

# Information Guide | Princeton

## 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 Princeton for your Rare Book School course.

This *Information Guide* will provide general information about what to expect during your course week. *More detailed information about course schedules and events and accommodations in Princeton will be sent to you soon. We thank you for your patience as we work to finalize this information.* Upon arrival to your course, 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 take your RBS course; 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 Princeton



PRINCETON was founded in 1696. It is a charming town that offers a diverse mix of academic and cultural experiences amidst the backdrop of the scenic Lake Carnegie and the close proximity of New York City and Philadelphia.

The town is home to the prestigious Princeton University, founded in 1746. The Princeton University Library system boasts a number of culturally significant collections such as the Schiede Library and the Cotsen Children’s

Library. Other nearby attractions include the Princeton University Art Museum, with its gallery exhibition Art@Bainbridge, and the Morven Museum and Gardens.

This year, Princeton will host two Rare Book School courses: “Why Black Bibliography Matters” taught by Kinohi Nishikawa, and “Fifteenth-Century Books in Print & Manuscript” taught by Paul Needham and Will Noel. We’re excited that you’ve decided to join us in Princeton this summer, and we want to do all we can to deliver an exceptional educational experience. If you have any questions about the course, 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 one-and-a-half hours on Sunday evening, 8:30 am–5 pm Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 am - 4 pm Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

**SUNDAY, Timing TBD Opening Reception**  
RBS students will convene for registration and hors d'oeuvres. 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 26 May.

*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 Firestone Library at 8:15 am sharp on Monday morning.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:15 am\* **Registration (Monday Only)**

RBS students will convene for registration, where all students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name tag.

8:30–10 am\* **First Period**

10–10:30 am\* **Morning Break**  
Light refreshments available.

10:30–12 pm\* **Second Period**

12–1:30 pm **Lunch**

1:30–2 pm\* **Third Period**

2–3:30 pm **Afternoon Break**  
Light refreshments available.

3:30–5 pm\* **Fourth Period**

\* *Required activities are noted by asterisk*

FRIDAY

8:30–10 am\* **First Period**

10–10:30 am\* **Morning Break**  
Light refreshments available.

10:30–12 pm\* **Second Period**

12:30–2 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for a long lunch. By tradition, students take their instructor to a group lunch on Friday (you are not obligated to attend). Advance reservations are strongly recommended.

2–3:40 pm\* **Third Period**

3:40–4 pm\* **Course Evaluations**

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

Friday, 4–6 pm **Reception**

RBS will host a closing reception. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Details are forthcoming.

## Before you arrive

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### 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](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. 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 session assistant, or contact us at Rare Book School.

## Accommodations

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Information and recommendations about hotel accommodations in Princeton will be provided soon.

## Transportation

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### Air Travel

The closest airport to Princeton is the Princeton Airport (PCT), located 3 miles north of Princeton (<https://princetonairport.com>). Alternative options include the Newark Liberty International Airport (<https://www.newarkairport.com>), located approximately an hour from Princeton, and the Philadelphia International Airport (<https://www.phl.org>), also approximately an hour from Princeton, but in the opposite direction.

### Driving to Princeton

The main highway into Princeton is Route 27 / NJ 27. US Route 206 / US 206 also connects to the University. US 206 turns north onto Bayard Lane, with Route 27 continuing northeast into downtown Princeton on Nassau Street, which provides access to Princeton University. On-campus visitor parking is free and located in Lot 23 along Faculty Road on the south end of campus. Additional parking options for RBS students are still under consideration.

### Taking the Train

The University is easily accessible by train, which runs along the Northeast Corridor line and also stops at Newark airport. Both Amtrak (1-800-872-7245) and NJ TRANSIT (973-275-5555) trains stop at Princeton Junction. Travelers can then transfer to a single-car train operated by NJ TRANSIT, known locally as the “Dinky,” for the five-minute ride to Princeton Station. The station is located on Alexander Street at the southern end of campus.

## Advance Advices

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### What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summer in Princeton can range from mild to warm, with average temperatures ranging from 84 degrees Fahrenheit in the daytime to 62 degrees at night. *With these temperatures and classroom comfort in mind, sweaters are recommended.* In general, bringing comfortable shoes and an umbrella is also a good idea.

RBS participants are expected 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 and the reading list on the RBS website for specific instructions on what to bring. (It is not, for instance, always necessary to bring copies of your advance reading.)

### Pharmacies & Medical Facilities

The nearest pharmacy to Princeton University is a CVS located at 172 Nassau Street (609-683-1337). The Princeton University Place Store also sells medical and personal sundries and is located at 36 University Place (609-921-8500 Ext: 100). If you are in need of 24-hour service visit the CVS located at 1099 Rte. 33 Hamilton Square (609-586-6384). This location is approximately a 20-minute drive from Princeton’s campus. The nearest hospital emergency room is the Princeton Hospital Emergency Department located at 1 Plainsboro Rd approximately ten minutes away from Princeton’s campus (609-853-7000).