Mobility Across NYU’s Global Network: Background and Context

Coordinated by Office of the Provost
At request of Faculty Committee on the Global Network & Faculty Senators Councils

Presented to Faculty Committees, March 10, 2016
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Background

• Faculty Committee on NYU’s Global Network requests “a comprehensive report regarding impediments to mobility and restrictions to academic entry-seekers (including faculty, students, staff, and administrators) across the global network (including New York)... The Committee is especially interested in knowing how many scholars have encountered obstacles in traveling to NYU portals and sites, and for what reasons (if they are known).”

• Similar interest from Faculty Senators Councils

• Office of Provost undertakes University-wide effort to collect data and review our experience

• Assessing mobility is immensely important exercise – to assess our progress in supporting the global network, in advancing our basic academic values
Vision of a Fluid Circulatory System

Provost McLaughlin’s 2007 white paper on Global Programs at NYU envisioned:

“NYU students and faculty will have easy access to the entire network of the University, and through that mobility, will take full advantage of the network’s multiple components.

This mobility will provide additional exposure to other people, cultures, perspectives, and modes of research and knowledge acquisition; access to NYU for talented students and faculty around the world; additional access for NYU faculty and students to research source material; additional opportunities for interaction with international colleagues; and thus, opportunities to further improve the ability of NYU students and faculty to address the social and scholarly issues of our time—so many of which are global in nature.

In the future, the faculty and students of New York University will be members of the entire network rather than any single site, location, or campus. New York University will not only be ‘in and of the city,’ but ‘in and of the world.’”
The Value Proposition

The vision of the global network expresses a commitment to these values:

• Students should have full opportunity – should not be compromised in their ability to progress on academic pathways by studying at global sites

• Faculty should be free to teach, conduct their research, and visit at NYU portals and sites
External Challenges

• Challenge is to optimize these values within very serious constraints imposed by national immigration policies, practices, and restrictions.

• NYU operates in highly complex environment of widely varying and shifting immigration policies.
Administrative Infrastructure for NYU Travelers

- The resource for immigration and visa questions and support is NY-based Office of Global Services (visit nyu.edu/ogs)

- OGS, previously OISS: renamed and reorganized in 2013 to better serve NYU travelers and mission of global network (goal of 2011 Global Task Force)

- OGS expanded its mission to provide services and programs to not only inbound travelers to NY schools (international students, faculty and researchers) but also outbound travelers to portals and sites. OGS also advises on relocation for faculty on international assignment, including international taxes.

- NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai each handle mobility, visa, and immigration needs for incoming travelers.
Preparation of this Report

This report coordinates data from multiple sources:

• Primary source of data: Office of Global Services

• Data on inbound travelers to NYU AD and NYU SH provided by each portal

• Additional data provided by other offices, e.g., student enrollment data from Office of Global Programs, employment data from HR
Preparation, continued...

Data were prepared specifically for this report—first of its kind.

This report was first occasion to systematically collect, aggregate, and analyze case data. This exercise has required us to:

1. Identify data that are currently available
2. Understand their value and limitations
3. Coordinate and reconcile data from multiple offices – align reporting periods, align reporting classifications
4. Design a reporting template
5. Consider what data can/should be regularly collected
Time Period for which Data Are Reported

- Six-month history for travel to and from U.S. for start dates between August 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016
  - Covers fall, J-Term, spring FY16
  - Compared to activity of FY15 = about 60% of annual faculty/scholar travel, about 76% of annual student travel

- Seven-year history for NYU Abu Dhabi starting in AY2009-10

- Three-year history for NYU Shanghai starting in AY2013-14
Categories of Travelers for Whom Tracking Data Are Reported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAVELERS WITHIN NYU'S GLOBAL NETWORK</th>
<th>TRAVELERS TO LOCATIONS OTHER THAN PORTAL CAMPUSES AND GLOBAL SITES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TO NYUAD</td>
<td>TO NYUSH</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYU FACULTY</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYU UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYU GRADUATE STUDENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYU RESEARCHERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYU ADMINISTRATORS &amp; STAFF</td>
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<tr>
<td>NON-NYU INVITEES TO CONFERENCES, COLLABORATIONS, ETC.</td>
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Travelers for whom data are reported
- New and continuing NYU faculty, researchers, staff, students
- Traveling to and from portals and global sites

Excluded from analysis
- NYU travelers outside NYU’s global network
- NYU travelers to countries where portals and sites are located when portal or site is not the destination
- Non-NYU visitors to NYU portals and sites
Keep in Mind

NYU does not have a University-wide centralized mandatory travel registry. Thus,

- OGS can report only on travelers whom it serves
  - Undergraduates traveling to University sites are typically required to work with OGS
  - Faculty, researchers, graduate students may choose to work with OGS
  - Travelers on short visits, and for <90 days to and from countries under visa waiver treaties may not need OGS to prepare documentation

- OGS does not necessarily learn about visa obstacles and outcomes
  - Example: for employment-based (vs. scholar-based) visa approvals for incoming faculty, approval is inferred from employment data
  - Example: students and scholars drop out of travel process for reasons unknown
What has NYU Learned about Mobility Difficulties?

All countries impose restrictions that relate to security concerns. There may be restrictions on who can enter the country, and passport holders from select countries may be especially likely to experience delays.

Typically, process is laborious and acquiring appropriate permission to study, work or teach abroad can take 1 – 6 months prior to travel. Process may require original, legalized documents that are not readily available. Appointments with foreign consulates may not be easily available.

- Sydney: Eligible students are between 18-30 years of age who can demonstrate available funds of AUD 5,000 and hold a passport from one of 35 designated countries, including recently, China. (Total annual # of visas = 5000).
- United States: Visa applications are subject to security review, known as Administrative Processing, which may involve consultation with government agencies (FBI, CIA, Dept. of Defense).
- Czech Republic: Visa application process takes 3-4 months. Travelers must demonstrate a record of good conduct.

Ultimately, NYU does not know the circumstances of each case that is delayed or denied.
How Are We Doing?

• Overall, vast majority of NYU faculty, students, and staff get where they want to go when they want to get there.

• Anecdotal evidence is that delays regularly are due to incomplete file work – not to security concerns per se: lost paperwork, incomplete documentation, missed deadlines, missed consulate interviews. These can be addressed and resolved.

• There are a relatively small number of applications for which timely approvals are not received, though after making a case with government authorities, visas are ultimately issued. Given the nature of the visa process – which involves government agencies that do not issue explanations – it is difficult to know precisely what ultimately leads to a positive outcome. (Because of this, these appeals are not enumerated in the charts.)
The Take Away

Use this exercise to fine-tune administrative and academic processes to ensure that NYU faculty and students have widest possible opportunities to conduct research and complete studies at NYU portals and sites.

Continue to:

• Work with travelers to resolve logistical and bureaucratic glitches related to complexity of visa processes.

• Develop a communication plan to educate the NYU community about travel and visa issues to avoid last minute problems.

• Maintain knowledge about published immigration restrictions and use case experience to advise travelers about eligibility for visas, about application processes.

• Offer to NYU international students access to an array of sites to mitigate government restrictions on entry.
  – Make sure all our students have option and ideally range of options in study away sites
  – Make sure all our students are counseled about where they can study, given immigration restrictions.
The Take Away, Continued

- Inquire and advocate on behalf of NYU faculty and students experiencing visa problems
  - Ultimately, NYU cannot dictate a nation’s immigration policy or resolve underlying geopolitical situations – which change on a daily basis – that impact mobility across NYU’s global network.
- Build relations with foreign embassies and consulates abroad to raise awareness of NYU and how many people travel as part of the global network; develop a working relationship to address issues that may arise in the future.
- Use the leadership status that comes from scope of NYU’s network - support federal policy and higher education association initiatives that facilitate international mobility for students and scholars.
- Maintain robust tracking systems and annual reports
- Other?