

Information Guide | New York City

Welcome to Rare Book School!

FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS, the bibliographical community has been supported and nourished by the work of Rare Book School (RBS). From its tentative beginnings at Columbia University, the School has educated two generations of librarians, collectors, academics, conservators, and booksellers, producing a network of loyal alumni, talented faculty, and dedicated friends around the globe. In the process, it has also earned a reputation as the world's premier institution for the study of bibliography and book history. We are delighted that you will soon be a part of that distinguished tradition, and of our School's promising future. On behalf of all of us here at RBS, welcome to New York City!

This information guide should answer most of your questions about transportation, housing, and other practical matters. Upon arrival, you'll also receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* with additional information to ensure that your stay is as productive and enjoyable as possible. (N.B. Please bring the present guide with you when you come to RBS; it contains valuable information not repeated in the *Vade Mecum*.) In the meantime, we eagerly await your arrival, and look forward to another wonderful session!

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RBS in New York



HOME to more than 8 million people, New York City is America's largest metropolis, the base of many of its financial and cultural institutions, and the original home of Rare Book School.

The state was originally founded as a Dutch trading post in 1624 and has since become a major site of immigration into North America and a

worldwide recognized symbol of America.

This year, New York hosts two Rare Book School courses: "The Printed Book in the West since 1800" taught at the Grolier Club by its Director, Eric Holzenberg; and "Special Collections Librarianship," taught at the New York Public Library by Michael Inman, NYPL Curator of Rare Books.

But of course New York isn't only known for its RBS events. Within easy walking distance from the Grolier Club and the New York Public Library students can find the famous Museum of Modern Art (11 W 53rd St New York, NY 10019), American Museum of Natural History (Central Park West & 79th St New York, NY 10024), and of course the ever beautiful Central Park, home to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (1000 5th Ave New York, NY 10028).

We're excited that you've decided to join us in New York this fall, and we want to do all we can to deliver an exceptional educational experience. If you have any questions about the courses, or about RBS generally, please email us at rbsprograms.virginia.edu.

The RBS Week

All RBS students are expected to be in attendance and on time for all regularly scheduled classes, labs, and field trips. This is to ensure the quality and community of RBS as a school, and we insist that participants attend all sessions of their courses, unless presented with the most extraordinary of circumstances. Practically speaking, this involves a full-time commitment of 5–6:45 PM Sunday, 9 AM–5:30 PM Monday through Thursday, and 9 AM–4 PM Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 5–7 pm **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and a meal at La Bonne Soupe located at 48 West 55th Street. Once there, all students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name badge. N.B.—If you plan to attend this event, RSVP by email (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) no later than 4 October.

Late arrival: We strongly suggest attending the Sunday night registration, but if you are unable to make it, please email us (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) and let us know. If you do not attend, you will need to register at your course location at 8:45 AM sharp on Monday morning.

10:30–11 am **Morning Break**

Students at the Grolier Club may join your fellow students for coffee and tea served in the Rare Book Room (Monday and Friday) or the Morris Room (Tuesday–Thursday). Students at NYPL may enjoy refreshments in Classroom 201.

11 am–12:30 pm* **Second Period**

12:30–2 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants in the neighborhoods surrounding both locations; for ideas to get you started, consult the short list at the end of this guide (page 6).

1:30–3 pm* **Third Period**

3–3:30 pm **Afternoon Break**

More coffee and tea in the Rare Book Room (Monday and Friday) or the Morris Room (Tuesday–Thursday) for students at the Grolier Club and Classroom 201 for students at the NYPL.

3:30–5 pm* **Fourth Period**

TUESDAY, 6 pm **Evening Lecture**

Visit the Grolier Club and join Kathy Kyes Leab for her lecture, “Let’s Get Personal: The Collector-Donor and the Special Collections Librarian.” Reception to follow in the Grolier Club Second Floor Gallery

THURSDAY, 5:30 pm **Grolier Club Event**

RBS students and Grolier members are welcome to attend an exhibition of Jean Grolier material for an anniversary event. The lecture will take place on the ground floor exhibition hall with a reception to follow in the third floor Library.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:45 am* **Arrival at New York Public Library**

Students attending class at NYPL should enter from the staff entrance on 40th Street. Students must sign in and get a visitor’s sticker which they should stick onto their RBS nametag and keep on for the duration of classes each day.

N.B.—Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register before classes start at 9 AM.

8:45 am* **Final Registration**

Registration for those not in attendance Sunday evening.

9–10:30 am* **First Period**

Grolier Club classes in 5th Floor Council Room.
NYPL classes in Classroom 201.

* Required activities are noted by asterisk

The RBS Week (continued)

FRIDAY, 9-10:30 am* **First Period**

10:30-11 am **Morning Break**

Students at the Grolier Club may join your fellow students for coffee and tea served in the Rare Book Room.

Students at NYPL may enjoy refreshments in Classroom 201.

11-12:30 pm* **Second Period**

12:30-2:30 pm* **Lunch**

2:30-4 pm* **Third Period**

4 pm* **Course Evaluations**

Students receive course completion certificates and fill out RBS course evaluations.

4:30-6:30 pm **Farewell Reception**

Students gather for a final meal together at a restaurant (location TBD).

** Required activities are noted by asterisk*

Before you arrive

Reading Lists

All RBS courses have advance reading lists or assignments that RBS instructors expect their students to complete before they arrive. These are outlined at www.rarebookschool.org/reading.

Students should come to class prepared. Those who have trouble locating required readings might try obtaining them through interlibrary loan (ILL), from used or antiquarian booksellers through the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA), or online via sites such as www.bookfinder.com or www.vialibri.net.

Arrival & Departure Logistics

When thinking about your transportation arrangements, please remember that staying over Friday night after the last day of class can be an excellent idea, if you can swing it. Early-evening ground and air travel is seldom much fun anywhere, but it can be especially difficult in a major city like New York. Arriving a day early may also be a good idea, as it can provide an opportunity to settle in, overcome jet lag, &c. RBS first-timers are often surprised by the intensity of the experience, so be sure to get some sleep before classes start!

Problems

Please let one of us know if you encounter any problems on any front. If such problems occur before you arrive, email (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) or telephone us (434-924-8851, 8:30 AM-5 PM; voicemail after hours). If you encounter issues with tuition payments, contact RBS Accounting Specialist Michael Taylor at 434-243-2920, or by email (michael.taylor@virginia.edu).

Should any difficulties arise during the course, please bring your concerns to a faculty member or contact us at Rare Book School.

Transportation

Air Travel

Three major airports service the New York City area: Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR; 973-961-6000), located about 17 miles southwest of Manhattan; La Guardia Airport (LGA; 718-533-3400), about seven miles east of the island; and JFK International (JFK; 718-244-4444), about forty minutes southeast of Manhattan.

Taking the Train

If your place of embarkation is on the Northeast corridor it may be more convenient and affordable to use Amtrak (www.amtrak.com; 1-800-872-7245) as your means of travel. New York Penn Station (8 Avenue & West 31 Street New York, NY 10001) is the city's hub for Amtrak travel and is only a scenic walk away from Grand Central Terminal (89 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10017).

Driving to New York City

The main north-south route into New York City is Interstate 95, one of the nation's busiest, and potentially most frustrating highways. Coming from points to the west of the city will usually involve a combination of either I-76 E and I-78 E or I-80 E. No matter what route you take, know that rush-hour traffic can be intense, and parking spaces in New York City are rather pricey.

Accommodations

Of the many hotels in NYC, Pod51 (230 E 51st St New York, NY 10022; 212-355-0300; <http://www.thepod-hotel.com/>) offers some of the lowest rates.

However a solid option for students studying at either location is to stay at Club Quarters (25 W 51st St New York, NY 10019; 212-262-3200; <https://clubquartershotels.com/new-york/rockefeller-center>), located about halfway between the Grolier Club and the New York Public Library at Rockefeller Center. For advice on how to secure their RBS corporate rate, contact programs staff at rbsprograms@virginia.edu, or call 434-924-8851.

Security

While the New York Public Library is of course open to the public, RBS recommends having a personal photo ID on your person at all times.

Students attending class at the library should also note that Classroom 201 does not lock. For this reason please do not bring laptops unless necessary. Since there will also be field trips, students are recommended to travel light and to not bring big or expensive materials.

Advance Advices

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual (i.e. no jeans) for all events. October in New York City ranges from cool and comfortable to chilly, with temperatures ranging from 65°F in the daytime to 50°F at night. With these temperatures and classroom comfort in mind, sweaters are recommended. In general, bringing comfortable closed toe shoes and an umbrella is also a good idea.

RBS participants are encouraged to come to class prepared, and are required to be on time. Bring a watch. If you wish to take notes, plan accordingly. Pencils, paper, and other supplies are available at nearby convenience stores. Before leaving home, check the course description website and the reading list for specific instructions on what to bring. (It is not, for instance, always necessary to bring copies of your advance reading.) Other inside tips on what to bring can be found in the previous year's course evaluations, also available on the course website.

Pharmacies & Medical Facilities

For RBS students at the New York Public Library, the nearest pharmacy will be Cordette Pharmacy (55 West 39th Street New York, NY 10018; 212-398-9999). If you prefer larger chain store there are also two Duane Reade stores nearby (525 Fashion Avenue New York, NY 10018; 212-221-8627 and 535 5th Avenue New York, NY 10017; 212-687-8641) that are open 24 hours.

There is also a Duane Reade (41 East 58th St reet New York, NY 10022; 212-421-4880) in easy walking distance of the Grolier Club.

There are two convenient emergency rooms in the area; New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center (525 East 68th Street New York, NY 10065; 212-746-5454) and St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital (425 West 59th Street New York, NY 10019; 212-523-4000). As always, if you need immediate help, dial 911.

Guests

Tuesday night's lecture is open to RBS students and their guests. However, given the size of the Grolier Club, Thursday's Grolier Club Anniversary Event will only be open to RBS students and Grolier members.

Lost & Found

In case any items get misplaced, the Grolier Club will have a lost and found box with the concierge at the front desk. The New York Public Library's lost and found may be located in the security office on the main floor near the 40th Street entrance.

Privacy

RBS publishes a list of its participating students in the *Student's Vade Mecum*. If you do not want your work information, or email address to appear there, please indicate this in your myRBS profile.

Incoming Phone Messages and Mail

Phone messages can probably be left for you most easily at your hotel or bed-and-breakfast.

Connecting to the Internet

Students attending class at the Grolier Club will be given a password providing access to the club's wifi when they arrive. Internet at the New York Public Library is free to all users.

New York City Restaurant Guide

New York City has one of the most varied and celebrated restaurant cultures in the country. There is also a wide variety of food truck options, some of which may be found at http://www.foodtruckmaps.com/nyc/food_trucks_in_upper_east_side/ and http://www.foodtruckmaps.com/nyc/food_trucks_in_midtown/. The short list below focuses mainly on the blocks immediately surrounding the New York Public Library and the Grolier Club. They should give you a good start.

Near the Grolier Club

Agra. 807 Lexington Avenue (212-308-8281). Indian fare. Open daily, 12–11 PM. Entrees \$10–15.

Delissimo Deli. 39 East 60th Street (212-593-2333). Deli. Open 24 hours.

Delmonico Gourmet Food Market. 55 East 59th Street (212-751-5559). Gourmet deli and convenience store with an organic focus. Open 24 hours.

Gene's Coffee Shop. 26 East 60th Street (212-355-3790). American and Mediterranean diner. Entrees around \$10.

Gourmet Park. 119 East 60th Street (212-935-8500). Counter-serve deli. Open Mon–Fri, 6 AM–9 PM; Sat–Sun, 7 AM–7 PM. Around \$10.

Korean Express. 807 Lexington Avenue (212-755-0123). Korean and Asian fare. Open daily, 11 AM–9:30 PM. Entrees \$10–\$20.

Lilli & Loo. 792 Lexington Avenue (212-421-7800). Pan-Asian fare. Open Mon–Sat, 11 AM–11 PM; Sun, 12 PM–11 PM. Entrees \$10–\$20.

Oxford Cafe. 109 East 59th Street (212-750-1060). Casual counter serve deli fare, pizza, and coffee. Open Mon–Fri, 6 AM–9 PM; Sat–Sun, 7 AM–7 PM. Under \$10.

**Wajima Japanese Restaurant.* 134 East 61st Street (212-813-9065). Japanese restaurant serving both sushi and hot dishes. Open Mon–Fri, 12 AM–2:30 PM, 5–10 PM; Sat, 5 AM–10 PM. Entrees \$10–20.

Viand. 673 Madison Avenue (212-751-6622). Long-standing American coffee shop and diner. Open Mon–Fri, 6 AM–10 PM; Sat–Sun, 6 AM–9 PM. Entrees \$10–20.

Near the New York Public Library

The Australian. 20 West 38th Street (212-869-8601). Australian pub. Open Sun–Mon, 11:30 AM–12 AM; Tue–Wed, 11:30 AM–1 AM; Thu, 11:30 AM–2 AM; Fri–Sat, 11:30 AM–4 AM. \$10–\$30.

Berger's on the Go. 2 East 39th Street (212-719-4173). Breakfast and lunch counter service. Open Mon–Fri, 6:30 AM–5 PM. \$10–\$20.

Café China. 13 East 37th Street (212-213-2810). Sichuan menu. Open Sun–Wed, 11 AM–10 PM; Thu–Sat, 11 AM–10:30 PM. \$15–\$25.

Café Zaiya. 18 East 41st Street (212-779-0600). Japanese café and sweet shop. Open Mon–Fri, 8 AM–8 PM; Sat, 10 AM–8 PM; Sun, 11 AM–7 PM. Under \$10.

**Hale & Hearty Soups.* 49 West 42nd Street (212-575-9090). Counter-serve soup and sandwich chain. Open Mon–Fri, 10:30 AM–6 PM; Sat, 11 AM–5 PM. Under \$10.

**Macaron Cafe.* 152 West 36th Street (212-564-3525). Macaron cookie and sandwich cafe. Open Mon–Fri, 9 AM–5 PM. Sandwiches around \$10.

Mexicue. 1440 Broadway (212-302-0385). Counter serve barbecue fare with a Mexican twist. Open Mon–Fri, 11 AM–11 PM; Sat, 12 PM–11 PM; Sun, 12 PM–9 PM. \$10–\$15.

Southwest Porch. 41 West 40th Street (212-840-0324). Outdoor American fare. Open daily, 11 AM–12 AM. Entrees around \$10.

Untamed Sandwiches. 43 West 39th Street (646-669-9397). Sandwich shop with a focus on sustainability. Open Mon–Fri, 8 AM–9 PM; Sat–Sun, 12–5 PM. \$10–\$15.

* Closed Sunday evenings