

## About Rare Book School

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Rare Book School (RBS) is an associated organization of the University of Virginia. Directed by University Professor and Professor of English, Michael F. Suarez, S.J., RBS engages in advocacy, education, and outreach to promote the study, care, and uses of written, printed, and digital materials. Every year, RBS offers continuing education opportunities for students from all disciplines and skill levels to study with leading scholars and professionals in the fields of bibliography, librarianship, book history, manuscript studies, and the digital humanities.

## RBS-UVA Fellowship Program Activities

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Undergraduate and graduate students attend seminars at RBS that directly inform year-long projects (*viz.*, a Distinguished Majors thesis, a scholarly article, a dissertation chapter, a conference paper, a public exhibit) that they are undertaking. Once accepted to the program, Fellows:

- \* prepare readings for the RBS course to which they have been accepted;
- \* attend an RBS course offered during 2026 (most RBS courses are offered in June and July).

During their year in the program, Fellows will continue to participate in the program through:

- \* visits to RBS and consultation with RBS faculty and staff during the conduct of their research;
- \* the submission of final projects (due by 19 April 2027) for potential publication on the RBS website;
- \* the program's annual forum and awards luncheon;
- \* the completion of a year-end evaluation of the program.

"I have seen the School's impact on my own students, from the youngest to the most advanced, who have adopted whole new ways of thinking about their scholarship after using the collections and studying in the courses offered by RBS."

*Paul Halliday*

UVA HISTORY PROFESSOR

## Calendar for Applicants to the 2026-27 RBS-UVA Fellowship Program

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### 5 FEBRUARY 2026

Informational Session from 4-6 p.m. ET at Rare Book School's Reception Area (Shannon Library, Second Floor, Room 230).

### 13 FEBRUARY 2026

Project Proposal Workshop from 4-6 p.m. ET or by appointment (see email below) at Rare Book School's Event Space (Shannon Library, Second Floor, Room 230).

### 17 FEBRUARY 2026

Course application first-round deadline.

### 9 MARCH 2026

Fellowship Application deadline 5 p.m. ET. Accepted applicants will attend a week-long course at RBS in 2026, and will submit a final project by 19 April 2027 to be considered for publication on the RBS website. (Applicants will retain all rights to their intellectual property.) Please direct any questions to [rbsuvafellowship@virginia.edu](mailto:rbsuvafellowship@virginia.edu).

## Learn More

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For more details about the RBS-UVA Fellowship Program, see [www.rarebookschool.org/fellowships](http://www.rarebookschool.org/fellowships) or contact RBS at [rbsuvafellowship@virginia.edu](mailto:rbsuvafellowship@virginia.edu).

## RARE BOOK SCHOOL

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PHOTO: STEPHANIE GROSS

## THE RARE BOOK SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Study with an international faculty  
at the world's premier educational  
institute for the history of books  
and printing

Established through a generous grant awarded in 2011 by The Jefferson Trust, an initiative of the UVA Alumni Association, the Rare Book School Fellowship Program at the University of Virginia provides innovative educational opportunities that enhance UVA student research employing textual artifacts, including written, printed, and digital materials.

The RBS-UVA Fellowship Program provides UVA undergraduate and graduate students with scholarships to attend RBS's celebrated courses on the history of books and printing—classes that are not available through UVA course offerings. The program introduces Fellows and their faculty sponsors to visiting peers and professionals in a dynamic environment that fosters hands-on collaborative research and interdisciplinary learning. In addition to providing Fellows with new tools and methods for engaging with primary source materials, the RBS-UVA Fellowship Program also publishes the scholarship of its participants (via its highly visited website), thereby providing other students with aspirational models of scholarly work and intellectual achievement.

“What started out as a run-of-the-mill research project evolved into my biggest accomplishment of fourth year: a project that can be submitted for publication.”

Emma Whittington  
2011–12 RBS-UVA  
FELLOW; CLAS 2012

## Sample Projects from Past RBS-UVA Fellows

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- \* “Borges and *Ficciones*: The Transmutation of a Text,” an undergraduate honors thesis in comparative literature examining materials from UVA's Borges Collection;
- \* “A Digital Presentation of the Marginalia of the B-Text of *The Vision of Piers Plowman*,” prepared in conjunction with a graduate dissertation in English;
- \* a dissertation chapter researching seventeenth-century typography and printing in Italy in conjunction with Propaganda Fide and its polyglot press (one of the first presses in Europe capable of printing works in Arabic);
- \* “The \*\*\*\*\* 17--; or, the Expletive Eighteenth-Century,” a conference paper on punctuation in eighteenth-century literary texts;
- \* “The Well-Traveled Text: Guillaume de Machaut's *Prise d'Alexandre*,” an article that explores the “visual and material textual clues” in a late medieval manuscript;
- \* “Illuminating the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*: A Descriptive Bibliography of Manuscript 14259 and Its Place in the Historical Production of Tibetan Books.”

“Working digitally, we often forget to ask basic questions about the material life of the texts we study. My RBS experience profoundly illuminated my work on Tibetan letters and letter collections by teaching me how to ‘read the whole text.’ When I examined the paper, script, and formatting of text on the page, I discovered that Tibetan letters are actually ritual images, mapping a Buddhist prostration on paper.”

Christie Kilby  
2014–15 RBS-UVA FELLOW  
GSAS 2015

## Eligibility

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Candidates apply to the program during the spring semester. To be eligible for the program, candidates must gain admission to an RBS course, and they must be enrolled at UVA through the spring of the following academic year (e.g., a third-year UVA undergraduate applying in the spring of 2026 would attend a course at RBS in the summer of 2026, complete a project during the semesters spanning the fall of 2026 and the spring of 2027, and submit a final project in April 2027). Students cannot apply to the program during the same academic year in which they are graduating.

## Financial Support

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Fellows attend a course at RBS for free and receive a \$250 stipend. In addition, the program will award a \$500 prize to the most distinguished project from each cohort. Current tuition amounts are available at <https://rarebookschool.org/admissions-awards/program-costs>.

## Application Process

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Fellowship applications are due by 9 March 2026. To apply to the program, students must

1. complete a standard RBS course application (submission by 17 February is encouraged as courses fill quickly);
2. submit to RBS: a short essay proposing how an RBS course offered in 2026 will substantially inform a project (*viz.* an article, an honors thesis, a dissertation chapter, a conference paper); a letter of recommendation from a UVA faculty member who has agreed to sponsor the project; and a c.v.

Fellowship application forms are available at [www.rarebookschool.org/fellowships/rbs-uva](https://www.rarebookschool.org/fellowships/rbs-uva)