



Exchange Program Summary in Stern NYU Business School

Fall 2014

NYU is one of top ranked MBA schools, and it is also located in the heart of Manhattan, right in front of Washington Square Park, a magical miniature park with artistes and musicians playing jazz next to the sight of cheerful squirrels.

The fall semester at NYU (as well as other USA schools) runs from September to December. While September is quite hot (short clothes are needed), December gets very cold and sometimes snowy.

We were three exchange students who participated in the 2014 fall semester. This was an experience that we will not forget, however one should consider its high cost and difficulties finding housing and getting by in a foreign country.

Visa

Stern grants the exchange students a J-1 visa. This kind of visa allows you multiple entries to the US, for the time period you are an NYU student, and also a possibility to extend it for the purpose of internship (Academic Training) for another 3 months. Entering the US is allowed 30 days before the beginning of the semester and you have a grace period of 1 month after finishing the semester to leave the country.

If you wish to travel outside of the US during the semester you have to get a special stamp from the office of global services (OGS).

Once you're accepted to Stern you'll receive an email from the international exchange program office which includes some information and a request to register online. You'll have to attach your CV, a passport scan and a financial certification (which is required for the visa form, you can ask your bank to prepare a short letter).

Once you've registered you'll receive a student ID that enables you to open an NYU and Stern email accounts, and to access the University system (that is used also in order to register for classes).

Later on the university will send the DS-2019 form to the exchange office in Recanati, the form is required for the Visa appointment. After receiving the DS-2019 form you need to pay its fee (SEVIS, which cost about \$100) before you can apply for Visa. Once you have all the documents you should apply for a J-1 Visa

and set a Visa appointment. When applying to the J1 visa in the US embassy in Israel, bring to the interview also a resume.

Housing

- **Campus housing (Palladium):** none of us 3 stayed in their dorms. It is located in Union square, a walking distance to Stern, and also for all the subway lines. It is a great location – with supermarkets, restaurants, lots of shops & bars. However, it is about 2,500\$ a month, which is more expensive than renting a room in an apartment. It does include all NYU facilities – gym, pool, internet & utilities.
- **International house** – a good option for students, located in the upper west side (around 30min in subway from Stern). Prices range between 1600-2500 a month\$
<http://www.ihouse-nyc.org/s/707/start.aspx>
- **Sublet/short rentals** – the only real option for exchange students in NY (because most NY land lords require guarantors & long term commitment). Try Facebook groups like – Israelis in NY, NYU sublet, NYU housing, your own network, and also Craigslist website <http://newyork.craigslist.org/>
The prices range is 1500 – 2200\$.

Living expenses

NY is expensive! Therefore living expenses for the semester, not including rent , should range around \$8000-\$10000. Rent (including utilities) for that time should be around \$6000-\$10000. Insurance costs are \$1000 for the basic plan which is mandatory and covers you till the end of the semester.

Note: Some of us bought an additional insurance back in Israel (Harel, Clal), it's not necessary but if you need the "extreme insurance" it might be a good idea to consider.

- **Books** – in Stern the students are required to buy the course packs, class handouts and books. The prices depend on the popularity of the course, and their reading requirements. You should expect costs of about \$500 for the books.
- **Transportation** - \$112 monthly MTA unlimited card – that applies for subway & busses, and covers most of NYC.

Courses

The courses that relevant to you are for the IMP student (most of the Full time & part time courses). You should definitely read the Course evaluation from students, and the syllabus (course demand, reading material and assignments).

There are half semester courses – (6 classes of 3 hours), and 13 classes for the full semester.

Evening courses are mostly for part time MBAs (also known as the Langone program) who work during the day and have much more knowledge and experience than the full time students who tend to be younger.

Recommended courses:

- ✚ **Technological Entrepreneurship** – If you have a technological background and interested in joining/starting a start-up, it is a great course that teach you all the important stages, including issuing a patent, building a financial plan and more.
- ✚ **Globalization of business enterprises** – the course is Super interesting, with Professor Pankaj Ghemawat – that wrote all the cases in this topic.
- ✚ **Negotiation (1. Conflict, Colaboration & Negotiation 2. Advanced Topics)** – Good classes for strengthening your negotiation, influence and collaboration skills. I recommend Prof. Freeman for both of them. If you plan to take both keep in mind that for the Advance Topics, you are required to finish CCN first. It is possible to take CCN in the first half and AT in the second half.
- ✚ **Managing growing companies/Foundation of entrepreneurship** – Prof. Okun is one of NYU's brightest and most knowledgeable financial experts and his classes are very popular therefore always full. When registering for classes, keep in mind to register to his classes among the first.
- ✚ **Banking/finance classes**- Some of the most popular ones are Prof. Merphy's **Investment Banking** and Demodderen's **Valuations**.
- ✚ **Digital Media Innovation** – The course is run by the president of BuzzFeed and it features many guest lecturers from the digital media industry such as CEO of Twitter, CEO of Linkedin, Amazon, etc. Only available during the fall semester.

A note on selecting courses: don't be frightened to choose the wrong course: you are able and you will probably change some of your selected courses after they started.

Recreation

Campus Groups App will tell you about social/networking events taking place at Stern and you are more than encouraged to sign up for some of the clubs of NYU (registration fees are around \$30-\$50 per club for lifetime membership).

Other than that there are plenty of things to do in the city – Central park, Broadway shows (try your luck at the lottery) restaurants, night life, football, baseball and NBA games.

Washington DC is 4 hours away on a bus and Boston is just 2.5 hours away, a great visit during the weekend.

It is New York – just enjoy 😊

General experience

This is once-in-a-lifetime experience, the studying might get intense at times so be prepared to work and read. The city is amazing and full of things to do, possibilities and great people. Stern's exchange advisors, who are in charge with the exchange students (Cristina, Kyle), are great and really helpful and resourceful.

Nevertheless, since NYU is in Manhattan, it does not provide the American college experience. After school most of the students go on their own way (much like Recanati) and it is not easy to make friends there for afterschool activities. We were very lucky to have each other since we didn't know many people in New York prior to our visit.

Tips

1. Food is expensive – for eating in restaurants & also for cooking at home. There is no Wal-Mart nor Costco in Manhattan.
2. It is cold in NY during the winter (between 5 to minus 5, if you are lucky.) Uniqlo is a great store for thermic clothes and fairly priced.
3. Be prepared to spend approximately \$15,000 (not including loss of income).
4. There are outlet malls (Woodberry & Jersey Gardens) where you can buy branded clothes in a very low cost.
5. Book national flights in advance – there is no such thing as last minute cheap flights.
6. The odds to win Broadway lottery tickets are much higher on weekdays and daytime shows.
7. Dressing for school is by all means casual, however in some classes you might need to suit up for the final presentation.
8. It is possible to place all your courses in three days and by that having a very long weekend.