

Identity Based Mods & Intentional Housing Communities

Spring 2019

Questions? Contact the HOO

413.559.5453

housing@hampshire.edu

Drop in Hours: Fridays 2:00PM - 4:00PM

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 **Monday, April 8 at 4pm**. All identity based mods share an online application, which can be found at 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. Students may only accept residency in one mod and must relinquish the opportunity to participate in any other housing options.

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 **Monday, April 15 and Wednesday, April 17**. Accepted applicants will have up to 48 hours to respond and confirm their placement or will forfeit their offer.

Rosters will be finalized by the HOO on April 19. Mods that do not fill by this date may be re-sized or placed 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 Res Life and Housing, Amy Parker, at aparker@hampshire.edu.

Existing Identity Based Mods

Permanent

Asian Heritage, Greenwich 26 (three singles, one double)

LGBTQQIAAP, Greenwich 32 (two singles, one double)

Students of Color, Enfield 52 (six singles, one double)

Queer, Enfield 54 (five singles, one double)

Women of Color, Enfield 60 (four singles, one double)

Not-Yet-Permanent

Trans and Non-Binary Stability Mod, Greenwich 35 (four singles, one double)

Trans and Non-Binary People of Color, Greenwich 38 (three singles, one double)

On Hiatus

Pan-Afrikan Diaspora

Queer People of Color

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 a sense of pride in their community.

Filling Existing Intentional Housing Communities

The deadline to apply to live in an existing intentional housing community is **Monday, April 8 at 4pm**. All IHCs have a shared application, which can be found at 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 to the HOO, listing current residents who have committed to staying in the mod next year and new invitees. The HOO will send invitations to chosen applicants via Hampshire email between April 13 and April 18. **Upon receiving an invitation email, applicants will have up to 48 hours to respond confirming their placement or will forfeit the offer.**

Rosters will be finalized by the HOO on April 17. If a mod does not have a full roster by April 17 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 expected.

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 when 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

UFO and Cryptozoology Enthusiasts, Greenwich 2: This intentional living community highly values open-mindedness and skeptical thinking. We are interested in creating a space in which individuals are able to ask any questions they want or doubt any piece of conventional wisdom without being harassed or labeled as unhinged. This community is also invested in making our space and social atmosphere welcoming and inclusive to all identities. Our group is especially interested in UFO and abduction phenomena as well as cryptozoology. Hampshire College will benefit from increased freedom of thought. All students or faculty who are curious about these topics will have a say and find here an enthusiastic resource.

Soccer Mod, Greenwich 13: The purpose of the soccer mod will be to promote community engagement and support by providing a space for healthy teamwork and competition within Hampshire athletics as a whole. By involving our community in a team sport, we seek to improve our technical, leadership, and teamwork skills as well as identify areas for improvement. We hope to create an inclusive and supportive environment that can allow the larger Hampshire community another outlet for self-care and wellness.

Media Studies Mod, Greenwich 31: The media studies mod will help maintain the practice of critical study of media on the Hampshire campus and in the surrounding community. By engaging with different formats of media, ranging from analyzing layers of subtext in film to workshops on the intricacies of radio journalism, students will learn how to understand and utilize these forms of media. The mod will also provide a communal space for those who want to come together and share music, poetry, prose, and even their views on journalism and current events, in an accepting environment.

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

Ultimate Frisbee Mod, Enfield 47: Our goal is to be a community resource that promotes the growth of the Ultimate Frisbee on Hampshire campus. We wish to promote the values of the importance of teamwork and improvement (on an individual and community scale), along with a strong emphasis on sportsmanship, in Ultimate know as “the Spirit of the Game”.

Existing Intentional Housing Communities

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.

STEM Mod, Enfield 56: 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.

Mindfulness Mod, Enfield 64: A space where students support one another to be mindful and cultivate moment-by-moment, non-judgmental, focused attention and awareness.

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 housing based accommodation request form can be found at www.hampshire.edu/oars/housing-based-accommodations. New requests must be submitted prior to Monday, April 8. OARS drop in hours are on Fridays from 1pm-3pm.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Friday, April 5 - the Field Study, Leave, and Exchange Deadline. Only students who are fully enrolled for the fall semester can accept invitations to Identity Based mods or Intentional Housing Communities.

Monday, April 8 - all applications for spaces in existing Identity Based mod and Intentional Housing Communities must be submitted online before 4pm on April 8. No late applications will be accepted.

Monday, April 15 - Wednesday, April 17 - invitations to accepted applicants for Identity Based and Intentional Housing Communities will be sent during this time. **Upon receiving an invitation email, applicants will have up to 48 hours to respond confirming their placement or will forfeit the offer.** Applicants may only accept an invitation to one mod, and upon accepting the offer will relinquish the opportunity to participate in all other housing options.

Monday, April 22 - Friday, May 17 - students who have accepted invitations to live in Identity Based mods or Intentional Housing Communities should come to the HOO to sign up for individual rooms in each mod. Students who do not sign up for a particular room will be placed into remaining spaces in the mod at the discretion of the HOO.

Applications for existing ID and IHC spaces are open now!

Find them at:

www.hampshire.edu/housing/housing-communities-applications