

# Information Guide | New Orleans

## 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 New Orleans 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 New Orleans 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 New Orleans



New Orleans was founded in 1718. Known by a variety of nicknames, New Orleans is a hot spot for culture, music, and history.

The city is home to Tulane University, which was founded in 1834 as a public medical college. Tulane’s libraries are home to a number of important collections such as the Latin American Library, the Amistad Research Center, and the Wil-

liam Ransom Hogan Jazz Archive. Other culturally significant New Orleans attractions include the New Orleans Museum of Art and the New Orleans Jazz Museum.

This year, New Orleans will host the Rare Book School course “Spanish American Textual Technologies to c.1820” taught by Hortensia Calvo, Christine Hernández, and Rachel Stein. We’re excited that you’ve decided to join us in New Orleans 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 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

**SUNDAY, Timing TBD Opening Reception**  
RBS students will convene for registration and hors d'oeuvres. 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](mailto:rbsprograms@virginia.edu)) no later than 12 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](mailto:rbsprograms@virginia.edu)) and let us know. If you do not attend, you will need to register at the Latin American Library on the fourth floor of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library at 8:15 a.m. sharp on Monday morning.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:15 a.m.\* **Registration (Monday Only)**

RBS students will convene for registration in the Latin American Library, located on the fourth floor of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, where all students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name tag.

8:30–10 a.m.\* **First Period**

10–10:30 a.m.\* **Morning Break**  
Light refreshments will be provided.

10:30–12 p.m.\* **Second Period**

12–1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30–3 p.m.\* **Third Period**

3–3:30 p.m. **Afternoon Break**  
Light refreshments available.

3:30–5 p.m.\* **Fourth Period**

FRIDAY

8:30–10 a.m.\* **First Period**

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

10:30–12 p.m.\* **Second Period**

12:30–2 p.m. **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 p.m.\* **Third Period**

3:40–4 p.m.\* **Course Evaluations**

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

Friday, 4–6 p.m. **Reception**

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

\* Required activities are noted by asterisk

## 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. Early evening ground and air travel is seldom much fun anywhere, but it can be especially difficult in a major city like New Orleans. 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 class starts!

### 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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Hotel accommodations located in close proximity to the Latin American Library include the Parkview Guest House (7004 St. Charles Avenue), a 10 minute walk from the library, and the Alder Hotel (4545 Magnolia Street), which is a 25 minute walk from the library.

N.B., For travel throughout the city of New Orleans during the RBS course week, use of the streetcars is not recommended as there may be delays that would cause students to be late to course sessions.

## Transportation

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### Air Travel

The closest airport to New Orleans is the Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY), located 11 miles west of downtown New Orleans (<https://flymsy.com/>). There is an airport shuttle service from MSY to Tulane that stops at PJ's Coffee on Tulane's campus. For more information about this service call 866-596-2699. Alternative options include the Baton Rouge Airport (<https://www.flybtr.com/>), located approximately an hour and a half away from New Orleans, or the Gulfport/Biloxi Airport (<https://www.flygpt.com/>), located about two hours away from New Orleans.

### Driving to New Orleans

The main highway into New Orleans is I-10/ US -90. From the west on I-10, follow signs for the Central Business District and H-90/West Bank. Use the address 6823 St. Charles Avenue to approach the Tulane University campus. Parking options for RBS students are still under consideration.

### Taking the Train

The Union Passenger Terminal (800-872-7245) located at 1001 Loyola Avenue is the New Orleans hub for Amtrak travel. The terminal is a 14-minute drive from the Tulane University campus. Amtrak offers three lines that travel to New Orleans: the City of New Orleans, the Crescent, and the Sunset Limited.

## Advance Advices

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### What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summer in New Orleans can will be warm, with average temperatures ranging from 90 degrees Fahrenheit in the daytime to 70 degrees at night. *With these temperatures and classroom comfort in mind, please pack appropriately.* 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 the Tulane University campus is a Walgreens located at 718 S Carrollton Ave (504-861-7864). The Tulane University Official Bookstore also sells medical and personal sundries, (20 McAlister Place, Suite 110; 504-865-5913). If you are in need of 24-hour service, visit the nearby CVS at 800 Canal St (504-528-7099). Please note that the pharmacy within this store closes at 7 p.m. on weekdays and 5 p.m. on weekends.

The nearest hospital emergency room to Tulane University, located approximately ten minutes away, is Ochsner Baptist Hospital at 2700 Napoleon Ave (504-899-9311). As always, if you need immediate help, dial 911.