

# Information Guide | Ann Arbor

## Welcome to Rare Book School!

FOR MORE THAN FORTY 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 several 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 Ann Arbor 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 accommodations in Ann Arbor, including University of Michigan dorms, will be sent to you soon. We thank you for your patience as we work to finalize this information.* Upon arrival, you’ll receive a digital 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*.) We eagerly await your arrival, and look forward to another wonderful session!

### Contents

WELCOME .....	1
RBS IN ANN ARBOR .....	1
THE RBS WEEK .....	2
BEFORE YOU ARRIVE .....	3
ACCOMMODATIONS .....	3
TRANSPORTATION .....	4
ADVANCE ADVICES .....	4

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## RBS in Ann Arbor



ANN ARBOR, founded in 1824, is a vibrant university town situated just west of Detroit. Known for its walkable downtown, diverse culinary scene, and thriving arts and culture, the city is home to the University of Michigan, one of the nation’s top public universities. Established in Detroit in 1817 and moved to Ann Arbor in 1837, the Uni-

versity of Michigan boasts one of the largest research libraries in the United States. The University of Michigan Library has physical locations throughout the campus and offers a wealth of resources in traditional as well as digital formats, encompassing more than 14 million print volumes and one of the finest digital collections in the world. This year, Ann Arbor will host the Rare Book School course: “Paper as Bibliographical Evidence” taught by Cathleen A. Baker.

We’re excited that you’ve decided to join us in Ann Arbor 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, 4–5:30 p.m. Opening Reception**  
RBS students will convene for registration and refreshments at the Clark Library (913 S. University Ave). Once there, all students will receive a digital 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 11 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 Hatcher Library at 8:20 a.m. sharp on Monday morning.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:00 a.m. **Coffee & Tea**  
Provided in the open study space located next to room 660D.

8:20 a.m.\* **Registration (Monday Only)**  
RBS students will convene for registration outside of room 660D, located on the sixth floor of the Special Collections Resource Center in the Hatcher Library.

8:30–10:00 a.m.\* **First Period**  
Class will meet in Hatcher South, room 660D.

10:00–10:30 a.m. **Morning Break**  
Light refreshments will be provided in the open study space located next to room 660D.

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.\* **Second Period**

12:00–1:30 p.m. **Lunch**  
Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants within walking distance of the library.

1:30–3 p.m.\* **Third Period**

3–3:30 p.m. **Afternoon Break**  
Light refreshments will be provided in the open study space located next to room 660D

3:30–5 p.m.\* **Fourth Period**

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. **Coffee & Tea**  
Provided in the open study space located next to room 660D.

8:30–10:00 a.m.\* **First Period**  
Class will meet in Hatcher South, room 660D.

10:00–10:30 a.m. **Morning Break**  
Light refreshments will be provided in the open study space located next to room 660D.

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.\* **Second Period**

12–2 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, 5:00–6:30 p.m. **Closing Reception**  
RBS will host a closing reception at the William L. Clements Library (909 S University Ave). Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

\* *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. 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 a.m. – 5 p.m.; 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, an RBS staff member on site, or contact us at Rare Book School.

## Accommodations

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Perhaps the most inexpensive and convenient lodgings are available through the University of Michigan Conference & Event Services, which offers short-term summer housing in the University of Michigan dormitories. Students who opt to stay at the dorms will be provided with a single occupancy room for \$76 per night, which will include a linen pack that contains the following items: sheets, a blanket, towels, and a washcloth (pillows are provided with the room). If you would like to register for a dorm room, please email [rachel.budge@virginia.edu](mailto:rachel.budge@virginia.edu).

### Hotels

Students taking a course at the University of Michigan also have the option of staying in a nearby hotel. Some recommendations include [The Graduate](#), [The Residence Inn by Marriott](#), and [The Bell Tower Hotel](#). The Graduate is located at 615 E Huron St (855-696-6258); the Residence Inn by Marriott is located at 120 West Huron Street (844-631-0595); and The Bell Tower Hotel is located at 300 S Thayer St (800-562-3559). Please be advised that there may be other events happening the same week, so hotels may fill rather quickly.

## Transportation

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### Air Travel

The closest airport to the University of Michigan is [Detroit Metropolitan International Airport](#) (DTW), situated 25 miles away. For students seeking shuttle services, two good options are the Michigan Flyer and the AirBus.

#### Michigan Flyer

The Michigan Flyer offers convenient service to and from DTW. The prepaid fare is \$15 one-way or \$25 round-trip. Tickets purchased on the bus are priced at \$18. For more information, you can contact them at 517-333-0400.

#### AirBus

For the most affordable airport transportation, the Central Student Government (CSG) AirBus is a great option. It provides service with pick-up at three designated campus locations. For more information, please visit the website.

### Taking the Train

The closest [Amtrak](#) station is located in Ann Arbor at 325 Depot Street, (800-231-2222). From here, you can find a bus route, order an Uber/Lyft, or find another means to travel the remaining distance to your accommodations.

### Driving to the University of Michigan

Interstate 94 (I-94) is the main highway that connects to the University of Michigan from Detroit, Chicago, and other areas.

If you are coming from Detroit or Chicago, take I-94 West to Exit 177. From Lansing: take I-96 East to US-23 South, then M-14 West. From Ohio: take US-23 North to the Washtenaw-Ann Arbor exit (Exit 37B). From Northern MI: Take I-75 South to US-23 South, then M-14 West.

## Advance Advices

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### What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summer in Ann Arbor can range from mild to warm, with average temperatures ranging from 79 degrees Fahrenheit in the daytime to 59 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 is a [Walgreens](#) located at 317 S State St (734-352-3623). The nearest health care center is the [A. Alfred Taubman Health Care Center](#) located at 1500 E. Medical Center Drive (734-936-4000). The nearest emergency room is the [University of Michigan Hospital Emergency Room](#) located at 1500 E Medical Center Dr (734-936-6666). As always, if you need immediate assistance, dial 911.