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Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: NYU

Exchange term: Fall 2019 (4 months)

Exchange Experience

About the country and city:

New York City, we all saw it in our favorite movies and TV- shows. The high buildings, the food, the parks, the business men in a suit, the culture and fashion. For me New York is the perfect city, and with the exchange program you have the opportunity to live in it and you won't regret it.

About the Host University

The NYU campus is spread around east and west village. When you go around the buildings, you'll get the city vibe with only university flags and signs marking it is a university building. The atmosphere is amazing, a lot of students walking around from different countries and cultures. The Stern Business School has an amazing atmosphere with the perfect combination of business and fun.

Location

The NYU campus is in the perfect location in Washington Square Park, one of the most iconic parks in the city. The stern business school is located right next to it, meaning that during breaks and before/after classes you can hang-out in the park and grab food in one of the restaurants or coffee -shops in the area. Walking around the campus feels safe, though at night time you should be careful from pick-pockets.

Social activities

The university is full of social activities, you can download the NYU mobile app to see all the activities organized by the university. If you arrive during the fall term, there are bunch of welcome events, walking tours, organized trips and activities.

Stern school is also famous for its social life. The first thing you should do when you arrive to NYU is to download the “campus-group” app, there you will see all the activities and events organized by the school and the clubs associated to it. You can use this platform to meet fellow stern students and see the scheduled events in the school.

Student union

The student union has one of the best building in the city, you can come and study in the top floors to the amazing view of the park and the city sky line. The student union organizes different events that you can sign up for. You can also find yoga and meditation classes in the union building that are quite nice and free of charge.

Career center

The Stern school has great career center and website, you can use this center to upgrade your CV and get some professional tips on how to write an ‘American style’ CV. In the website you can find different career opportunities opened specifically to stern students.

Courses and professors

I took 13.5 Stern credits during my time at NYU. I would recommend taking classes according to the amount of free time you want to have because some courses can be very demanding.

You sign up to courses with Albert website, it is very easy, and you can change your registration according to the schedule published by the school.

I ended up changing my schedule a few times, according to the recommendations I got from fellow students or after going to the first class and understanding that the class is not as interesting as I thought.

The courses that I took and would recommend are:

- 1) Tech Product management – this is a very good course if you want to understand how product management works in tech, the professor is very experienced, and his classes are well organized. The home assignments are very demanding, but you will get valuable skills.
- 2) Digital media innovation – this class is very inspirational, it is led by prof. Colman, a very accomplished media persona. The idea of the class is to bring a lot of inspirational guest speakers, CEO and startup founders that share their stories and career experiences with the students. The guest speakers' part of the class was the best part of this course. Don't miss it.
- 3) Predicting the future of technology – the professor Amy weber is amazing, smart and inspirational woman. The idea that this course presents is very special and eye-opening so I would recommend on taking this class.

If you are looking to take hands-on classes during your time in stern I will recommend looking -up the experiential learning in stern, some may require an extra submission so do it before the course registration and email the head programs. In this classes you will get to work with real clients and gain real experience.

Accommodation

Finding apartment in New York is one of the hardest things. I found a studio apartment through Facebook in one of the Israeli New York sublet groups. The sublet I found was good for the first two months of my stay and then I needed to find another solution. It was very difficult to find something in my budget. Eventually I stayed in a building owned by Israelis called "Chelsmore Apartments". The location of this building was perfect, and it was worth to pay a little extra to stay in the center of the city and close to the university. I paid for a studio apartment \$2500-\$3000 per month. This was the highest expense during my stay.

Visa

The visa process is very organized. Once you will get your DS-2019 you will be able to book an appointment at the US embassy to get your J1 visa. There is a time limit for when you can arrive and how long you can stay in the US after the visa expires, so make sure you book your tickets accordingly. Flying out of the US during your stay in NYU will require getting a stamp on your DS-2019 to enable your re-entering to the country.

Transportation

I walked most of my time in the city, but if I needed to use transportation, I usually took the subway, it is the cheapest and fastest way to get around the city (\$2.70 per ride). Uber, Lyft and Via are some of the shared-ride apps operating in the city, offering discounts to first time users, so you can use it when you need it.

Insurance and Health Services

The university offers health insurance that is very expensive - \$1500. I choose to register to another insurance plan that is much cheaper, than what the university allows you to take. ISO insurance cost me around \$500. I didn't use any health services while I stayed abroad.

Living expenses

The city is very expensive, especially if you eat outside and go out a lot. The only thing cheaper in NYC is clothes and shoes so definitely bring enough suitcases for your shopping. I used a credit-card connected to my US dollar account in my Israeli bank and I think it is the best and cheapest way to avoid commissions. In general, be prepared to spend around 70,000 NIS for your stay including all expenses. The main expense is the living arrangements.

Food

NYC has some of the best restaurants in the world. I would recommend going to restaurants during lunch menu, this way you can enjoy all the fancy restaurants on a lower budget. You can also find cheap options to eat outside. Most supermarkets also sell home cooked food for take-away that is not very expensive. The best supermarket for buying groceries is Trader-Joe, it is the cheapest supermarket in the city and has good quality.

On campus group you can also find the Jewish association in the Stern school. They organize Shabbat dinners that are fun, and you can mingle with other stern student.

Food is around \$15 if you buy in the counter. For restaurants the average cost will be \$30-40 a meal.

Night life

NYC night life is a lot of fun, you have a lot of bars around the university and you can go to one of the night-out events organized by the stern school (on campus group) like bar-blast. On Thursday there is a stern event called beer-blast that is a lot of fun. If you go out in the city make sure you take your driver's license or passport, because you won't get in without an ID.

Tips

- Check out the NYC events while you are in the city, if you arrive during the summer there are a lot of free events organized by the city, look it up in the internet.
- Go to Shabat dinner organized by the Jewish association, see the event on campus-groups.
- Don't be shy, network and be open to other students, it will make your experience much better.
- Use the stern platform for your own advantage and needs.
- Go to Broadway with the lottery website, you can get big discounts for shows.
- Download 1itOA app to sign-up for free to different tv-show and events in the city.
- Use classPass to sign-up to different fitness class around the city, first month is free. There is a free gym for NYU students near the university palladium dorms.
- There are a lot of food apps that give you discounts to different restaurants like 'crave'.

General experience

The exchange experience was one of the most amazing things I have ever done, this is a once in a life time opportunity to study in a top business school, meet amazing people and get inspired. Don't miss this opportunity, I would be happy to this program all over again. If you have any questions you are welcome to contact me.