Identity Based Mods & Intentional Housing Communities

Spring 2017

Questions? Contact the HOO
413.559.5453
housing@hampshire.edu
Hampshire College Residence Life and Housing on Facebook or stop by the office (M-F, 8:30-4:30)
IDENTITY BASED MODS

Residence Life and Housing facilitates the continuation of many identity-based housing communities started by students. These residential spaces give support to members of our community with social identities that have been historically marginalized in this country, and strive to counter systemic oppression. This arises from our commitment to fostering diverse, socially just, and inclusive communities.

We recognize that our society--through its laws, institutional structures, and customs--has privileged some social groups while systematically disadvantaging and disenfranchising others. Even as we struggle to end these practices, we recognize that day-to-day life for members of these disadvantaged groups can be hurtful and exhausting.

Identity-based housing is an institutional structure designed to assist members of historically oppressed groups in supporting each other. It helps to create an added level of psychological comfort and safety for those who choose to live in those spaces, often providing the foundation for those students to be able to engage fully in the greater community.

Creating these safe spaces, in collaboration with centers on campus, will benefit the entire community. We must have the full engagement of all our community members, especially those whose experiences, ideas, and perspectives are different from those of the College’s mainstream population. It is through these means that we, as a full community, are most likely to challenge assumptions, craft new solutions to problems, and perform to our highest ability.

Residents of identity-based spaces are expected to attend the identity-based housing orientation in September. Additionally, residents should plan to attend approximately one program per month during the academic year.
FILLING EXISTING IDENTITY BASED MODS

The deadline to apply to live in an existing identity based mod is **Thursday, April 6 at 4pm.** All identity based mods share an online application, which can be found at [www.hampshire.edu/housing/identity-based-housing](http://www.hampshire.edu/housing/identity-based-housing). Students may apply for as many identity-based mods as they like in the same application. Current residents of identity-based mods who wish to live in the same mod next year will need to re-apply; preference will be given to residents who have demonstrated a commitment to the mission of identity based housing.

All applications will be reviewed by the Identity-Based Housing Guidance Committee. The committee is comprised of residence life student staff, residence life professional staff, community advocacy staff, current residents of identity-based mods, and other invested community members.

Invitations to chosen applicants will be sent via Hampshire email between **Friday, April 14 and Wednesday, April 19.** Accepted applicants will have 48 hours to respond and confirm their placement or will forfeit their offer.

Rosters will be finalized by the HOO on April 20. If spaces remain in any of the permanent mods the application will reopen on Friday, May 5. The applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all spaces in the mods are filled. Non-permanent mods that do not fill by this date may choose to reapply as a new mod by April 21, or go on hiatus for the following year. A mod on hiatus may “reclaim” the mod they previously occupied during the next Housing Lottery, provided they have enough students to completely fill the mod. Interested parties should contact the Associate Director of Residence Life and Housing, Amy Parker, at aparker@hampshire.edu.

EXISTING IDENTITY BASED MODS

**Permanent**
- LGBTQQIAAP, Greenwich 32
- Students of Color, Enfield 52
- Queer, Enfield 54
- Women of Color, Enfield 60

**Not-Yet-Permanent**
- Asian Heritage, Greenwich 26 (eligible for permanent status Fall 2017)
- Marginalized Gender Identities, Greenwich 18 (eligible for permanent status Fall 2020)
- Pan-Afrikan Diaspora, Precott 85 (eligible for permanent status Fall 2020)
**INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITIES**

Residence Life and Housing is committed to supporting and complementing the academic program. Our goal is to create a holistic environment that encourages collaboration, connections, learning, and personal growth. It is with this goal in mind that Intentional Housing Communities were established.

Intentional Housing Communities are living spaces where the residents have chosen to come together around a particular area of interest that will contribute to and cultivate the campus’ culture of learning. They work together with a faculty or staff advisor to educate themselves and the larger community about their area of interest. Students who elect to reside in these spaces can expect to gain meaningful relationships with one another, lasting connections with staff and faculty, access to greater campus resources, and sense of pride in their community.

**FILLING EXISTING INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITIES**

The deadline to apply to live in an existing intentional housing community is Thursday, April 6, at 4pm. All IHCs have a shared application, which can be found at [www.hampshire.edu/housing/housing-communities-applications](http://www.hampshire.edu/housing/housing-communities-applications). Students may apply to multiple intentional housing communities, but may only accept an invitation to one (and must relinquish the opportunity to participate in any other housing options).

All applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of current residents and the group’s advisor. Once the mod has reviewed applications, they will submit a Roster Form to the HOO, listing current residents who have committed to staying in the mod next year, and ranking all applicants in order of preference to be invited to live in the mod. The HOO will send invitations to chosen applicants via Hampshire email between April 14 and April 19. **Upon receiving an invitation email, applicants will have 48 hours to respond confirming their placement or will forfeit the offer.**

Rosters will be finalized by the HOO on April 20. If a mod does not have a full roster by April 20 the group will lose IHC status and the mod will be available in the campus-wide housing lottery.

Due to the unique nature of the Kosher Mod, and its importance to the community, it is exempt from this policy and may leave spaces empty to be filled by the HOO. Additionally, residents of the Kosher Mod must reapply each year to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community.
Requirements for maintaining an intentional housing community

Each IHC must select a contact person who will act as a facilitator and liaison with the HOO throughout the summer and academic year. This person will be responsible for communicating with the HOO and ensuring the IHC is completing all requirements. Their attendance at an informational meeting each semester is mandatory.

IHCs are required to implement two educational initiatives each semester. During the spring semester, both educational initiatives must be planned, and one completed, by the end of February. An educational initiative can be anything that increases knowledge about the intentional housing community’s area of interest and furthers the mission of the community. Past initiatives have included discussions, film screenings, art shows, open houses, and community meals. The audience can be as large as the Five College community or as small as the group.

Residents must submit a brief evaluation form within one week of the event. Evaluations will describe the type of event, how it was promoted, how it furthered the mission of the housing community, and how successful it was.

If spaces become available over the summer, the HOO - in coordination with the contact person - will attempt to fill them with alternates. If no alternates were listed, or those listed no longer wish to live in the IHC, the HOO will attempt to fill spaces through an application process in coordination with the contact person. However, the HOO reserves the right to place interested students in vacancies if deemed administratively necessary.

IHCs should work actively with the HOO to recruit new members whenever vacancies arise during the year. In order to continue as an IHC, groups will need to participate in the spring room choosing process, as described in “Filling Existing Intentional Housing Communities” on the previous page.

All residents of IHCs are responsible for contributing to these requirements. Failure to meet any of these requirements will result in loss of the space at the end of the academic year. IHCs which do not complete any educational initiatives during the fall semester may lose their status at the end of that semester.
Existing Intentional Housing Communities

**Intentional Arts Mod**, Greenwich 5: A space for students who feel passionately about art as a tool of expression, therapy, and/or activism. Residents are interested in how art can be used within these contexts and feel that art is an extremely powerful tool. The goal of this mod is to incorporate artistic practices and methods into the daily lives of the residents, and explore what benefits and drawbacks this holds.

**Middle Eastern Immersion Mod**, Greenwich 9: A safe space for students to learn from each other, where students who study the Middle East can learn from Middle Eastern students and vice versa. All aspects of Middle Eastern culture is incorporated into mod life, such as language, food, holidays, and discussion of current issues.

**Hampshire Basketball Mod**, Greenwich 22: The goal of this mod is to broaden the interconnecting basketball community throughout the Five College campuses, show the importance of the basketball team, and bring together the community. Residents value community, healthy lifestyles, and hard work grounded in love and support.

**Mindfulness Mod**, Greenwich 21: A space where students support one another to be mindful and cultivate moment-by-moment, non-judgmental, focused attention and awareness.

**STEM Mod**, Greenwich 36: A space where students can share knowledge and discuss ideas related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). They focus on developing a community committed to the advancement and appreciation of STEM in everyday lives.

**Art Creation and Appreciation Mod**, Greenwich 37: A safe space of creation, existence, and self-expression. Through creation of art—film, poetry, music, sculpture, dance, etc.—residents express themselves without inhibition. Through appreciation of others’ art, residents will examine subjective perceptions. Residents strive to strip away the concreteness of objective understanding, to recognize their inability to ever grasp fully someone’s meaning, and look instead to appreciate the messiness of human interaction.

**Greenhouse Mod**, Enfield 46: A place for growing plants and food, learning about environmental sustainability, and for events that bring the Hampshire community together.

**Upcycling Mod**, Enfield 55: A mod that will work to integrate art and sustainability in the Hampshire community, by educating students on the importance of reusing and repurposing, and organizing a series of sustainable art projects and events.
EXISTING INTENTIONAL HOUSING COMMUNITIES

Gender Justice Mod (formerly Women’s Empowerment Mod) Enfield 66: The Gender Justice Mod is a space for building solidarity among and working toward the liberation of all those facing gender-based violence. Members share a commitment to developing an intersectional feminist praxis. Residents of and visitors to the Mod confront and challenge not only normative understandings of gender, but also of race, class, nation, and ability. We understand our struggle against cissexist heteropatriarchy as part of a broader struggle against all systems of domination, including—but not limited to—white supremacy, capitalism, imperialism, and ableism.

Kosher Mod, Prescott 82: A Kosher living space. All students welcome to apply, regardless of religious affiliation.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) works closely with the Housing Operations Office (HOO) to collaborate with students to identify reasonable housing-based accommodations based on their individual, disability-related need. The goal is to provide equitable access to the healthy, functional, and educational aspects of on-campus living. Housing-based accommodations are available to students with a documented need. Student preferences are considered for placement when possible, but ultimately placements are made by the HOO and OARS based on documented need and availability of appropriate spaces.

More information and the request form can be found at www.hampshire.edu/oars/housing-based-accommodations. Requests must be submitted prior to Monday, April 4 to be considered for possible mod placements. HOO staff will be available during OARS drop in hours on Friday, March 24 and Friday, March 3 from 1-3pm.

Applications for existing ID and IHC spaces are open now!

Find them at: www.hampshire.edu/housing/housing-communities-applications
Wondering how to create a new identity based mod or intentional housing community?

Keep an eye out for the Mod lottery information and instructions Booklet to be distributed after spring break.