? It's NYC. I'd say food is 30% more expensive than in Tel Aviv (and more if you go to the high-end places).

## **Night life**

It's really endless, there is a thing called Beer Blast at Stern, every Thursday all the students meet up somewhere, buy a ticket (\$15) and get free beer for the night. It's a good way to mingle and get drunk. Other than that, there are tons of clubs and bars and shows. This is the problem in NYC, you come with a bucket list and it just getting longer and longer.

**Tips**

Enjoy the city, leave some time before and after the semester to travel, take whatever you can get from what the campus offers (it's hard, cause they offer many things) and try the Pho around the corner!

**General experience**

It wasn't easy to go, especially with a spouse when we both work full time, but I'm so happy we did it, these experiences opens you mind and it's rare to have them, so if you can, I strongly recommend going.