



NYU adds Early Decision II option to freshman application

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by [Anna Sanders](#)

Starting this fall, prospective NYU and NYU Abu Dhabi students will be able to take longer when filling out early decision applications — but they will still hear from the university before everyone else.

In addition to the traditional Early Decision I and Regular Decision, applicants can now submit applications for Early Decision II. These applications will be due Jan. 1, the same date as that of Regular Decision.

"The philosophy of our Early Decision programs will remain the same," Shawn Abbott, assistant vice president for undergraduate admissions, said. "Students who are offered admission through either EDI or EDII will be expected to accept their offer if provided with a financial aid package that enables them to attend."

The move may ultimately lower the university's admission rate while bolstering the yield — the percentage of accepted students who enroll. With increasing class sizes, NYU has been unable to tighten its admittance rate as many peer institutions have.

While Early Decision I applicants must apply by Nov. 1 and will be notified of their acceptance by Dec. 15, the second round of applicants are given two extra months to decide if NYU is their top choice. They will be notified by mid-February, while Regular Decision applicants will still be notified by April 1.

According to Abbott, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions created Early Decision II "after coming to the realization that many students might benefit from having more time in their college search process before making a binding commitment to attend NYU."

In addition to NYU, other schools across the country have implemented Early Decision II for similar reasons. Emory University dean of admissions Jean Jordan believes more time is necessary for some students to make their decision.

"We initiated this program some years ago because we heard from a number of students that the EDI deadline was so early that they really had not had enough time to make that kind of binding commitment to one school," Jordan said.

Abbott said the decision to attend school in either New York City or Abu Dhabi "requires deep thought" and that a second round would benefit indecisive students come December.

Tisch sophomore and Early Decision accepted student Francisco Huergo agreed.

"I think it's great since it lets students affirm their commitment to attending," Huergo said.

However, CAS freshman and Early Decision applicant Tyler Kochanski said the addition of Early Decision II would weaken the decision process.

"I think it's kind of lame that there is now an Early Decision II," he said. "I think it defeats the purpose of it being a true early decision. I don't think it is necessary at all and I don't agree with it."

Freshman Ajlin Kotoric, another Early Decision applicant, said he felt the same way.

"I feel like having a second round is just taking kids who are uneasy or unsure about it and giving them a second chance," Kotoric said.

Though Abbott said the university does not "have an agenda in terms of how much of the freshman class we are looking to fill through our early programs," he added that he believes the number of students who identify NYU as their first choice may increase.

"There isn't an immediately identifiable numeric goal here," Abbott said. "The number and/or percentage of admission offers we extend entirely depends on the strength of the applicant pool we will see this year."