resource guide for parents and families
leaderisure & facts

leadership
Susanne L. Wofford, Dean
Kim DaCosta, Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs (Fall 2021)
Alejandro Velasco, Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs (Spring 2022)
Linda Wheeler Reiss, Associate Dean for Finance and Administration
Greg Erickson, Associate Dean of Students (Fall 2021)
Patrick McCreery, Associate Dean of Students (Spring 2022)
Amy Spellacy, Assistant Dean of Advising

degree designations
Gallatin offers undergraduate and graduate degrees:
    Bachelor of Arts (BA), Individualized Major
    Master of Arts (MA), Individualized Major

location
1 Washington Place, on the corner of Broadway in Greenwich Village
New York, New York

founded
University Without Walls, 1972
Gallatin Division, 1976
Gallatin School of Individualized Study, 1995
Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to Gallatin! Welcome to NYU! And welcome to New York City! We know that incoming students are nervous and excited about what lies ahead, and we know parents and families are as well. We also know that you probably have and will have a lot of questions. This guide should be a helpful resource as your student begins at Gallatin. No doubt, it will not answer all of your questions, and the School’s faculty and staff are available to help you and your student with any questions you have. We as a School—faculty and staff together—are committed to an ongoing intense and enriching engagement with you and your student.

We have all been through a difficult last year and a half and, obviously, as this fall semester begins, we are not quite where we had hoped we would be. Like all of you, we are craving a return to normalcy. That being said, we are confident in the safety measures that are being taken, and we are confident and excited about the educational and cultural experiences that your student will encounter. I personally have been teaching first-year seminars at Gallatin for 15 years and this is always my favorite time of the year. I can’t wait to get to know our new students and their questioning and creative minds.

At Gallatin, students have the opportunity to combine the best of a small college experience with the best of a large research university. This unique combination produces an educational environment in which

- Students work closely and individually with faculty advisers to design their own interdisciplinary program of study, which will include an area of concentration that they define.
- Students have the opportunity to select courses from among all of NYU’s distinct undergraduate schools, colleges, and programs.
- In Gallatin’s interdisciplinary seminars and small classes, students are encouraged to rethink the connections between the different areas of study that compel them
- Students explore multiple opportunities for learning outside the traditional classroom, such as internships, independent studies, civic projects, and lessons and practice in the arts.
- Gallatin students view New York City—a place for limitless discovery—as their extended classroom.

NYU’s Center for Student Life invites the parents of new first-year and transfer students to Alumni Weekend and Parents Day, on October 21-24, 2021. In addition to this guide, parents can also find numerous resources on NYU’s main website, under “Parent Resources.” Please feel free to call on us whenever you need to; we have included the names and contacts of Gallatin offices at the back of the guide.

We look forward to this upcoming journey with you!

Gregory Erickson
Interim Associate Dean of Students, Gallatin School of Individualized Study
Below is a general timeframe for key events and activities in the coming year. For specific dates, please see NYU’s academic calendar online; search “academic calendar” at nyu.edu.

**late spring/early summer** Entering first-year and external transfer students register for Fall semester courses

**week before fall semester begins** Entering first-year and external transfer students participate in Welcome Week activities, including Convocation; students are given name and contact information for their primary faculty adviser

**early september** Fall classes begin

**second week of classes** Students are expected to have their schedules set; drop-add period ends, last day to drop a course without a W appearing on the transcript

**october** Parents Day

**early december** Last chance to drop a course (a W appears on the transcript); last day to file for Pass-Fail grade

**november** Registration begins for Spring classes

**december** Final exams/final papers and projects due; end of Fall classes

**january** Entering external transfer students register for Spring semester classes

**late january** Spring semester classes begin

**second week of classes** Students are expected to have their schedules set; drop-add period ends, last chance to drop a course without a W appearing on the transcript

**april** Registration begins for Fall classes

**late april** Last chance to drop a course (a W appears on the transcript); last day to file for Pass-Fail grade

**early may** Final exams/final papers and projects due; end of Spring classes

**mid-may** NYU commencement and Gallatin graduation ceremony

**summer** Entering external transfer students register for Fall semester classes
Academic advising is central to the life of a Gallatin student. In keeping with Gallatin’s educational philosophy, students develop individualized and interdisciplinary concentrations under the guidance of Gallatin advisers.

All Gallatin students have two assigned advisers: a primary faculty adviser, who serves as an intellectual mentor as the student navigates disciplines and departments to forge the concentration; and a class adviser, who provides administrative and academic support to a cohort of students. Students transferring from other schools also benefit from the guidance of a transfer student adviser, who assists with the transition into Gallatin.

Gallatin students are responsible for cultivating productive advising relationships. Over the course of their academic careers, students reflect on their academic goals and intellectual growth by completing the Plan of Study every semester before registration. Students should complete the Intellectual Autobiography and Plan for Concentration (IAPC) in the sophomore year after thorough discussions about their academic fields of interest and intellectual goals with their primary advisers. In the junior year, undergraduate students build on the IAPC, work on the Rationale for their concentration, and prepare for the senior Colloquium, a two-hour oral exam completed in the penultimate semester under the direction of the student’s primary adviser.

Throughout the course of the academic year, class advisers and other administrators at Gallatin send emails to students with crucial information that they need to know to succeed. Please encourage your student to check and read email often. If at any point your student has a question or concern, the class adviser is a great place to start. The class adviser will know how to direct your student!
top advising questions answered

What is the difference between a traditional major and a Gallatin concentration?

Traditional majors are established by academic departments, whose faculty and administrators determine the courses students must complete to fulfill the major, and the sequence in which they must do so. The Gallatin concentration inverts this model. The student, working closely with academic advisers and adhering to Gallatin’s own requirements, determines what courses and other learning opportunities will contribute to the concentration.

How will my student develop a concentration?

Students often enter Gallatin with at least some sense of their academic interests and future career goals. Through consultation with academic advisers, the student selects courses that facilitate further exploration in these areas. Gallatin encourages students to explore their interests from multiple directions—through an interdisciplinary lens. For example, an interest in aesthetics might lead a student to take courses in the Art History department of NYU’s College of Arts & Science and other courses in studio art, philosophy, urban studies, gender and sexuality studies, museum studies, and fashion.

Students must incorporate some requirements and degree benchmarks into their concentration. A key moment occurs at the end of the sophomore year (or first semester of the junior year, for some transfer students), when the student must describe the concentration in a short essay titled the Intellectual Autobiography and Plan for Concentration (IAPC). The student’s concentration will likely continue to evolve after the IAPC, but the document nonetheless serves as the student’s basic roadmap to graduation. A crucial event in each student’s Gallatin education is the senior Colloquium, a two-hour discussion that the student has with the primary faculty adviser and two other faculty members around a scholarly topic of the student’s choice and based on a Booklist of at least 20 texts that the student is prepared to discuss. The student prepares a Rationale for their concentration which must be approved by two faculty members. The Rationale will be the starting point for the Colloquium.

How will my student’s adviser be assigned?

All Gallatin students are assigned two advisers: a primary faculty adviser and a class adviser. (Transfer students also work closely with a transfer student adviser as they transition into Gallatin.)

The primary faculty adviser is assigned based on the Advising Questionnaire, which asks incoming students to describe their
Can my student switch primary faculty advisers?

If a student’s academic interests evolve or change altogether, or if the student determines that another professor might make a better fit as an adviser, the student can request a change. Gallatin asks that students work with the assigned adviser for at least a semester before requesting a change. Students are encouraged to speak with the class adviser when considering a change of adviser so that a more effective match can be made going forward.

Will my student be able to take courses in other NYU schools?

Gallatin permits students to take courses from across the University. However, Gallatin students must adhere to the registration requirements, procedures, and limitations established by the other schools and departments. Students are also expected to satisfy prerequisites for a course. It is always good policy for a student to discuss plans to take cross-school classes with their advisers, who can clarify enrollment procedures and suggest potential backups should a particular course prove unavailable.

Students are able to enroll in most courses at the College of Arts and Science (CAS) and the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Some Tisch School of the Arts programs are conservatory-style. Classes offered by these programs are available only to students who are matriculated there, having been admitted through audition or portfolio review. However, Tisch’s Open Arts Curriculum makes many courses available to non-majors. The Stern School of Business makes many of its classes available to non-Stern students, though the
What degree requirements will my student encounter along the way?

Gallatin students are empowered to explore their intellectual, creative, and career paths in a variety of ways—and on national and international stages. Gallatin offers several competitive fellowships for students who want to conduct extended research or creative projects outside the classroom. These include the Dean's Award for Summer Research, Gallatin Global Fellowship in Human Rights, Gallatin China Summer Fellowship, and the Horn Family Fund for Environmental Research. Students interested in applying should consult with their primary faculty adviser and register their interest by sending an email to gallatin.researchawards@nyu.edu. Additionally, Gallatin works closely with NYU's Office of Global Awards to mentor students as they apply for prestigious national

Can my student apply for any fellowships to support research or creative projects?

Students must complete 34 units in Gallatin School courses, all of which contain the letters “UG” in the course subject area. (This total includes the 2-unit COLLQ-UG, which students must register for in the semester in which they plan to complete the Senior Colloquium.) In fulfilling this requirement, students must earn 4 units in the First-Year Interdisciplinary Seminar, 4 units in First-Year Writing Seminar, 4 units in First-Year or Transfer Student Research Seminar, and 16 units in interdisciplinary seminars (which includes, for students who come in as first-years, the First-Year Interdisciplinary Seminar). All students must also complete the liberal arts and historical and cultural requirements, which are distributed as follows: 8 units in the humanities; 8 units in the social sciences; 4 units in either mathematics or science; 4 units in the “premodern” period; 4 units in the “early modern” period; and 4 units in “global cultures.” Some courses that satisfy the liberal arts requirement may also satisfy one of the historical and cultural requirements.

Outside of courses, students must submit an Intellectual Autobiography and Plan for Concentration in the semester in which they complete 64 units; a five- to eight-page adviser-approved Rationale about the topic or topics to be discussed in the Colloquium; and a Booklist consisting of 20-25 books representing several academic disciplines and historical periods related to the theme or themes described in their concentration. During their senior year, students must successfully complete a two-hour colloquium with their adviser and two other faculty members.

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Can my student receive advanced standing credit?

Gallatin students are able to request that advanced standing credits—such as AP and IB credits, as well as credits for A-levels and college courses that were completed in high school—be posted, with adviser approval, to their transcripts at the end of their sophomore year. Students are able to use advanced standing results at any time and independently of posting credits for advanced standing. They can work directly with the relevant department to place into more advanced courses if they have completed the equivalent of the prerequisite introductory courses through advanced standing work.

How will I know how my student is doing academically?

The best way to keep aware of your student’s academic progress is to have an open and ongoing dialogue with your student. Parents and families do not have automatic access to their student’s records. The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is intended to protect the privacy of a student’s educational records, including grades. Once a student matriculates at an institution of post-secondary education, FERPA stipulates that academic records belong only to the student, regardless of the student’s age or who pays the student’s tuition.

However, through the Albert portal, students can provide guest access to adviser information, class schedules, financial aid, grades, and tuition and housing bills through eSuite. Also, a student may file a “FERPA waiver,” giving a designated person or persons access to select records. For more about FERPA and the FERPA waiver process, see page 15.

Can my student graduate early?

In the standard progression, a student is expected to complete 16 units per semester for 8 semesters in order to meet the 128 units required for graduation. Students may graduate early as long as they complete 128 units and satisfy all degree requirements. A student may utilize a variety of strategies to graduate early. Flat-rate tuition covers 12-18 units per semester, so a student can take up to 18 units per semester without increased tuition obligations. For some students, advanced standing credits completed before matriculation at Gallatin can accelerate their graduation timeline. Students may also take January term and Summer courses at NYU. Students should discuss any acceleration plans with their advisers early to ensure that they are prepared to complete all their requirements in a timely manner.

Scholarships such as the Marshall, Rhodes, Fulbright, Udall, and Gilman. Students interested in more information should send an email to gallatin.researchawards@nyu.edu.
How should my student explain the individualized study degree to potential employers and graduate schools?

Gallatin students do well after graduation, whether they choose to pursue a career in the public or private sector, a post-baccalaureate fellowship, or entry into a graduate-degree program.

All undergraduate Gallatin students earn the same degree: the Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Major. Students should be clear about this when applying for jobs, fellowships, or entry into graduate schools. However, students can name their concentrations on their resumes, and the transcript will contain the title of the student’s Colloquium and the student’s academic minor, if the student has completed one. So, a student’s resume might read like this:

Bachelor of Arts, Individualized Major
Concentration: Urban Studies and the Politics of Place
Minor: Art History
Senior Colloquium title: Parks and Urban Farms in Cities Today

In addition, all Gallatin students have access to NYU’s award-winning Wasserman Center for Career Development, which helps students locate internship and job opportunities and works to prepare them for the challenges of the job market. Each semester, Wasserman hosts a workshop for Gallatin students, “Marketing Your Gallatin Degree,” which was developed in consultation with Gallatin’s senior class advisers. Through the workshop, Gallatin students come to understand how the skills they honed while developing a concentration can help them stand out as they apply for internships and, eventually, post-graduation jobs.
Gallatin has a vibrant community beyond the classroom that enables students to engage in activities and with organizations that expand their academic, social, political, and cultural interests. Gallatin students may get involved in NYU all-University activities, teams, and events and join a variety of Gallatin community initiatives, programs, events, and student clubs. Students interested in participating in student leadership will find opportunities through the Gallatin Student Council and the Gallatin Diversity Council. Other Gallatin initiatives include working with the Urban Democracy Lab, Writing Program, Science, Technology, Arts, and Creativity (STAC), joining an affinity group or a student club.

Gallatin’s student-run clubs and organizations speak to the diversity of student interests at the School. Gallatin students are some of the most artistically engaged students at NYU, and often take part in theatrical productions, concerts, dance productions and gallery exhibitions, many of which take place in The Jerry H. Labowitz Theatre for the Performing Arts, and in The Gallatin Galleries. Gallatin also hosts a variety of community-based events. Annual offerings include The Gallatin Arts Festival (GAF), the Gallatin Fashion Show, Black History Month, The Big Walk, Earth Day celebrations, a fall theatrical production, the Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series, the Albert Gallatin Lecture Series, events from the Urban Democracy Lab, Albert Gallatin’s Birthday Party, student fellowship and research symposia, film screenings, coffeehouses, and more.
Internships

Internships are credit-bearing work experiences that enable students to learn experientially at cultural and community-based institutions, social justice organizations, and private companies. Often, a student’s concentration will benefit from experiential learning, granting them exposure to a particular field or industry and illuminating a significant aspect of their studies. Gallatin’s Internship Office works closely with students to ensure that they are able to identify and take advantage of productive opportunities in their chosen fields of interest. The latest internship opportunities are listed on the Gallatin Internship Opportunities site: wp.nyu.edu/gallatin-internship_opportunities. The School has long-standing partnerships with employers who have worked with Gallatin students in the past are eager to have new Gallatin students apply.

general interest gallatin clubs
Gallatin Business Society, Gallatin Cares, Gallatin Cookies and Coloring Club, Gallatin Design Collective, Gallatin Disability Collective, Gallatin Law Society, Gallatin Museum Goers Club, NYU Reaching Out, Gallatin Research Incubator, PEP Mutual Aid Coalition, Urban Democracy Lab Student Organizers

performing arts clubs
Dancers/Choreographers Alliance, Gallatin Film Alliance, Gallatin Theatre Troupe, New Major Records

student-run publications

Every spring, the Gallatin Arts Festival engages the Gallatin community in a week-long showcase of the performing and visual arts, which is organized and curated by a student leadership team.

Gallatin welcomes and supports student interests and celebrates the many contributions that student events and activities add to the community of the School. Students interested in finding out more about clubs, initiatives, organizations, and leadership opportunities at Gallatin should contact the Office of Community Engagement at gallatin.studentlife@nyu.edu.

Both NYU and Gallatin have a wide variety of extra- and co-curricular opportunities for students. NYU’s Center for Student Life works to engage and empower students, while Gallatin’s own Office of Community Engagement, which oversees student life at Gallatin, allows students to design and implement clubs and activities that will foster community and allow students to complement their academic pursuits.

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The Internships Office can also act as an advocate for a student in the workplace and otherwise help a student get the most out of an internship opportunity. The primary faculty adviser, who is the grading instructor for the academic component of the internship, will also regularly discuss with the student how the internship fits into the student’s concentration and career goals. Some Gallatin courses are complemented by embedded internships, which enable students enrolled in the course to work with non-profit organizations. This model can help students engage the course materials more deeply by connecting specific, academic knowledge with real-world skills and experiences related to the course topic.

Gallatin students also have access to NYU’s Wasserman Center for Career Development, which helps students locate internship and job opportunities.

research funding

Gallatin students are empowered to explore their intellectual, creative, and career paths in a variety of ways—and on national and international stages. By offering Gallatin students financial support in the form of fellowships and scholarships, the School works to expand the number of enrichment opportunities available to students. From conducting human rights research, staging an art exhibition of student work, to scripting a television pilot, Gallatin students can find funding from the School to support these—and many other—endeavors.

To learn more about all of these opportunities, including award amounts, application procedures, and best practices, visit gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/awardsandhonors. For more information, please contact gallatin.researchawards@nyu.edu.

financial aid

tuition and billing
The act of registering for classes generates a tuition bill. Continuing and new students who register for the fall semester by early July will receive a fall tuition bill in mid-July. The fall payment deadline is early August. Students who register for the spring semester by late November will receive a spring tuition bill in mid-December. The spring payment deadline is early January. Exact dates for billing and payment deadlines can be found on the University’s website, search “NYU Billing and Payment Dates.”
The University’s Electronic Suite system, eSuite, is the official means of generating tuition bills to enrolled students. All students who enroll for courses will receive an email at their official NYU email address (netid@nyu.edu) notifying them that a bill for tuition, fees, and housing is now available. The eBill notification will only be sent to the student’s NYU email address unless your student makes you an authorized user on their billing account by giving you access to view and pay the bill on-line in eSuite. More information on how a student can make someone an authorized user can be found on the University’s website, search “NYU Authorized User Billing.”

**financial aid**

Students and parents must submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year to be considered for federal financial aid. Students who applied for and received a financial aid award upon admission can expect to receive a similar award each year as long as the student maintains satisfactory academic progress, the FAFSA was submitted on time, and the family’s financial situation has not changed significantly from the prior year. Any returning undergraduate student whose family has experienced a financial change in circumstance (for example, the loss of a job) may be considered for an appeal scholarship.

NYU’s Office of Financial Aid is the best source for information about federal financial aid and award appeals. Along with your student, take time to review the University’s comprehensive financial aid website at nyu.edu/admissions/financial-aid-and-scholarships.html. On this site, you will find contact information for the Office of Financial Aid, which includes their email address, financial.aid@nyu.edu.

**other sources of aid**

In addition to applying for financial aid from NYU, students with financial need should explore scholarship funding from outside organizations. There are many free scholarship search services that can assist you. You should never pay for scholarship search services—extensive free resources are available. You can find more information about searching for outside scholarships on NYU’s website by searching “NYU scholarships and grants.”

**NYU StudentLink Center**

The walk in StudentLink Center is a comprehensive resource for students and their families to obtain information, receive answers to inquiries and provide direction about policies, tasks and requirements related to student billing and payment, financial aid, registrar, housing, meal plans, and other student administrative areas. The StudentLink Center is located at 383 Lafayette Street, 1st Floor.
Many Gallatin students find that studying away allows them to incorporate unique courses, experiences, and perspectives into their concentrations. Gallatin’s Office of Global Programs assists students who are considering study away. It is important for students to weigh their many options carefully, as they will want to make the most of their time away from New York.

Gallatin students may take advantage of several forms of global learning. Undergraduates may opt for semester and year-long study away at one of NYU’s global sites in Abu Dhabi, Accra, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Florence, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Paris, Prague, Shanghai, Sydney, Tel Aviv, and Washington, DC. Gallatin students may also petition to be permitted to study for a semester at another college or university, either domestically or abroad.

In addition to semester-long and yearlong opportunities, Gallatin and other NYU schools offer a number of small, intensive, two- to four-week travel courses in the January and Summer terms. These are designed to allow students to explore particular cultural or historical topics in-depth in another country or region.

In general, students who want to study away must have at least a 3.0 GPA to be eligible. Many NYU sites require that students apply by the priority deadline (September 15 for the spring; February 15 for the fall). First-year students may not study away for a full semester but can participate in shorter-term opportunities. Transfer students may not study away in the first semester at Gallatin. Students are also strongly discouraged from studying away in their final semesters. Students must work closely with their advisers while planning study away to ensure they will be able to maintain the necessary progress towards the completion of their degree.
Gallatin students have sources of support both within the School itself and the larger University for a variety of challenges that they may face as undergraduates. Gallatin’s Office of Student Affairs assists students with a broad spectrum of wellness issues, as well as with leaves of absence and with issues related to academic performance, school/life balance, housing, stress management, adjusting to college issues and personal conflicts.

**academic issues**
Gallatin strongly encourages students to discuss their academic concerns with their advisers and faculty members. Students typically meet with faculty members during an instructor’s office hours. Doing so can give the student critical clarification about course materials, a chance to discuss upcoming assignments, and, perhaps most importantly, an opportunity to get to know professors who can offer guidance and mentorship.

Many students, even those who receive high grades, can benefit from tutoring. At Gallatin's Writing Center, students receive help from peer-writing assistants who have been selected and trained by Gallatin’s Writing Program.

All NYU students have access to peer tutoring through the University Learning Center. This resource can be particularly useful for time management purposes: committing to weekly sessions can ensure that students actively review material for lecture classes that might include two or three exams over the course of the semester. In addition, some departments offer tutoring for students taking their courses. For example, NYU’s Courant Institute offers mathematics tutoring through its Undergraduate Tutoring Center. Computer Science tutoring is available through the NYU Computer Science Department.

**health and wellness issues**
NYU’s Moses Center for Student Accessibility can assist students with accommodations and ensure that classes and course materials are accessible. Professional staff members are available to listen and to provide limited counseling to help students identify what may be troubling them and to develop strategies to cope. Gallatin’s Office of Student Affairs also connects students with NYU’s Counseling and Wellness Services for more extensive individual counseling, and to provide information on low-cost referrals to area psychologists and psychiatrists.

If your student becomes non-communicative or seems particularly unhappy when you speak on the phone or during visits, speak to your student about how school is going both academically, socially, and otherwise. If you are concerned about your students mental health or well being, please contact Gallatin’s Office of Student Affairs (studentaffairs.gallatin@nyu.edu) or contact NYU Wellness (212-443-9999).
parent access to student records

Understandably, you may be concerned about your student’s progress and have questions about obtaining access to information pertaining to your student’s educational records. Access to a student’s educational records is governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

Among its several purposes, FERPA was enacted to protect the privacy of student education records; establish the rights of students to inspect and review their education records; and provide students with an opportunity to allow inaccurate or misleading information in their education records to be corrected.

The rights protected by FERPA, which may be exercised by the parents of elementary or secondary school students, belong only to the students once they are in attendance at an institution of postsecondary education, regardless of a student’s age or who is paying their tuition bills. Since parents and families do not automatically have rights under FERPA to access their student’s education records, you may gain access by following the procedures below.

1) Speak directly with your student and ask the student to share information with you about their education records.

2) Your student may provide consent for you to electronically access their class schedule, financial aid, grades, and other information through NYU’s student information system, which is called Albert.

3) Your student may submit a signed and notarized consent form permitting University officials (deans, professors, advisers, administrators, etc.) to disclose (orally or through other forms of communication) information from their education records to you.

4) You, the parent or guardian, may also make a request in writing and provide evidence that the student is your dependent under the Internal Revenue Code by submitting a copy of your latest federal income tax return.

For more information about FERPA, and to read the complete FERPA policy statement on the University’s website, search “NYU policies guidelines FERPA” as well as on the Gallatin Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) website, search “NYU Gallatin bulletin policies FERPA.”
gallatin contacts

general information
(212) 998-7370
gallatin@nyu.edu

office of community engagement
1 Washington Place, 5th Floor
(212) 992-6304
gallatin.studentlife@nyu.edu

gallatin internships office
1 Washington Place, 7th Floor
(212) 992-8706

Gallatin Office of Global Programs
411 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor
(212) 998-7133
gallatin.global@nyu.edu

Gallatin Student Affairs
1 Washington Place, 5th Floor
(212) 998-7341
studentaffairs.gallatin@nyu.edu

Gallatin Writing Center
by appointment at bit.ly/gallatinwriting

NYU Offices
moses center for student accessibility (212) 998-4980
student health center (212) 443-1000
Counseling and Wellness (212) 443-9999

Academic Advising
1 Washington Place, 7th Floor
(212) 998-7320
advising.gallatin@nyu.edu

Assistant Dean of Advising Amy Spellacy
212-992-9837 • amy.spellacy@nyu.edu

First-Year Class Adviser Yevgeniya Traps
212-992-9838 • yevgeniya.traps@nyu.edu

Sophomore Class Adviser Cameron Williams
212-992-9830 • cw1375@nyu.edu

Junior Class Adviser Irene Morrison-Moncure
212-992-7756 • irene.morrisonmoncure@nyu.edu

Senior Class Adviser Rachel Bunker
212-992-7746 • rab648@nyu.edu

Senior Class Adviser Malik Walker
212-992-3730 • mw3631@nyu.edu

Transfer Class Adviser Aubrey Korneta
(212) 998-7356 • alk415@nyu.edu

Transfer Class Adviser David Sugarman
(212) 998-7343 • dss368@nyu.edu
more at gallatin.nyu.edu/gateways/parents.html