



I was extremely lucky to get accepted to the student exchange program of TAU, and even more so, to my top choice – NYU Stern. I knew I wanted to get a chance to experience a top business school for a semester, and what better place than America? My first step after getting accepted was getting all the documents from NYU and applying to my visa in the Israeli embassy in Tel-Aviv. It wasn't a big deal at all but make sure you come with all the documents to the embassy and understand the process fully through talking to the NYU exchange officer. Before I go into my experience, I will dive into some necessary details:

**The general costs you should expect is as follows:**

~\$1k University Health insurance (I recommend choosing the basic plan because it's extremely comprehensive anyway and it saves you ~\$500 vs. the premium plan)

~\$1.2K Flight to America.

~\$400 Visa processing

~\$400 University materials (Books and class handouts)

~\$70/month Phone plan

~\$100/ Month Laundry and Haircuts

~\$1500 - \$3000 / Month for rent – depending on your style (I paid \$1500 with a roommate)

~\$2000- \$5000 to enjoy all the activities and trips of the university (Depending on your style)

~\$120/ Month on Subway (And more if you use Taxis a lot)

~\$30 - \$70 / day on food and drinks (Again – depending on your style.

Multiply the monthly costs to the amount of time you will be staying and you can get a good ballpark of your cost of living.

**Transportation** – NYC is probably the easiest city in the world in terms of transportation as the subways work 24/7 and are located almost everywhere (anywhere else in America, you would probably need a car, or you will be living on campus).

**Courses** – I would highly recommend you take course that interest you, but that do not require an immense amount of work. The reason for that is that this semester is your greatest chance to experience University life abroad and it is much more than course work ;) NYU, and probably any other University in America, have a great computerized system for students (Like TAU's Moodle) where you can see student's reviews on courses. The reviews are very comprehensive and have data on how interesting the courses are and also how demanding they are. As I mentioned before – I recommend you

choose courses that you find interesting and aren't on the high scale of demanding because you may find yourself swamped in course work instead of exploring the city/campus/various clubs & events. The Courses I chose were:

Managing Growing Companies – Highly recommended due to the amazing professor – Glen Okun

Innovation & Design – Highly recommended due to the fun, entrepreneurial and creative aspect of it and a great professor.

2 Negotiation courses – regular and advanced. I highly recommend learning these courses in an international business school, but in retrospect I would recommend taking only 1.

Leadership Models – was quite a boring course, I do not recommend.

**Housing** – New York is one of the most expensive cities to rent. If you come by yourself, I recommend finding roommates to live with so you don't have to pay much on rent. If you come as a couple, it would be easier for you to find a cheap studio or 1 bedroom apt to share. Now, how the heck do you find a place to stay in NYC? In most cases, you won't be able to rent directly from the landlord because they normally require your credit score and a large deposit. Instead, you are better off leasing from a tenant. I'm sure you've heard of craigslist.com but I do not recommend looking there for apartments due to scams and extremely weird people. Instead, join these 4 groups and I almost guarantee you will find something you would like:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nyuoffcampus/?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nyuhousing/?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/193653367456773/?ref=ts&fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Israelimilaimvemitnasimberilocation/>

Because you would be studying at NYU, I would recommend to live in the entire area pretty close to it – East & West village, SoHo, LES, Nolita, Chinatown, Little Italy, Tribeca, Gramercy, Chelsea, Flat Iron. If you can't find in these areas, try looking at Murray hill or Kips Bay, and if you're looking for some more peace and quiet next to central park – choose the upper east or upper west and try below 86<sup>th</sup> street. Some Israelis like staying in fancier apartments in the financial district – not my favorite, but worth a look.

**General Tips** – Unless you work in a flexible workplace, you would probably need to quit your job for this experience, just do it! 😊

If you are looking to gain some work experience during your time here, plan it in advance because there are easy ways to do it short term, and there are more complicated ways to stay long term through a sponsorship from a company or other visas.

U.S universities have a full array of clubs and events – join and participate in as many as you can because that is something you could experience only in top business schools and is so different than Israel.

If you're going to be in NYC, I would recommend to not put too much money on a nice apartment, but rather spend your money on other experiences.

## **My Experience:**

I arrived to NYC in extremely cold wintery weather (-5 to +3 Celsius) and gave myself 2-3 weeks to look for apartments while having a place to stay at a friend's house (You can do a short term Airbnb if you don't have friends here). It wasn't my first time in the city as I have been here 3-4 times beforehand for short visits, but the fact that you know you have more time to embrace the city, gives you a boost of energy that helps you survive the winter. After a while in the city, you realize NYC is everything but the touristy areas you went to in your previous visits to the city and the city has so much to explore, and every new person you meet, will introduce you to a totally different NYC than you knew of before. After 2 days in the city, I went downtown to explore NYU Campus and was blown away by the size and beauty of the buildings, the libraries, the surrounding Washington sq. park and the restaurants & night-life surrounding it. During the 3 weeks I had before starting school, I started getting used to the fact that I quit my job and I embraced after a very long time the amazing feeling of being a free student again 😊

About 5 days prior to the beginning of the semester, NYU held an "exchange student orientation day" where I met all my fellow exchange students from universities around the world (LBS, IESE, and many more from various countries). These people were my best friends throughout the semester as all of us are strangers to the city and have 1 semester to enjoy it. This is important to note, because of course you will have the chance to make friends and network with full time students, but they will be more focused on their full time friends as they expect to have long lasting relationships with them in America much after your semester abroad. From that day on, we went out as a group of exchange students to various bars, clubs, events and enjoyed the city almost every day. When school started, the group size increased as I met more full time students as well which were very friendly too. Some of the classes were very interesting and some were so-so, but all are taught in a very professional manner and are a great way to meet new people through course work and general discussions.

I made sure I wouldn't have much homework by choosing the less demanding courses and I had plenty of time to go to any event I wanted. NYU Stern has over 100 different clubs you can join and go attend their events – this kept me very busy and interested.

In addition to clubs and events, NYU Stern (and any US business school) have amazing trips you can join – Costa Rica, Ski trips, hiking trips, food trips, and much much more. I went on various amazing trips which made my experience unforgettable.

To sum it up, I had a great time, met incredible people, learnt a lot on different cultures and how Americans see the world and think about business. I also relentlessly pursued work opportunities and managed to stay here to work after my semester. If you have any questions regarding work, feel free to contact me @ [yoavco23@gmail.com](mailto:yoavco23@gmail.com).

Hope you find this useful and enjoy your experience – YOLO!

Yoav Cohen









