



Full name: Michael Danan

Email: danany@gmail.com

Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: NYU (Stern)

Exchange term: Spring 2019 (4 months)

Exchange Experience

About the city

New York City is known for its fast-paced, around-the-clock lifestyle, which may be overwhelming for newcomers but you get used to it! You'll see all kinds of people, from Suits to Hipsters, and in all colors/race.

What also amazed me is how big this city is. It has lots of different areas and each one is completely different from the other. You will probably have some free time so feel free to travel in different parts of the city and not only in your neighborhood.

About the Host University

Located around Washington Square Park, the NYU is not a typical university campus – there is no enclosed area; instead, the buildings are part of the NYC landscape and once you exit you are out in the city. NYU is one of the most prestigious universities in NYC and Stern Business School is ranked highly in the US business schools' list.

The school puts a lot of focus on Networking, which means that there are a lot of events outside of school hours. For example, every Thursday night there is an event for MBA students called Beer Blast, each time in a different location (usually in one of the bars near Stern buildings), where you meet with your fellow classmates, have drinks, and play social games.

You should also go to the Career Center a few times to get tips on how to find your next job and if you need help with writing your resume and cover letter. They helped me find an internship in the U.S, they are really nice and helpful.

Courses and professors

Classes in Stern are way more serious than what you used to. You will notice that the teachers demand more from the students: if there are reading materials for class, you should read them, or else you won't understand what the teacher is talking about. The professors might also surprise you with a question (you have your name tag in front of you and they won't hesitate to call your name).

I took the following classes:

- Business Communication (Yu Shi) - Mainly teaches you how to talk in front of an audience. Each time you'll need to prepare something to talk about in front of the class, the Teaching Assistant films you so you can watch yourself at home and get better.
- Tech Product Management (Andrew Breen) – The professor has a lot of years in tech product development and brings tools and techniques that are very useful in the tech industry. The grading is based on a final project and four other small homework assignments. The final project is a product case based on a product powered by technology.
- Managing Growing Companies, Foundations of Entrepreneurship, and Entrepreneurial Finance (Glen Okun) - He is one of the most recommended professors in Stern, that is why I took three of his classes. He is very smart and makes funny jokes. All three courses are entrepreneurial related, you will review every week a different company and analyze it together with the professor in class. The grading is based on two case studies, an individual one and a group one.

Accommodation

I've found a sublet through a good friend who lives in the city, which cost me 1500\$ a month (with two roommates). The apartment was located in the lower east side of Manhattan, 20 min walk from the University.

Visa

Exchange students receive a J-1 visa, which enables them to enter the U.S one month before the semester begins and stay there up to one month after it ends. This J1 visa can also be extended for Academic Training (work you do after you complete the semester). You just need to have an offer from one of the companies in the U.S for a paid or non-paid internship.

Before applying for the J1 visa at the U.S embassy you'll receive a document called DS-2019.

Transportation

Almost all people living in New York use the subway. It costs 2.75\$ for a ride or you can buy a 30-day pass for around 130\$. I personally lived 20 min walk from school so I preferred walking than taking the train. It's packed, noisy, and smelly, but you can get used to it. In addition, you can use ridesharing solution such as Uber and Via.

Insurance

NYU requires you to have health insurance that meets specified minimum requirements. They offer their own health insurance plan which costs around 2000\$ for the whole period, but you can purchase any health insurance that meets NYU requirements. I recommend using ISO (<https://www.isoa.org/>). It cost me 800\$ and I think it's what most exchange students use.

Living expenses

New York City is one of the most expensive cities in the world. My expenses were around \$20k for 4 months (including flights, health insurance, etc.)

Tips

- If you are planning to find an internship in the U.S you should start working on that as soon as possible. It takes a lot of effort and time, but don't give up!
- Travel a bit outside of New York! - Because New York is so big you can easily stay there for the whole period, but there are a lot of cool places to see in the U.S and I really recommend traveling around.