



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Dean of Arts and Science

New York University

New York, NY

## THE SEARCH

New York University seeks a Dean of Arts and Science, the University's largest academic unit and one of its central intellectual pillars. The University invites applications and nominations for a Dean with high academic standards, an ability to collaborate across the University, and the strategic skills to build upon NYU's impressive trajectory and leverage the spirit of innovation and creativity that sets NYU apart from other universities.

NYU has established itself firmly as a leading research university, distinctive in its cosmopolitan character, its global vision, and the boldness of its ambitions. The University has a breadth and depth rivaled by few others. In addition to excellence across arts and science disciplines, NYU is home to leading schools of law, business, engineering, professional studies, studio and performing arts, film, education, public service, individualized education, social work, public health, dentistry, nursing, and medicine, now internationally admired for its tuition-free education policy. The University is distinctive in having established a global network that includes comprehensive degree-granting portal campuses in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai, in addition to 13 global academic centers on six continents. Given its historic location in the heart of Greenwich Village and the larger New York metropolitan area, its global network, and its overall size and scale, NYU offers distinctive learning and research opportunities for faculty and students alike.

Arts and Science is the academic heart of the University and home to more than 1,100 full-time faculty, nearly 12,000 undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Science and Liberal Studies, and nearly 4,000 doctoral and master's students in the Graduate School of Arts and Science. The University's reputation for scholarly excellence and impact relies on the rapid ascent of many departments in Arts and Science. Out of the 15 areas that are nationally ranked by *US News* and *QS World University Rankings*, eleven Arts and Science departments are ranked among the top 30 programs. The quality of the faculty is also attested to by numerous awards and distinctions, including four MacArthur "Genius Award" Fellows, two National Humanities Medal awardees, 60 Guggenheim Fellows, 54 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and 14 Members of the National Academy of Sciences.

Since 2018, Arts and Science has established five new centers as innovative hubs for cross-disciplinary research. In addition, the Arts & Science Office of Research, established in 2021, has supported substantial growth in research funding across the sciences, humanities, and social sciences. The Dean will build on this momentum for innovation and excellence.

## NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

In 1831, NYU's founders set out to create a new kind of university, one that matched New York City's growing demands and demographics; a university that was different by design and open to all. NYU has soared since then — in reputation, academic breadth and depth, accessibility, and cosmopolitanism. No other university engages the world like NYU does, with its own campuses, faculty members, students, and staff generating knowledge and discoveries in intellectual hubs around the globe. NYU is a leader in global education, with more international students and more students studying abroad than any other US university.

Today, that trailblazing spirit makes NYU one of the most prominent and respected research universities in the world. Anchored in New York City, NYU is adventurous and ambitious. It rewards entrepreneurship, inspires philanthropy, and is determined to continue its remarkable upward trajectory. At the heart of the University are its more than 3,000 full-time faculty (roughly half tenured/tenure-track and half contract), whose research and teaching have placed them at the forefront of their disciplines and its dedicated staff. Among the faculty at NYU are Nobel laureates and Abel laureates; Guggenheim Fellows and MacArthur Fellows; Academy Award, Tony Award, and Emmy Award winners; Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators; members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, National Academy of Science, National Academy of Inventors, National Academy of Engineering and the Turing Award; and winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Humanities Medal, the National Medal of Science, and the National Medal of Technology.

The research enterprise at NYU has achieved new heights, more than tripling in the past decade to \$1.5 billion in annual R&D expenditures in FY 2024, making NYU the fastest-growing research university among its peers. Per the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) report, NYU's research expenditures rank it as the top research university in New York City, the seventh among private universities nationally, and among the top 20 institutions in the U.S. NYU is a top producer of patents and revenue from licensing among US universities.

As the largest private research university in the US, NYU provides a rigorous education to over 60,000 students. For 16 straight years, NYU has been a "dream school," according to *Princeton Review*. It received over 120,000 undergraduate student applications this year and had a 7.7% acceptance rate at the undergraduate level in 2025. At the same time, NYU is dedicated to increasing access across socioeconomic status. In October 2023, President Mills announced the NYU Promise: starting in fall 2024, all undergraduates who start as full-time first-year students in New York will not have to pay tuition if they have a family income under \$100,000. NYU students come from nearly every state and 133 countries, and

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the University draws upon the varied backgrounds of its faculty, staff, and students, ensuring its scholarship and teaching benefit from a wide range of perspectives. Arts and Science is home to over 40 doctoral programs, the majority of which provide full funding for doctoral students. The graduates of these programs are leaders in a wide range of fields. More than 25,000 graduate and professional students enroll in full- and part-time programs in New York City and around the globe. Offerings span a wide range of courses and degrees that offer culturally vibrant communities, innovative programming, and often include opportunities for meaningful engagement with community partners in New York or the local geography. NYU has a vast network of alumni who have gone on to succeed across professions, from the sciences to the arts and government, throughout the world.

## LEADERSHIP

[Linda G. Mills](#) became the 17th president of New York University on July 1, 2023. President Mills assumed the role after serving as NYU's Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life for 11 years. President Mills has been an instrumental, innovative, and globally minded leader at NYU since she joined the University in 1999. She is also the Lisa Ellen Goldberg Professor of Social Work, Public Policy, and Law and Executive Director of the NYU Center on Violence and Recovery. President Mills has served as a key institutional leader since 2002, when she was named Vice Provost (and in 2006, Senior Vice Provost) for Undergraduate Education and University Life.

[Georgina Dopico](#) serves as NYU's Provost after having served as Interim Provost beginning in August 2022. A Professor of Renaissance history and literature, Provost Dopico joined the NYU faculty in 2000 and has also served as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Arts and Science Dean for Humanities, Director of Global Curriculum for CAS, Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

## STRATEGIC PATHWAYS

As NYU approaches its bicentennial in 2031, NYU's leadership team has established a set of [strategic pathways](#) to align the work of its global community.

**Develop a distinctive profile in science and technology that makes NYU the world's premier institution for discovery, innovation, and entrepreneurship with a global perspective:** NYU will leverage its significant strengths in science, technology, design, entrepreneurship, and global convening to create a distinctive world-class ecosystem that draws in talent and makes NYU a preferred partner for academic institutions, industry, and government on large-scale research efforts. Drawing upon deep assets across the University, including those in the arts and humanities, social sciences, and policy, will multiply NYU's real-world impact and help make NYU a champion of progress on key global challenges.

**Lead the world in interdisciplinary collaboration and impact:** Distinguished by its combination of scale, breadth, and global network, NYU has a significant opportunity to lead the world in interdisciplinary collaboration in the form of multi-school and multi-location research and educational programs that generate high-impact practices and offer novel opportunities for students.

**Lead the world in global education and research:** NYU will be the world's leader in global education and research, featuring a vibrant network of academic locations around the world; strong support for globally oriented research and creative work; a large and thriving population of international students, faculty, and staff; and global study experiences and program offerings that distinguish an NYU undergraduate education and give students a unique edge relative to their peers.

**Build and sustain a welcoming and supportive community in which students, faculty, and staff can flourish, and timely graduation is a top priority:** NYU will be a vibrant, diverse, welcoming, and accessible global community where all feel supported, connected, and inspired to do their best work. Diligent and persistent attention will be paid to reducing and eliminating barriers to success, improving on-time graduation rates for students, efficiently and effectively providing research and teaching support for faculty, and providing robust opportunities for professional development and growth for staff.

## THE DEAN OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

The Dean of Arts and Science is the academic, administrative, and community leader of Arts and Science, reporting to the President and the Provost. The Dean oversees a complex entity that includes more than 60 departments, programs, and centers, as well as Liberal Studies. The Dean of Arts and Science oversees the Dean of Liberal Studies, the Dean of the College of Arts and Science (CAS), and the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS). Department chairs and program directors report to the Dean, who is responsible for all faculty lines in the unit. The Dean oversees a close-knit team of three divisional deans stewarding disciplines in the humanities (also the Vice Dean for Interdisciplinary Initiatives), the sciences (also the Vice Dean for Research), and the social sciences (also the Vice Dean for Strategic and Global Initiatives), and a Divisional Dean at-Large (also the Vice Dean for Inclusive Excellence). The Deans meet regularly to coordinate strategy and ensure alignment around shared goals for research and education in Arts and Science.

Arts and Science is home to over 1,100 faculty, more than half of whom are tenure/tenure track faculty, and the balance of whom are full-time continuing contract faculty. Arts and Science holds joint full faculty meetings, inclusive of continuing contract faculty, who are also represented in the University Senate through the Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council. In addition to Arts and Science, the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) and the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW) are scholarly extensions of Arts

and Science. These prestigious divisions have their own academic directors, but their graduate degrees are conferred by Arts and Science. Members of the faculty in Arts and Science join in research with every part of the University, hold many cross-appointments, and teach well beyond their own disciplines. Arts and Science faculty teach regularly at NYU's degree-granting campuses in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai and also serve as Site Directors at NYU's global academic centers. Furthermore, over 70 Arts and Science faculty across 28 disciplines participate every year in NYU's Site-Specific Advisory Committees, which bring together directors of global sites and faculty representatives from across the University to advise on academic programs and scholarly experiences in the Global Sites. The current Vice Chancellor & Vice Provost for Global Programs is Eliot Borenstein, a Professor in Russian & Slavic Studies and a Collegiate Professor.

Arts and Science provides nearly all instruction for its undergraduate students, as well as education in the liberal arts for 23,000 undergraduate students across the entire university. It also instructs over 4,000 graduate students in a broad spectrum of [programs](#), including doctoral, master's, and joint degree programs, as well as [global programs](#) and [advanced certificates](#). For FY26, Arts and Science has an annual budget of \$437 million, and it reported \$93 million of research expenditures in FY25.

## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEAN

The next Dean will bring creativity, drive, fundraising acumen, and strategic thinking to raise the overall profile, scholarly stature, educational impact, research and teaching excellence, student experience, and resources of Arts and Science. In a challenging time for higher education, NYU is leading the way forward. The Dean of Arts and Science will play a significant role at NYU and nationally to advance a compelling vision and message for the critical importance and value of Arts and Science in the world today. Specifically, the Dean will pursue the following leadership objectives:

**VISION: Advance a shared vision for Arts and Science.** The next Dean will engage and unify a broad Arts and Science community. The Dean should consider the distinct issues and needs across the various areas, promote innovative program development across the entire span, and help the community navigate complex times through clear and inclusive communication. The Dean will be able to appreciate the range of opinions and ideas of faculty, students, and administrators across the disciplines and chart an inspiring path forward. The Dean will work with the community to shape Arts and Science to match resources with the broad range of disciplines needed in a leading research university in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**RESEARCH: Accelerate the growth of Arts and Science's research enterprise and secure its place as one of the best research centers in the world.** The Dean must appreciate the full breadth of academic disciplines and nurture their research and scholarly success. The Dean will both encourage risk-taking to pursue groundbreaking ventures and serve as a creative problem solver to ensure streamlined services and support for faculty research and teaching while pioneering strategies to negotiate a dynamic funding environment successfully. Arts and Science is an essential component of the strategic pathway to advance Science and Tech at NYU, and the Dean will ensure it contributes to groundbreaking discovery and

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innovation that place NYU at the forefront of high-impact research. The Dean will support faculty excellence and continue elevating the quality and reputation of departments, enabling Arts and Science to recruit and retain a world-class and distinguished faculty. The Dean should also be attentive to the professional development of all faculty and graduate students, prioritize investments in academic excellence in teaching and research, and identify areas where Arts and Science can raise its research profile quickly and substantially.

**FUNDRAISING: Expand the resource base through fundraising and revenue generation.** In order to meet the ambitious goals of Arts and Science, the Dean will need to invest considerable time in fundraising, donor cultivation, and donor stewardship. Strategic resource management alongside growing resources through philanthropy and other creative sources of revenue development will be essential.

**EDUCATION: Provide a top-rate 21st-century education for all students.** The Dean should drive Arts & Science's leadership in preparing students for lives of purpose and distinction. The Dean should be student-centered, value student input, and be passionate about student success and outcomes for both undergraduate and graduate students. In a world of rapid technological change, the Dean should support innovations in education that prepare graduates to be resilient and nimble while launching them toward the forefronts of their chosen fields. The Dean should not just support, but require faculty development for teaching excellence and expand opportunities for undergraduate and graduate research, extracurricular engagement, professional training, and exceptional advising. The Dean should further support first-generation college students and widen access to the educational opportunities at NYU. The Dean should find ways to assess and invigorate the wide array of master's and other programs Arts and Science offers in addition to continuing to ensure and raise the standards of excellence for doctoral education.

**COLLABORATION: Serve as a strategic thought partner and future-oriented academic leader at NYU.** The next Dean will deepen connections between departments and programs in Arts and Science and align the goals of Arts and Science with broader NYU institutional priorities. The Dean will work collaboratively with the President, Provost, and other senior leaders of NYU to advance the strategic pathways and foster cross-school collaboration. Specifically, in the Science and Tech pathway, the Dean will partner with the Executive Vice President for Global Science and Technology to leverage the strengths across other schools, such as the Courant Institute School, Grossman School of Medicine, and Tandon School of Engineering. Additionally, the Dean will work with fellow deans at NYU to develop further interdisciplinary opportunities across social sciences, arts, humanities, and the professional schools.

**GLOBAL: Leverage the global and local advantages of NYU.** NYU's global reach is second to none. The Dean should continually explore opportunities and encourage the Arts and Science community to maximize the benefits of NYU's vast global network. At the same time, the Dean should seek out opportunities for Arts and Science to expand its public service footprint to benefit New York City and utilize the wealth of opportunities locally. Arts and Science is uniquely positioned to collaborate with

neighboring institutions such as the Simons Foundation and the New York Genome Center, as well as myriad cultural institutions.

## LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Dean of Arts and Science must demonstrate considerable accomplishments as a successful academic leader in a complex research university to navigate the scale and scope of NYU. Nominees or applicants must hold an earned doctorate with scholarly credentials suitable for tenure at the rank of Professor in a department within Arts and Science.

The ideal candidate would bring many of the following professional experiences and personal qualities:

- A distinguished scholar and academic leader
  - A personal record of research impact and commitment to teaching that would earn credibility and trust with the Arts and Science community.
  - A future-oriented view of research and education in the 21st century, including how technologies like AI are profoundly changing education and research.
  - A strategic, big-picture thinker who can develop ambitious goals and align with institutional priorities; evidence of having grown innovative, impactful programs.
  - A record of cultivating excellence and leading the successful recruitment and retention of superb faculty.
- Demonstrated executive skills to navigate the complexities of higher education and effectively manage a large, broad Arts and Science enterprise
  - Extensive academic administrative experience, typically serving as a leader of a department or division within a university.
  - The ability or potential to handle many streams of information and multiple issues at once, coupled with the ability to delegate, prioritize, make difficult decisions, and build a strong team.
  - A global view of higher education and the ability to leverage NYU's unique assets in the Global Network University.
  - Strong fiscal acumen and strategic resource management.
- A strong university citizen and consummate collaborator
  - A commitment to the founding ideals of the University.
  - Deep intellectual curiosity beyond their discipline.
  - Evidence of developing cross-disciplinary and/or cross-school initiatives.
  - Ability to leverage partnerships in NYC and around the world to expand opportunities for Arts and Science.
- Extraordinary emotional intelligence
  - Excellent listening and communication skills; an inclination to provide the broad context and rationale for decisions.
  - A record of strong community engagement and inclusivity; the capacity to build consensus, to motivate, and to inspire others.

- Empathy for and attentiveness to the stresses and strains on faculty, staff, and students.
- Judiciousness and diplomacy. The ability to navigate crises and manage through uncertainty.
- Energy, integrity, compassion, and an inclination towards action.
- A champion for Arts and Science and an enthusiastic ambassador and fundraiser
  - Strong commitment to the value of Arts and Science and its role in service to society; ability to articulate the value of Arts and Science to the public.
  - An entrepreneurial spirit to pursue new opportunities that benefit Arts and Science.
  - Strong narrative skills to communicate the cosmopolitan character of Arts and Science, to convey its centrality to NYU, and to increase its visibility and recognition across NYU and beyond.
  - A strong fundraiser; experience cultivating donors and a demonstrated record of philanthropic success, inside or outside of the academy.

## COMPENSATION

Compensation will be commensurate with experience, with an anticipated salary range of approximately \$674,000-\$744,000.

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Complete applications (CVs and cover letters) are requested by E.O.D. on Monday, March 2, and should be submitted via the Isaacson, Miller website:

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/new-york-university/dean-arts-and-science>

John Muckle, Partner  
Liz Braun, Managing Associate  
Ethan Thomas, Managing Search Coordinator  
Isaacson, Miller

*NYU is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to a policy of equal treatment and opportunity in every aspect of its recruitment and hiring process without regard to age, alienage, caregiver status, childbirth, citizenship status, color, creed, disability, domestic violence victim status, ethnicity, familial status, gender and/or gender identity or expression, marital status, military status, national origin, parental status, partnership status, predisposing genetic characteristics, pregnancy, race, religion, reproductive health decision making, sex, sexual orientation, unemployment status, veteran status, or any other legally protected basis. All interested persons are encouraged to apply for vacant positions at all levels.*

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