

# 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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## 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 a satellite RBS course. "The History of Books and Printing in Korea" (H-160) will be taught by Beth McKillop, senior research fellow at the Victoria & Albert Museum, and visiting lecturer at London University's School of Orientalism and African Studies.

We're excited that you've decided to join us in Cambridge this summer, 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

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 5–7 PM Sunday, 9:30 AM–4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

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

RBS students will convene for registration and dinner at a nearby restaurant (TBA). 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 19 July.

*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 through THURSDAY

9:15 am\* **Arrival at Harvard-Yenching Library**  
Students should meet at the front desk of the Harvard-Yenching Institute Library (2 Divinity Ave.). A staff member will guide you to the classroom in the rare book reading room.

N.B.—Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register when class starts at 9:15.

### 9:30–11 am\* **First Period**

### 11–11:15 am **Morning Break**

Light refreshments will be served in the common room on the ground floor.

### 11:15 am–12:30 pm\* **Second Period**

### 12:30–1:30 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants nearby.

### 1:30–3 pm\* **Third Period**

### 3–3:15 pm **Afternoon Break**

Light refreshments will be served in the common room.

### 3:15–4:30 pm\* **Fourth Period**

## FRIDAY

### 9:30–11 am\* **First Period**

### 11–11:15 am **Morning Break**

Light refreshments will be served in the common room.

### 11:15 am–12:30 pm\* **Second Period**

### 12:30–2:30 pm **Lunch**

Classes break for a long lunch. By tradition, though not compulsion, students take their instructor to a group lunch on Friday. Advance reservations are strongly recommended.

### 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 and faculty are invited to gather for drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Location TBA.

## Evening Events

Details TBA.

\* Required activities are noted by 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!

### Problems

Please let us know if you encounter 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 a course follower or contact us at Rare Book School.

## Accommodations

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Close to the University you may find housing at the Hampton Inn Boston/Cambridge (191 Monsignor O'Brien Highway, Cambridge, MA, 02141; 617-494-5300; <https://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; <https://www.harvardsquarehotel.com>), The Longwood Inn (123 Longwood Avenue Brookline, MA 02446; 617-566-8615; <https://www.longwood-inn.com/directions.html>), and A Friendly Inn at Harvard Square (1673 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-547-7851; <https://www.harvardsquare.com/friendly-inn-harvard-square>).

## 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-Yenching Library. Also, please be aware that the rare book reading 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.

## Transportation

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### 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 South Station (2 Summer Street, Boston). It is accessible via the Northeast Regional and is only a short trip on the Red Line of the T to the Harvard campus in Cambridge.

### 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.

### Air Travel

The major airport servicing Cambridge is Boston Logan International (BOS; 800-235-6426). The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) runs the Silver Line SL1 BRT to connect all Logan International terminals to downtown Boston. The Blue Line will also get you to the airport, although with the added leg of a free shuttle from the stop to the terminal buildings. If you prefer water travel, the MBTA also runs a water shuttle that travels from Logan to downtown Boston. There is a free shuttle to ferry you between the terminal buildings and the dock near Logan.

## Advance Advices

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### What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summer in Cambridge can be warm, with average highs in the mid-80s, and average lows in the 60s. RBS advises bringing a sweater as well as a rain coat and umbrella. In general, wearing layers is also a good idea to accommodate various temperatures in and out of the classroom.

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.