



NYU

**Dean, Robert F. Wagner Graduate
School of Public Service**

Position Specification
2025



About New York University



Overview

Founded in 1831 with a mission to be a center of higher learning open to all—regardless of national origin, religious beliefs, or social background—[New York University](#) is now one of the largest private universities in the United States and a leader in global education. Its enrollment has grown to over 65,000 students from nearly every U.S. state and 133 countries, and its alumni community exceeds 650,000 members worldwide.

NYU was founded as a university “in and of the city,” and its main campus is in the heart of one of the most multicultural, internationally vibrant cities in the world. According to the 2023 National Science Foundation’s Higher Education Research and Development (NSF HERD) report, New York University is ranked #12 nationally and #5 among private universities. NYU now also proudly holds the #1 rank in New York State. NYU’s advancement is among the fastest nationwide, rising from #43 to #12 among all universities over the past decade. NYU’s upward trajectory reflects a significant expansion of its research program, with \$1.47 billion in research spending for fiscal year 2023—more than triple the University’s spending a decade ago. This also marks the third year in a row that NYU has exceeded \$1 billion in research spending.

NYU comprises 20 schools and colleges. In 2014, the Middle States evaluation team described NYU as “one of the great success stories in American higher education.” As a member of the selective Association of American Universities, NYU is committed to excellence in every dimension: program reputation, global reach, faculty distinction, research breadth, and academic department strength.

As a global institution, NYU has degree-granting campuses in New York City, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai, alongside thirteen global academic centers of undergraduate study on six continents—Accra, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Florence, London, Madrid, Paris, Prague, Sydney, Tel Aviv, Los Angeles, Tulsa, and Washington, D.C. NYU sends more students to study abroad than any other university in the United States. NYU (not including the medical center, NYU Langone Health) has an annual budget of \$4 billion and an endowment of \$5.4 billion. NYU remains deeply committed to access and opportunity, with nearly a quarter of entering first-year students being the first in their families to attend college.

NYU is characterized by its commitment to academic excellence, entrepreneurial spirit, and creative innovation. The University is guided by its four [strategic pathways](#), including impactful interdisciplinarity, science and technology, global education and research, and flourishing for students, faculty, and staff. NYU schools and colleges encompass the arts and sciences; law; medicine; business; dentistry; education; nursing; the cinematic and performing arts; music and studio arts; public service; engineering; continuing and professional studies; and social work. Its renowned faculty includes recipients of Nobel, Pulitzer, Turing, and Abel Prizes; Academy, Grammy, and Tony Awards; National Medals for Science and the Arts; and MacArthur and Guggenheim Fellowships, among many others. Thriving beyond borders and across academic disciplines, NYU has emerged as one of the most networked and extensive worldwide platforms for learning, teaching, researching, building knowledge, and inventing new ways to meet humanity’s challenges.

About New York University



Leadership

[Dr. Linda G. Mills](#) serves as the 17th President of NYU and holds the title of Lisa Ellen Goldberg Professor of Social Work, Public Policy, and Law. President Mills is a fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. She is an NSF- and NIJ-funded social scientist who has reshaped the treatment of domestic violence; an attorney who advocated for people entitled to Social Security benefits; an award-winning filmmaker; and a long-time member of NYU's senior leadership team.

[Dr. Georgina Dopico](#) was named Provost of NYU in June of 2024 after serving as Interim Provost since 2022. She is a Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Language and Literature, where her scholarship centers on the literature, history, and culture of early-modern Spain. Dr. Dopico has held essential leadership positions in the humanities and in academic affairs at the department, school, and University levels.

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

NYU Wagner's mission is to empower public service leaders to create and implement innovative policies and practices that advance the public good. NYU Wagner faculty, through their research, teaching, and public service, transform how society resolves complex public interest problems that defy easy solutions. Since 1938, NYU Wagner has been educating the world's future public service leaders. To learn more about NYU Wagner's history, see [here](#).

NYU Wagner students develop interdisciplinary analytical and managerial knowledge and skills with a deep appreciation of the varied contexts in which public needs arise and must be met. They are part of an active and inclusive community dedicated to serving the public interest effectively and equitably. Wagner students benefit from the extensive local and global resources that New York City offers. NYU Wagner graduates emerge with the capacity and drive to work across the public, nonprofit, and private sectors as they design, implement, and evaluate policies and processes that meet public needs in countries, cities, and communities around the world.

Experiential learning is central to the student experience at NYU Wagner. For nearly 30 years, NYU Wagner's lauded Capstone Program has matched graduate students with hundreds of client organizations around the world. Student teams spend an academic year addressing challenges and identifying opportunities for client organizations or conducting research on pressing social questions in real-world environments.

According to the 2024 U.S. News & World Report Rankings, NYU Wagner is ranked 9th nationally among all schools of public affairs. Other rankings of NYU Wagner programs include:

- #1 in Urban Policy
- #3 in Health Policy & Management
- #7 in Public Finance & Budgeting
- #7 in Nonprofit Management
- #9 in International & Global Policy
- #10 in Social Policy

About New York University



Degrees, Focus Areas, Centers, & Institutes

NYU Wagner offers several graduate degree programs, undergraduate programs, and certificates and non-degree programs. NYU Wagner's interdisciplinary research centers and institutes develop innovative approaches and solutions to address global challenges across public service.

Academic Offerings

- [MPA, Public & Nonprofit Management & Policy](#)
- [MPA, Health Policy & Management](#)
- [Master, Urban Planning](#)
- [Online MHA](#)
- [MS, Health Law & Strategy](#)
- [MS, Public Policy](#)
- [Executive MPA](#)
- [PhD, Public Administration](#)
- [Dual Degrees](#)
- [Undergraduate Offerings](#)
- [Certificates & Non-Degree Programs](#)

NYU Wagner's flexible program design allows students to tailor their electives around a broad set of [focus areas](#) throughout their NYU Wagner journey.

NYU Wagner [Centers and Institutes](#)—including the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, which operates jointly with the School of Law, the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management, and others—engage NYU Wagner faculty and students to tackle real-world problems using evidence-based approaches, working in partnership with nonprofit, public, and private sector organizations and colleagues.

The NYU Wagner Experience

NYU Wagner is a community united by passion. Converging from all over—and bound for—the world, the NYU Wagner community is part of the fabric of NYC.

Students - [Students](#) join NYU Wagner from every borough within New York City, 36 states, and over 30 different countries around the world, bringing professional experience from every sector of public service. While at NYU Wagner, students remain active beyond the classroom, through internships, engaging with research centers, and joining or leading one of 24 student groups.

Faculty - The heart of NYU Wagner's academic programs is its [faculty](#), whose full-time members include 26 tenured/tenure track faculty and 10 seasoned clinical faculty. Public service leaders and premier scholars in a variety of disciplines—economics, finance, sociology, political science, law, planning, healthcare, and more—NYU Wagner faculty members conduct research and teaching that address pressing social, environmental, and political issues.

Alumni - NYU Wagner [alumni](#) are bold leaders who expertly navigate complexity and produce results that matter. They are lifelong members of NYU Wagner's global university community.

The Position



Position Title Dean, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

Location New York, New York

Reports To [Georgina Dopico](#), Provost and [Linda G. Mills](#), President

Position Summary The Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service seeks an innovative, strategic leader who can build upon the school's storied history and chart a bold, visionary future. The next Dean will lead efforts to define a vision and implement a forward-looking strategy for NYU Wagner that both honors its legacy and positions the school to meet changing needs.

The next Dean will be well-positioned to take on this challenge, as they will inherit a school with a strong reputation and values; a strategically diversified program portfolio; and unique assets—including its excellent faculty and staff; the city of New York as its living laboratory; and the world-class global footprint and assets that NYU offers. From this foundation, the next Dean will harness the spirit of innovation for which NYU Wagner is known to "meet the moment."

NYU Wagner prepares students to enter public service careers across sectors through an interdisciplinary and experiential curriculum. This must remain foundational moving forward. Likewise, it is important that NYU Wagner maintains its distinction as one of the top schools in the world that prepares students for careers in public service, with academic rigor and high-impact, recognized research.

Under the leadership of the new Dean, Wagner is poised to capitalize on opportunities to serve as a hub for impactful scholarship and evidence-based engagement for all of NYU, for New York City, and for the global communities where Wagner is engaged. To deliver on these mandates, the next Dean must bring exceptional leadership to catalyze this vision and strategy across a multidisciplinary, dynamic set of stakeholders and alumni.

NYU Wagner students receive limited scholarships and financial support to fund their studies and to continue their pursuit of careers in public service. As the school's primary fundraiser, the next Dean should bring an appetite and aptitude for fundraising, especially for student support, and an ability to strengthen existing revenue streams and to develop new ones.

Though NYU Wagner is embedded in the fabric of New York City, the work of the school and the Wagner community is "of the world." The next Dean must bring a global outlook, with the ability to help NYU Wagner think and operate in an international context.

The Position



Roles & Responsibilities

- Serve as the chief academic and administrative officer of NYU Wagner and as a member of the Deans Council within the University.
- Be a spokesperson for the critical work of public service and for higher education on the local, state, and national stage.
- In collaboration with stakeholders inside and outside of the University, develop and implement a compelling long-range vision and strategy for NYU Wagner, delineating specific strategies to ensure excellence across all areas.
- Advance the school's commitment to world-class education, impactful research, and transformational practice.
- Maintain and extend a culture that centers the success and wellbeing of all students, and that promotes flourishing of faculty and staff within the school.
- Provide creative and dynamic leadership to meet school and University targets in the areas of enrollment, graduation rates, degrees conferred, student quality, and sponsored research.
- Recruit, develop, and retain top-notch faculty and staff; ensure high quality faculty and staff personnel processes, including hiring, evaluation, and tenure and promotion.
- Will have oversight and accountability for the school budget. Responsible for responding to changing budgetary contexts in higher education, revenue generation, and careful financial management to meet fiduciary and academic obligations.
- Provide leadership for NYU Wagner's fundraising efforts; work proactively with alumni and other donors to secure internal and external funding and to develop new sources of revenue.

The Person



Pivotal Experience & Expertise

Vision & Strategy

A big-picture thinker on how leaders, across sectors, can translate ideas into actions to impact the public good. Brings a track record of innovation and institution building, and of inspiring others to mobilize behind a vision. Proven experience engaging with various stakeholder groups to identify key priorities, implement strategies, and drive execution.

Fundraising & Innovative Revenue Streams

Proven experience of, or a demonstrated aptitude for, leading fundraising efforts, cultivating new donors and deepening existing relationships, with a special emphasis on generating increased financial support for NYU Wagner students.

Stakeholder Engagement

A strong relationship builder with the ability to work collaboratively with multiple stakeholder groups, including faculty, staff, students, University leadership, industry leaders, government leaders, and alumni, to align activities with broader institutional goals.

Stewardship of Research Excellence

A champion for the role that rigorous, relevant research plays in a school of public service. For candidates coming from the academy, this commitment would be demonstrated through a recognized record of publication, teaching, service, and impact that meets the standards for appointment as a full professor with tenure at NYU. For candidates coming from outside academia, this commitment would be demonstrated through a genuine, palpable appreciation for the importance of engaged research, and an aptitude to advance impactful scholarship.

Operational Management

An experienced leader and administrator with a track record of successful leadership in organizations, including evidence of excellent financial, operational, and people management skills and the ability to recruit, retain, and develop faculty, staff, and students. Committed to embedding the work of the faculty and students in professional practice in multiple areas and ensuring that the research is impactful and that the educational programs are relevant.

The Person



Culture Impact

Mission Orientation

Demonstrated passion for, and commitment to, NYU Wagner's mission for research, teaching, and public service.

Excellent Communicator

An inspirational communicator who can advocate for NYU Wagner and its students, faculty, and staff with a wide array of constituents in both externally- and internally-facing settings. Ability to articulate a clear, compelling vision for the school and generate excitement around new initiatives and priorities.

Interdisciplinary & International Lens

Brings an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary lens to strategy development, as well as the ability to think and work at the local, regional, national, and international levels and to partner across the University—with Law, Medicine, Public Health, Social Work, and other areas—to create opportunities and leverage NYU's strengths in these areas.

Engagement Team



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Nominations and interested individuals should be directed to: NYUWagner@heidrick.com

In compliance with NYC's Pay Transparency Act, the annual base salary range for this position is USD \$450,000-\$550,000. New York University considers factors such as (but not limited to) scope and responsibilities of the position, candidate's work experience, education/training, key skills, internal peer equity, as well as market and organizational considerations when extending an offer. This salary represents base pay only and excludes any additional items such as incentives, bonuses, etc.

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. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply for vacant positions at all levels.