



J. Cole

Origins

Jermaine Cole was born on a U.S. military base in Germany and raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He began rapping young, learned production, played basketball, and built songs in a modest home setup while treating New York industry access as a distant goal.

He later attended St. John's University in Queens and graduated magna cum laude. The move gave him proximity, but not instant entry; stories of waiting outside studios with a demo illustrate persistence, though specific anecdotes should remain tied to his own interviews.