THE JOHN M. BELK SCHOLARSHIP

#DAVIDSONTRUE
BELK SCHOLARS ARE:

CHALLENGE SEEKERS: Embrace a multidimensional lifestyle, giving rich evidence of intellectual depth and academic achievement, as well as accomplishment in other meaningful activities. Demonstrate tireless ability to overcome obstacles and apply lessons learned.

INTELLECTUAL EXPLORERS: Exude an eagerness to learn within every facet of life. Generate and engage with original ideas seriously and articulately, striving to enrich their own understanding, as well as that of others.

SERVANT LEADERS: Maintain an extraordinary strength of character, including confidence and humility, and a tremendous regard for collaboration. Vigorous and strong in mind and spirit.

CHANGE AGENTS: Act as catalysts for community improvement, making unique connections in order to bring about positive change.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Davidson invites high schools from across the country and abroad to nominate outstanding students with extraordinary potential to compete for the John M. Belk Scholarship. A candidate’s record and recommendations must demonstrate powerful academic achievement and engagement in the classroom. Belk Scholars should also exhibit deep intellectual curiosity and a commitment to impact both their local and global communities.

Who may nominate for the Belk Scholarship?

Guidance counselors, principals/heads of school, college access program directors.

Davidson Admission staff members also nominate candidates based on the strength of the students’ applications for admission.

November 1: Nominations must be made by this date by completing the nomination form (davidson.edu/belk) and submitting the required transcript and recommendation.

November 22: Application completion deadline for all Belk nominees. Forms are available at www.davidson.edu/apply.

APPLICATION BY THIS DEADLINE DOES NOT INDICATE A COMMITMENT TO EARLY DECISION.

Mid-February: Semi-finalists will participate in telephone interviews.

March 19–21: Finalists will visit Davidson for Belk Scholars Weekend to participate in interviews and activities designed to provide a richer sense of the Davidson community and what makes it distinct.

By April 1: Up to eight John M. Belk Scholars will be selected.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Gardner Roller Ligo
Director of Merit Programs
Davidson College
galigo@davidson.edu • 800-768-0380

davidson.edu/belk

WHAT DEFINES A BELK SCHOLAR?
THE DAVIDSON OPPORTUNITY:
COLLABORATION,
HONOR,
AND EXCELLENCE

Davidson is a highly selective liberal arts college respected for its tradition of intellectual challenge, distinguished faculty, engaged students, and accomplished alumni. Located in the classic college town of Davidson, the campus is just 20 miles from the city center of Charlotte, N.C. With a metropolitan area population nearing two million, Charlotte offers a thriving and urban dynamic of business, the arts, entertainment, and professional sports.

The freedom and trust fostered by the Honor Code allow for take-home and unproctored exams, self-scheduled final exams, and a profound sense of community and integrity that students carry into their lives beyond Davidson.

Davidson has long been recognized as a leader in undergraduate research. Collaborating with their professors on original projects, Davidson students regularly engage in the kind of work typically reserved for graduate students at larger schools and universities. Working and learning alongside a leading teacher-scholar is a distinct opportunity, and at Davidson, it is a reality.

The college’s international emphasis is demonstrated in a commitment to encourage students to become active world citizens. The Dean Rusk International Studies Program coordinates the student study abroad experience, sponsors campus activities to promote informed global awareness at Davidson and in the community, and manages the Dean Rusk fund to support international travel.

BELK SCHOLARS HAVE TRAVELED TO:

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BELK ALUMNI HAVE ATTENDED:

American University of Beirut
Boston University
Cal Tech
Columbia Theological Seminary
Columbia University
Duke University
Ecole des Hautes en Sante Publique
Florida International University
Georgetown University
Georgia Tech
Harvard University
Johns Hopkins University
London School of Economics
Northwestern University
NYU
Princeton University
Queen’s University (Belfast, Northern Ireland)
Rose Bruford College (London, England)
St. John’s University
Stanford University
Stony Brook University
University of Alabama
University of Edinburgh (Scotland)
University of London School of OAS (England)
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)
University of Ottawa (Ontario, Canada)
University of Oxford (England)
University of Pittsburgh
University of Texas
University of Washington
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wake Forest University
Washington University
Wharton School of Business

BELK ALUMNI CAREERS:

Attorneys
Consultants: Bain; Deloitte; McKinsey
Analyst for the Office of Policy and Research—National Commission on the BP Oil Spill
Organic Farmer
Clergy Persons
Community Engagement Associate at Communities in Schools
Creator of the online magazine MISADVENTURES
State Department Intern
Director of the only refugee homeless shelter in NYC
Global Policy at Facebook
Entrepreneurs and Start-Up Team Members
Musicians/Actors/Producers/Authors/Theatre Company Initiators in New York and LA

Financiers, Financial Analysts, Accountants
Bloomberg Government Online Editor
NYC Mayor’s Office Portfolio Manager
Professors of:
Chemistry—Emory and Henry; Carleton Physicians
Creative Writing—Boston University
Psychology and Neuroscience—Bucknell University
Political Science—Queens University
Theatre and Speech—Fordham; Brooklyn College
Math—Cal Poly
Teachers
Emory University Track and Field Coach
Special Assistant of Strategy, Office of the State

Supervisor for Education in Washington, DC
Imagineer at Migo
Instagram Business Lead
Health Communications Specialist at CDC
Pew Research Center Research Assistant
Physicians
Education Assistant at Walter Art Museum
Software Engineer at Checkr.com
Department of Defense Subject Matter Expert
National Security Language Initiative for Youth Program Officer
Pulitzer Center Fellow on Crisis Reporting
Federal Reserve Research Assistant
Google Product Marketing Manager
The John M. Belk Scholarship provides scholars with access to a rich diversity of experience. Scholars have great flexibility in the on- and off-campus opportunities they choose to explore. Those experiences, paired with Davidson’s academic programs, deepen the scholars’ insight, maturity, and understanding of global issues.

The Belk Scholarship provides each scholar with two $3,000 special study stipends to support intellectual, personal, and leadership development over the course of their college careers. In recent years, Belk Scholars have used their stipends to explore their passions in this country and abroad, including:

- enrolled in a Training the Street Fundamentals of Financial Accounting and Analysis self-study program in New York;
- pursued public health research in Amman, Jordan;
- conducted ethnographic field work at North Korean migrants’ educational, employment, and residential sites;
- interned with the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network in Washington, D.C.;
- attended the International Symposium for Directors at La Mama Umbria in Spoleto, Italy;
- directed a health wellness program for the students of Kepler in Rwanda;
- participated in a summer innovation lab centered on issues of shelter in Cape Town, South Africa;
- interned at Berkeley’s Early Learning Lab (BELL);
- served as a Democracy Program Intern at the Carter Center in Atlanta;
- worked with Sea of Solidarity, a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian organization in support of refugee services in Lesvos, Greece;
- explored locations of impact of Islamic and Jewish history in Spain;
- mapped the tribal territory of the Tobelo Dalam in the Central Halmahera region of Indonesia to protect them from industrial encroachment;
- worked on youth development and curbing neighborhood violence in Indianapolis; compiled election data from the last seven years to identify neighborhood voting trends and to propose strategies for the Mayoral and City Council races;
- worked with Global Rights India, a non-profit specializing in women’s legal rights issues, in Bangalore;
- worked as a Curatorial Intern for the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi;
- completed the National Outdoor Leadership School sea kayaking and backpacking course;
- participated in Davidson in Kenya, Davidson in Ghana, Davidson in Washington, Davidson in Cambridge, Davidson in Mwandi, Davidson in Cadiz;
- hiked the Camino de Santiago;
- worked on organic WWOOF farms in Italy and New Zealand;
- researched on a revisionist history of the Chilean transition to democracy (1987-1999), focusing, unlike most contemporary scholarship, on the oral histories of non-white, non-straight, non-Christian, and anti-state Chileans;
- researched on an ethnographic investigation of Shanghai’s entrepreneurial community while studying Mandarin;
- researched at Heinrich-Heine-Universität in Düsseldorf, Germany to pursue research into the design and development of a molecular agent that will identify HNSCC cells based on the presence of galectin proteins. Activation of this agent will kill the cancer cell;
- thesis research on constructed languages in works of fiction/fantasy at the 2019 Linguistics Summer Institute at the University of California, Davis—program through Linguistic Society of America (LSA);
- participated at the International Conference on Men’s Issues in support of thesis research into the ways women narrate their involvement in the men’s rights movement (MWM) and the consequences of involvement in a movement explicitly against women’s progress;
- studied Modern Standard Arabic and colloquial Levantine Arabic at the Levantine Institute in Tripoli.
JOHN MONTGOMERY BELK ’43
LEADERSHIP AND VISION

John M. Belk, Davidson College Class of 1943, continued a family tradition that began with the earliest Belk family graduates in 1847. At Davidson, he earned a record of leadership and accomplishment that foreshadowed his extraordinary career and commitment to service.

Following graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Infantry, serving in World War II as a lieutenant and resumed active duty in the Korean War. After serving as an officer of the United Nations Civil Assistance Commission, Belk returned to the family business in 1952. Under his guidance as Chairman of the Board of Belk, Inc., the business became one of the nation’s largest and most profitable retailers.

John Belk dedicated himself to his community, most notably as mayor of Charlotte for four terms, from 1969 to 1977. Belk helped forge the collaboration between business and government that continues today, positioning Charlotte to become the nation’s second largest banking center and one of the country’s fastest growing cities.

In 2000, John Belk made an historic gift to endow this flagship scholarship program. Moved by the opportunity to help deserving young people attend his alma mater, he kept in contact with many of the Belk Scholars, and remained deeply engaged with Davidson throughout his life.

John Belk died in 2007. His spouse, The Honorable Claudia Watkins Belk, passed away in 2017. Their daughter, M.C. Belk Pilon, is the Board Chair of the John M. Belk Endowment and continues the powerful relationship between her family and Davidson College.