



A TRANSFORMATIONAL YEAR

The James Baldwin Scholars Program

at Hampshire College



The James Baldwin Scholars Program

gives talented students from underserved communities the chance to fulfill their academic promise. Named after preeminent African-American writer and social critic James Baldwin, who taught at Hampshire College, the program was established in 1992 as part of Hampshire's urban outreach initiative. Financial aid and academic support allow students to explore their interests, develop skills, and prepare for success in college and beyond.



Every Baldwin Scholar receives a scholarship that meets the costs of attending Hampshire College for one year, including tuition, room and board, and other expenses. Scholars live on campus and enroll in a slightly reduced schedule of courses that introduces them to Hampshire's rigorous academic program and to the close mentoring relationships between students and faculty. Regular meetings with the Baldwin Scholars program director, and the active support of the close-knit Baldwin Scholars community, provide guidance and encouragement as students make their way at the College.

“The faculty members connected to the program are truly invested in our education. For example, this summer I’m working as a research assistant with my advisor, who is also on the James Baldwin selection committee. It makes you feel like someone is really counting on your success.”

GABRIELLE GARCIA 12F

“As a James Baldwin Scholar, my professors pushed me even harder to see my full potential academically and as an artist. Working closely with them showed me a clear path of where I wanted to be and what I needed to do to achieve that goal. I am grateful for this opportunity as it has inspired me to continue doing this work and educating youth in Boston.”

ANDRE D. WOODBERRY 07F

Baldwin Scholars are fully involved with the Hampshire community. From organizing campus events to being elected student speaker of the graduating class, they are thoroughly immersed in campus life and take leadership roles in numerous organizations and activities. Hampshire also provides each Baldwin Scholar with a paid summer internship. The College encourages active learning, and the internships highlight a variety of career options while providing opportunities for the Scholars to learn essential skills needed to achieve success beyond the classroom. Baldwin Scholars are inquisitive, dedicated to learning, and active leaders in their communities. Students admitted to the program show a strong interest in attending college, and want to take advantage of the unparalleled learning opportunities available at Hampshire. Applicants are referred to the program by community agencies, high school teachers and guidance counselors, and Hampshire alumni and friends.

As Hampshire students Baldwin Scholars shape their own course of learning. Professors act as mentors and guides who challenge students to reach and exceed their goals. Rather than grades, Hampshire students receive written and oral evaluations that comprehensively evaluate their achievements. They also have access to the resources of the Five College consortium, which offers a wide selection of classes, lectures, libraries, faculty and other resources at Amherst, Smith, and Mount Holyoke Colleges as well as the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Each year most Baldwin Scholars successfully complete the program and continue their education at Hampshire College. Scholars who stay at Hampshire use the coursework completed during the Baldwin year, which includes a first-year tutorial and writing classes, to fulfill the College’s academic requirements. As matriculating students, they receive generous financial aid from the College.



“You know the quote “be the change you wish to see in the world?” I’ve never really met people that embodied that until I came to Hampshire College. This place taught me that every day you have a choice: a choice to be passive, or a choice to critically engage with the world around you, to be deliberate with your actions, with your language, with your energy, and I am forever grateful for that choice.”

ANNA SHADDAE RODRIGUEZ 10F

James Baldwin Scholar and
Student Commencement Speaker



“Our students possess personal and intellectual resilience. They are talented and diligent in the way they navigate Hampshire, with a sense of community and purpose.”

KARINA FERNÁNDEZ O2F

James Baldwin Scholars Program Director

For more information

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Admissions Office: 877.937.4267 or admissions@hampshire.edu

baldwin.hampshire.edu

Generous contributions help fund the program. For information on how you can help, please contact institutional advancement at 413.559.5574.

 Hampshire College

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