

# Information Guide | Cambridge

## 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 Cambridge!

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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#### RARE BOOK SCHOOL

114 Alderman Library  
University of Virginia  
Post Office Box 400103  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4103  
telephone: 434-924-8851  
fax: 434-924-8824  
rbsprograms@virginia.edu  
www.rarebookschool.org

## RBS in Cambridge



CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS is a city of some 100,000 persons, located just across the Charles River from Boston.

The city was founded in the 1630s by the original Massachusetts Bay Colony Puritans. It is home to various museums

including the Peabody Museum of Archeology & Ethnology and the Harvard Semitic Museum, both located on the grounds of Harvard University. Across the river in Boston resides the Museum of Fine Arts, the Boston Public Library, and the North Bennet Street School for your book-loving pleasure.

Cambridge itself is also home to two of America's most prestigious universities: the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University; the latter of which is generously hosting two satellite RBS courses. "The Art of the Book in Edo and Meiji Japan, 1615-1912" (I-90) will be taught by Ellis Tinios, Honorary Lecturer in the School of History at the University of Leeds, while "Book Production and Social Practice in Early Modern Europe and America" (H-115) will be taught by Ann Blair, Henry Charles Lea Professor of History at Harvard University, and David D. Hall, Bartlett Research Professor of New England Church History at Harvard Divinity School.

We're excited that you've decided to join us in Cambridge this winter, and we want to do all we can to deliver an exceptional educational experience. If you have any questions about the city, or about RBS generally, please email us at [rbsprograms.virginia.edu](mailto:rbsprograms.virginia.edu).

# The RBS Week

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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 9 AM–5 PM Monday through Thursday, and 9 AM–4:30 PM Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

## SUNDAY, 5–7 pm **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and dinner at The Red House (98 Winthrop 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 24 November.

*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.

## MONDAY, 6–7:15 pm **Evening Lecture**

Join Ellis Tinios for his lecture, “Hokusai’s Books: Art and Commerce in Nineteenth-Century Japan.” Lecture to be held in the Yenching Building Common Room (2 Divinity Avenue).

## TUESDAY, 5:15 pm **Evening Lecture**

Join Christopher Hunter of Caltech for his lecture, “Inventing Benjamin Franklin’s Autobiography” in the Lamont Library Forum Room. A reception will follow in the Edison and Newman Room on the first floor of Houghton Library.

## Schedule for H-115

MONDAY through THURSDAY at  
HOUGHTON LIBRARY

### 9 am\* **Arrival at HOUGHTON LIBRARY**

Students should meet in the lobby of Houghton Library. A staff member will guide you to the classroom.

**N.B.**—Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register when class starts at 9 a.m.

### 9–10:30 am\* **First Period**

### 10:30–11 am **Morning Break**

Coffee, tea, and light snacks available at many nearby cafés.

### 11 am–12:30 pm\* **Second Period**

### 12:30–1:30 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants in the neighborhoods surrounding this library; for ideas to get you started, consult the short list at the end of this guide (page 7).

### 1:30–3 pm\* **Third Period**

### 3–3:30 pm **Afternoon Break**

Coffee, tea, and light snacks available at many nearby cafés.

### 3:30–5 pm\* **Fourth Period**

\* Required activities are noted by an asterisk

## The RBS Week (continued)

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### FRIDAY at HOUGHTON LIBRARY

9-10:30 am\* **First Period**

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

Coffee, tea, and light snacks available at many nearby cafés.

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

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

Class breaks for an extended, end-of-week lunch.

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

At the end of the third period, students will receive course completion certificates, and will be asked to fill out anonymous RBS course evaluations.

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

Students gather for drinks and hors d'oeuvres together in Robinson Hall.

### Schedule for I-90

#### MONDAY at HARVARD-YENCHING LIBRARY

9 am\* **Arrival at HARVARD-YENCHING LIBRARY**

Students will be met by Harvard-Yenching Library staff at 9:15 and escorted to the Rare Book Reading Room for class.

*N.B.*—Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register when class starts at 9:30 a.m.

9:30 am-12 pm\* **First & Second Period**

12-1 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants in the neighborhoods surrounding this library; for ideas to get you started, consult the short list at the end of this guide (page 7).

1-2:30 pm\* **Third Period**

2:30-3 pm **Afternoon Break**

Coffee, tea, and light refreshments in the Common Room of Harvard-Yenching Library.

3-4:30 pm\* **Fourth Period**

#### TUESDAY at HARVARD-YENCHING LIBRARY

9 am\* **Arrival at HARVARD-YENCHING LIBRARY**

9:30 am-12 pm\* **First & Second Period**

12-1 pm **Lunch**

#### TUESDAY at HARVARD ART MUSEUMS

1-2:30 pm\* **Third Period**

Students should head directly to the Art Study Center on the fourth floor to begin the check-in process.

2:30-3 pm **Afternoon Break**

Coffee, tea, and light snacks available at many nearby cafés.

3-4:30 pm\* **Fourth Period**

*\* Required activities are noted by an asterisk*

## The RBS Week (continued)

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WEDNESDAY at  
HARVARD ART MUSEUMS

10 am–12:30 pm\* **First & Second Period**

12:30–1:30 pm **Lunch**

1:30–3 pm\* **Third Period**

3–3:30 pm **Afternoon Break**

Coffee, tea, and light snacks available at many nearby cafés.

3:30–5 pm\* **Fourth Period**

THURSDAY at  
HARVARD ART MUSEUMS

10 am–12 pm\* **First & Second Period**

12–1:30 pm **Lunch and Transit to MFA**

Class breaks for lunch. Students should meet in the museum courtyard by 12:45 PM in order to allow travel time as a group to the Museum of Fine Arts.

1:30–4 pm\* **Field Trip to Museum of Fine Arts**

FRIDAY at HARVARD ART MUSEUMS

10 am–12:30 pm\* **First & Second Period**

12:30–2:30 pm **Extended Lunch**

Class breaks for an extended, end-of-week lunch.

2:30–4:30 pm\* **Third Period**

At the end of the third period, students will receive course completion certificates, and fill out anonymous RBS course evaluations.

4:30–6:30 pm **Farewell Reception**

Students gather for drinks and hors d'oeuvres together in Robinson Hall.

*\* Required activities are noted by an asterisk*

## Before You Arrive

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### 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](http://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](http://www.bookfinder.com) or [www.vialibri.net](http://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 metropolitan area. 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!

## Before You Arrive (continued)

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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### Air Travel

The major airport servicing Cambridge is Boston Logan International (BOS; 800-235-6426).

### Driving to Cambridge

If driving to Cambridge is more convenient for you, Boston is easily accessible via three major highways. Travelling North–South, possibly the fastest route would follow I-95 and I-90 while East–West travel would mainly follow I-90.

### 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](http://www.amtrak.com); 1-800-872-7245) as your means of travel.

The most convenient Amtrak station to Harvard is Boston North Station (135 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114), but it is hard to get a train into that station from the south. Boston South Station (2 Summer Street Boston, MA 02110) is accessible via the Northeast Regional and is only a short trip to the Harvard campus in Cambridge.

## Accommodations

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A solid option for students is to stay at Club Quarters (161 Devonshire Street Boston, MA 02110; 617-357-6400; <http://clubquartershotels.com/boston>). The hotel is across the river in Boston but it is only a twenty-minute ride on the T. Closer to the University you may find the Hampton Inn Boston/Cambridge (191 Monsignor O'Brien Highway, Cambridge, MA, 02141; 617-494-5300; <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/massachusetts/hampton-inn-boston-cambridge-BOSCBHX/index.html>), Harvard Square Hotel (110 Mount Auburn Street Harvard Square Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-864-5200; <http://www.harvardsquarehotel.com/>), The Longwood Inn (123 Longwood Avenue Brookline, MA 02446; 617-566-8615; <http://longwood-inn.com/>), and A Friendly Inn at Harvard Square (1673 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-547-7851; <http://www.afinow.com/>).

## Security

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It is advisable for students to carry a personal photo ID at all times; it will be necessary for check-in at the Harvard Art Museums. In most cases students will be required to lock up their belongings in the lockers provided while attending class. Also, please be aware that the room in Harvard-Yenching Library is under a strict security control that is operated by the central system and as such locks at 5 PM sharp.

## Advance Advices

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### What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. December in Cambridge can be downright frigid, with average lows below freezing. With the cold, of course, comes the potential for snowfall. RBS advises bringing a heavy coat, hat and gloves, and a pair of boots just in case. In general, wearing layers is also a good idea to accommodate various heating temperatures between rooms.

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

In the event an RBS student falls ill, the closest pharmacy to the university is Skenderian Apothecary (1613 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-354-5600). There is also a CVS Pharmacy nearby (6 John F. Kennedy Street Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-354-4420).

There are two emergency rooms almost equidistant to Harvard University; Mount Auburn Hospital Emergency (330 Mount Auburn Street Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-499-5025) and CHA Cambridge Hospital (1493 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA 02139; 617-665-1000).

As always, if you need immediate help, dial 911.

### Guests

The Monday and Tuesday night lectures are open to the public. However, because of room capacity restrictions, seating will be limited.

### Lost & Found

There is a Lost and Found at the security desk on the lower level of the Harvard Art Museums by the staff entrance. The Lost and Found for Harvard-Yenching Library is a blue plastic box on the first floor of the library near the scanner. Lost items at Houghton Library will be kept at the guard desk in the lobby until the end of each day after which they will be moved to the back door of Widener Library.

### 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

Wifi at Houghton Library is available with a passcode provided by staff. Students may also be able to use the Harvard Guest wifi network which does not need a password.

# Cambridge Restaurant Guide

Cambridge and Boston have very diverse and celebrated restaurant cultures. There is also a wide variety of food truck options, some of which may be found via <http://www.yelp.com>. The short list below includes restaurants surrounding Harvard and across the river in Boston which should give you a good start.

## Around Cambridge & Boston

*Alden & Harlow.* 40 Brattle Street (617-864-2100). American fare. Open Mon–Wed, 5 PM–1 AM; Thu–Fri, 5 PM–2 AM; Sat, 10:30 AM–2 PM, 5 PM–2 AM; Sun, 10:30 AM–2:30 PM, 5 PM–1 AM. Entrees \$10–\$20.

*Asgard Irish Pub & Restaurant.* 350 Massachusetts Avenue (617-577-9100). Irish pub. Open Mon–Wed, 11 AM–1 AM; Thu–Fri, 11 AM–2 AM; Sat, 10 AM–2 AM; Sun, 10 AM–1 AM. Entrees around \$10–\$15.

\* *Asta.* 47 Massachusetts Avenue (617-585-9575). New-American, price-fixed tasting menu. Open Tue–Sat, 6 PM–10:30 PM; Closed Sun–Mon. Price varies by number of courses.

*Au Bon Pain.* 1100 Massachusetts Avenue #15 (617-354-4144). Sandwich and bake shop. Open Mon–Fri, 6 AM–9 PM; SAT, 7 AM–8:30 PM; SUN, 7 AM–8 PM.

*Bondir.* 279 Broadway (617-661-0009). Farm-to-table American fare. Open Wed–Mon, 5 PM–10 PM. Closed Tuesday.

*Border Cafe.* Harvard University 32 Church Street (617-864-6100). Cajun and Tex-Mex fare. Open Mon–Thu, 11 AM–1 AM; Fri–Sat, 11 AM–2 AM; Sun, 11 AM–12 AM. Entrees \$10–\$15.

*Cafe Mami.* 1815 Massachusetts Avenue (617-547-9130). Japanese fare. Open daily, 11:45 AM–9 PM. Under \$10.

*Cafe Sushi.* 1150 Massachusetts Avenue (617-492-0434). Unique sushi selection. Open Mon–Sat, 12 PM–2:30 PM, 5:30 PM–10 PM; Sun, 5:30 PM–10 PM. Entrees \$15–\$25.

*Dali Restaurant and Tapas Bar.* 415 Washington Street (617-661-3254). Spanish tapas. Open Sun–Thu, 5:30–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 5:30–11 PM. Under \$15.

\* *Gene's Chinese Flatbread Cafe.* 67 86 Bedford (617-482-1888). Hand pulled noodles and Chinese dishes. Open Mon–Fri, 11 AM–6:30 PM; Sat, 11:30 AM–7 PM. Entrees around \$10.

\* *Giulia.* 1682 Massachusetts Avenue (617-441-2800). Classic Italian restaurant. Open Mon–Thu, 5:30 PM–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 5:30 PM–11 PM. Entrees \$10–30.

*Harvest of India.* 1001 Massachusetts Avenue (617-441-4034). Punjabi and South Indian fare. Open daily, 11:30 AM–10:30 PM. Entrees around \$10.

*Highland Creole Cuisine.* 2 Highland Avenue (617-625-8333). Creole cuisine. Open daily, 7 AM–11 PM. Entrees \$10–\$20.

*Kolbeh of Kabob.* 1500 Cambridge Street (617-876-9400). Informal Mediterranean restaurant. Open daily, 11 AM–10 PM. Entrees \$10–\$20.

*Koreana.* 158 Prospect Street (617-576-8661). Korean barbecue. Open Sun–Thu, 11:30 AM–10:30 PM; Fri–Sat, 11:30 AM–12 AM. Entrees \$20–\$40.

*Machu Picchu Restaurant.* 307 Somerville Avenue (617-628-7070). Peruvian fare. Open Sun–Thu, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 11 AM–12 AM.

*Neighborhood Restaurant.* 25 Bow Street (617-623-9710). Portuguese-American restaurant. Open daily, 7 AM–4 PM. Entrees \$10–\$15.

*Puritan & Co.* 1166 Cambridge Street (617-615-6195). American and New England cuisine. Open Mon–Thu, 5:30 PM–11 PM; Fri–Sat, 5:30 PM–12 AM; Sun, 10:30 AM–2 PM, 5:30 PM–11 PM. Entrees \$25–\$35.

*Rialto.* The Charles Hotel (617-661-5050). Italian fare. Open daily, 5 PM–10 PM. Entrees \$20–\$45.

\* *Shojo.* 9 Tyler Street (617-423-7888). Gastro-pub with modern Asian fare. Open Mon–Wed, 5:30 PM–11 PM; Thu, 11 AM–11 PM; Fri–Sat, 11 AM–2 AM. Under \$15.

*S&S Restaurant.* 1334 Cambridge Street (617-354-0777). Historic diner. Open Mon–Fri, 7 AM–10 PM; Sat, 8 AM–11 PM; Sun, 8 AM–10 PM. Entrees around \$20.

*Troquet.* 140 Boylston Street (617-695-9463). French New-American Bistro. Open Tue–Sat, 5 PM–10:30 PM; Closed Sun–Mon. Entrees \$30–\$40.

*Warren Tavern.* 2 Pleasant Street (617-241-8142). Historic tavern. Open Mon–Fri, 11 AM–1 AM; Sat–Sun, 10 AM–1 AM. Entrees \$10–\$20.

\* Closed Sunday evenings