

Information Guide | Bloomington

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. We look forward to welcoming you to Bloomington for your Rare Book School course.

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 year!

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About Bloomington



BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, is a city of some 80,000 persons, located sixty miles south of Indianapolis, and about a hundred miles north of Louisville, Kentucky. The home of Indiana University's flagship campus, the city is the cultural capital of southern Indiana, with a lively music scene, exciting performance venues, and numerous arts festivals throughout the year. It is also home to a small but thriving set of independent bookstores, including Book Corner (100 North Walnut Street; 812-339-1522) and Caveat Emptor (112 North Walnut Street; 812-332-9995).

Many first-time visitors are also surprised by the variety and beauty of Bloomington's natural surroundings, which range from midwestern pastoral to rolling landscapes of forested hills. Brown County State Park, just south of town, and Hoosier National Forest, a little over an hour's drive away, provide numerous opportunities for outdoor activities including hiking, mountain biking, birding, and boating.

This year, Indiana University's Lilly Library (1200 East Seventh Street; 812-855-2452) hosts "Reference Sources for Researching Rare Books," taught by Library Director Joel Silver. The Lilly is home to about 400,000 books and more than seven and a half million manuscripts, with especially strong holdings in British and American historical documents.

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 8:30 AM–1:30 PM Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 5 pm **Registration Dinner**

RBS students will convene for registration and a meal at a nearby restaurant (Location TBA) with Joel Silver. Once there, 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 3 June.

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 in the library's Ellison Room at 8:45 AM sharp on Monday morning.

FRIDAY

8:30–10:30 am* **First Period**

10:30–11 am **Morning Break**
Light refreshments will be provided.

11 am–12:40 pm* **Second Period**

12:40–1 pm* **Course Evaluations**
Students receive course completion certificates, and fill out RBS course evaluations.

1 pm **Farewell Lunch Downtown**
Students gather for a final meal together at a restaurant downtown (location TBD).

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:45 am* **Final Registration (Monday only)**
Registration for those not in attendance Sunday evening.

9–10:30 am* **First Period**

10:30–11 am **Morning Break**
Light refreshments will be provided.

11 am–12:30 pm* **Second Period**

12:30–2 pm **Lunch**
Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants in the neighborhoods surrounding the University.

2–3:30 pm* **Third Period**

3:30–4 pm **Afternoon Break**
Light refreshments will be provided.

4–5:30 pm* **Fourth Period**

** Required activities are noted by asterisk*

Look out for more details about your course via email in early May!

TUESDAY or WEDNESDAY, 5:30 pm
Evening Forum
Details TBD.

THURSDAY, 5:30 pm **Group Dinner**
Join your classmates and instructor for dinner at a nearby restaurant. Location TBD.

Before You Arrive

Reading Lists

Most 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 to get to Indianapolis from Bloomington. 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 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 a course follower or contact us at Rare Book School.

Accommodations

There are two hotels which RBS recommends that are located near the Lilly Library: the Indiana University Memorial Union-Biddle Hotel and Conference Center (900 East 7th Street; 812-856-6381) and the Grant Street Inn (310 North Grant Street; 812-334-2353).

While Indiana University's commencement exercises will be over by the time your RBS course runs, RBS still advises making your accommodations arrangements well in advance of your course.

Transportation

Air Travel

Getting to Indiana University by air really means flying into Indianapolis International Airport (IND), then taking ground transportation the sixty miles south to Bloomington. (N.B. If you book a flight to the “Bloomington Airport,” or BMI, you’ll end up in Bloomington, Illinois, two hundred miles to the west of your course!)

Most of the airport-to-campus shuttles charge about \$20 for a one-way trip, with tickets available at kiosks located within the Indianapolis Airport; some companies also offer discounted rates if you purchase your ticket in advance online. Two of the more popular services are Go Express (1-800-589-6004; goexpresstravel.com) and Star of America (soashuttle.com), both of which will pick you up at various hotels downtown, including Indiana Memorial Union-Biddle Hotel and Conference Center.

Driving to Bloomington

The main north-south highway to (and around) Bloomington is Route 37, a four-lane road connecting Indiana University’s flagship campus to the state capital. The drive from Indianapolis, which can be particularly lovely during the spring, takes just under an hour. You’ll pass at least one well-reviewed vineyard (Oliver Winery, 812-876-5800; open Mon–Sat, 10 AM–6 PM; Sun, 12 PM–6 PM) along the way.

Parking

Affordable, all-day parking can be difficult to find near the Indiana University campus. RBS students should park in front of the Indiana Memorial Union, the imposing stone building located at 900 East 7th Street. Parking is normally \$3/hour there, but guests of the Lilly Library can get their passes validated for half that rate (\$1.50/hour; max of \$14/day). To read more about the Memorial Union’s parking policies, visit their website: <https://imu.indiana.edu/directions-parking/>.

Guests of the IMU-Biddle Hotel will be able to park in the Memorial Union’s lot for free. Guests of the Grant Street Inn enjoy free parking in that establishment’s lot, located about a ten-minute walk west of the Lilly Library.

While it’s likely to be inconvenient or even impossible for RBS students, metered parking is available at various locations throughout campus. A map of those locations, along with instructions for obtaining daily visitor passes, is available at <https://parking.indiana.edu/parking-rules/visitor-parking.html>.

Taking the Bus

While no passenger trains currently serve Bloomington, both the Greyhound (greyhound.com) and Hoosier Ride (hoosieride.com) bus lines stop at the Miller Trailways Bus Stop, also known as Bloomington Transit Center (301 South Walnut Street; 812-333-6400; open Mon–Fri, 8:30 AM–8 PM; Sat–Sun, 8:45 AM–4 PM).

Advance Advices

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. June in Bloomington is generally pleasant, with highs averaging 82 degrees, and lows around 60 degrees. The rooms we use at the Lilly Library tend to maintain a cool temperature, so if you chill easily under air-conditioning, you should certainly bring a sweater. In general, a light rain jacket or 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 both the L-25 course description website and its reading list for specific instructions on what to bring. (It is not, for instance, always necessary to bring copies of your advance reading.) Other insider 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, the nearest 24-hour pharmacy will be the CVS located at 1000 North College Avenue, about a half-hour walk northwest of the Lilly Library (812-339-2233). While the store itself is open 7 AM–12 AM, its pharmacy hours are Mon–Fri, 9 AM–9 PM; Sat–Sun, 10 AM–6 PM.

The most convenient emergency room is at the Indiana University Health Bloomington Hospital, located at 601 West 2nd Street, about two miles southwest of the Lilly Library (non-emergency phone: 812-353-5252).

Local Attractions

Your RBS week will no doubt be busy, so if you'd like to spend some time exploring the Bloomington area, we suggest budgeting a couple of days before or after your course work.

Monroe Lake. Birders and outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy a visit to Monroe Lake, the largest man-made reservoir in the state. There are several easy-to-moderate hikes, readily accessible campgrounds, a nature center, and resort lodging. The lake is located about ten miles south of Bloomington, off Route 37.

Wylie House. 307 East 2nd Street; 812-855-6224. Built in 1835, Wylie House was the home of Indiana University's first president, Andrew Wylie, and now contains an outstanding collection of early to mid-nineteenth-century American furnishings. Also on grounds is a lovely heirloom garden, featuring plants grown in the area prior to 1875. Purchase heirloom seeds at the gift shop, or take a guided tour. For more details, visit tinyurl.com/wilyehouse.