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Degree Program at TAU: MBA, Specializing in Technology & Entrepreneurship

Host University: NYU, Stern School of Business

Exchange term: Fall Semester 2020 (Online)

Exchange Experience

The exchange program at New York University was an amazing experience. I participated in the first-ever exchange that was fully remote, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are going to be in an in-person format, I can only be jealous and would recommend you read different exchange summaries.

Even with the unique and strange experience of living physically in Tel Aviv and studying remotely at NYU, I was very happy and thankful for this experience. I feel like the things I have learned during this semester gave me the tools to further develop myself as a person (both on a personal and a professional level).

Of course, studying remotely is different from an in-person experience, but I highly recommend you join it if the remote option is your only option to attend.

About the Host University

NYU is a world class university; I was amazed by the academic level of the professors and fellow students. The classes themselves were very eye opening (as I will describe later).

Courses and professors

The Stern professors are some of the best in the world in their fields. Moreover, they are not only brilliant, but they also care about the classes and do so much for their students to have the best learning experience.

As a result, they expect students to prepare for almost every class. It is common to have a mandatory read task every week. Some of the professors randomly ask students about it or/and use Zoom breaking rooms to discuss it. The format of studying everything a week before the final exam, like many students are used to, does not exist here.

The good part of putting so much effort throughout the semester, is that usually the final exam is only a small part of your grade (since all the assignments/quizzes during the semester have a major part).

I have taken 4 courses as described below:

- **Programming in Python (Kristen Sosulski)** – This class was a different class from most classes that I have taken before. While in other classes we discussed mostly about business, management and consumers, this class is very technical. It gives you a basic understanding of programming in Python. This class is highly organized and works well even in a remote format. I recommend it to any person that is interested in getting a "taste" of a programming languages.
- **Business Law (Rich Hendler)** – In my opinion, this was the best course that I have taken at Stern. Rich Hendler is the superstar of Stern and a very inspiring person. He loves to connect people and his classes can be a great opportunity to meet new people. This class makes the student highly engaged and has lots of assignments, but all of them are in groups (including the final exam), so it is a nice experience. For me, as an Israeli lawyer, it was very interesting to see the different approaches of US law, but even if you do not have any legal background - like most of the students in the class - I'm sure you'll like it. The professor teaches the materials in a way everyone feels comfortable with it. In this class we were divided to groups from the first assignment, and this group will be your group for the entire course. It is very important to have a good chemistry with the group because this could make or break your course.
- **Foundations of Entrepreneurship (Okun)** –This is a class that I would recommend mostly if you are doing the in-person program. This is a case-study based course: every week we had to read a case study and then discuss it in class. The cases were very interesting and later discussing and analyzing them in class was great. On that note, if you do not read the case study in advance, you will miss the point of that entire class. If you are looking to open a new business soon - this is the course for you.

- **Managerial Decision Making (Zur Shapira)** – This is an interesting class that speaks mostly about the irrational and rational decisions of managers. Zur Shapira, who is an Israeli and lovely professor wrote a short book about risk management and decision making which is the main material for this course. His theory would teach you how to solve problems and that there is a whole methodological and interesting way to make decisions (both for managers, and in general life issues). In our semester the format of this course was three intense Sundays (each one with 8 hours of lectures). It is very refreshing to take a few concentrated classes instead of one class each week for the whole semester.

Health Insurance

NYU demands health insurance and starts it automatically for all their students. Even though none of our group was physically in the US, every single one of us had to get a waiver for his automatic insurance. Make sure to do it on time (follow the procedure step by step), so you will not get charged for something you don't use.

Tips

Even though your experience is only online, try to gain as much as you can from it. Join as many clubs as you can, try to make new friends, and don't hesitate to use the great career center's service.

General experience

Do not miss this great opportunity! This was the best experience that I had in my MBA studies. This is a unique opportunity to study at one of the best business schools in the world. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.