

BRITISH
SCHOOL
at
ATHENS

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AN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH



PHILANTHROPY & THE BSA

Philanthropy – the foundation of the BSA



Founded in 1886, the British School at Athens (BSA) brings together a global community of people who share a deep commitment to the culture, history and archaeology of the Greek world. The school provides a direct connection between the ancient past and the rich and vibrant culture of modern Greece. It is a special place: an oasis in the heart of Athens where visitors can immerse themselves geographically and academically in the very heart of Greece's long and extensive history.

As a member of the British International Research Institutes (BIRI), the BSA receives just under 50% of its annual funding from the British Academy. The remaining funds need to be raised via investments, donations and institutional sponsors. Philanthropy — now more than ever — is critical for our continued success. Charitable giving has been at the heart of the BSA since its foundation and provides critical vital financial stability and agility, in increasingly tough times. BSA Supporters ensure that this much-loved institution leads the way in promoting and facilitating research and scholarship in the most inclusive and accessible way.

The BSA owes its existence to a tradition of philanthropic support, notably the vision of philanthropists such as Prime Minister William Gladstone, Greek Ambassador Joannes Gennadius, and classical scholar Jane Ellen Harrison who helped to raise the initial funds. That philanthropic spirit continues today with donations and legacies continuing to support the study of Greece in the broadest sense and at all levels, as you will see in this brochure.

We are seeking to engage with those who would like to be part of the next exciting phase in the BSA's impressive history. We have exciting projects and developments planned and need your support to ensure that the BSA continues its track record of success and impact in the exploration and understanding of the Hellenic world.

Please do contact me and I can share our plans in more detail and update you on the many ways you can be part of this historic institution's next chapter.

Prof. Rebecca Sweetman
Director of the BSA
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Mentoring session with Fellows including Andriana Xenaki (Cary Student) and Rachel Phillips (Macmillan-Rodewald Student), in the Constantinides Byzantine Room



Michalis Sotiropoulos (1821 Fellow in Modern Greek History) in the Anastasia Kollakis Wing of the BSA Library



Redevelopment of Knossos Research Centre with transformational gift by the Packard Humanities Institute

Donations have ensured the success of a whole range of initiatives in the BSA's history

Our funded studentships and fellowships allow us to invest in the next generation of scholars from Greece, the UK and around the world and provide critical support for the next cohort of academic leaders. Named fellowships for postdoctoral research include the '1821 Fellow in Modern Greek Studies' funded by the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation**, the **A.G. Leventis Fellowship** in Hellenic Studies and the **Williams Fellowship** in Ceramic Petrology, while doctoral researchers studentships have been provided by the **Richard Bradford McConnell, Cary**, and **Macmillan-Rodewald** funds.

The **Kollakis Wing** of the Library and **Eleftherios Art Studio** in the Upper House provided a substantial expansion of our facilities for researchers and artists, generously awarded by **Mr Lou Kollakis** in 2010–11 in his longstanding support for the BSA. The Byzantine Room of the Library was funded by **Constantine and Efthalia Constantinides**, providing a significant donation to expand the school's provision for Byzantine studies. **Marc and Ismene Fitch** gave the first grant that saw the founding of the Fitch Laboratory in 1974, which in the past 50 years has become a world-leading centre for science-based archaeology.

Sir Arthur Evans (1851–1941) donated the Knossos site to the BSA in 1924. A century later, the transformational gift made by the **Packard Humanities Institute** in 2022 helped raise over £2.6 million to build a new 21st-century research centre and Stratigraphical Museum at Knossos.



The Library, one of the best in the world for Hellenic studies, currently holds **80,000 volumes** and **1,300 periodical titles**.

The Archive, with its important **Byzantine Research Fund** collection, houses travel diaries, excavation notebooks and works from leading philhellenes such as George Finlay from the 19th century.



130 years of the British School at Athens

Our 130 year history brings with it a strong reputation, an excellent regional network, a superb collection of library and material resources, and a body of expertise that benefits the UK, Greece, international researchers and all those who engage with us as research partners. Since its foundation, the BSA has undertaken **fieldwork at over 120 sites** including Knossos, Mycenae and Sparta, Keros and Chios, Melos and Ithaka.

Today the BSA is **an institute for advanced research**: we lead and collaborate in innovative research projects and international training networks. We conduct, facilitate and promote research of international excellence in all periods — from the Palaeolithic to the present — and across all humanities and social science disciplines in subjects as diverse as education, migration, society, economics and religion.



Keros excavations, 2018

Our Library, Archive, Knossos Research Centre and Fitch Laboratory are all leading research centres for Hellenic studies in the broadest sense. The study collections housed in each, as well as in the BSA museum, are the core of agenda-setting research projects and vital for training the next generation of researchers.

The BSA shares its discoveries through research-led teaching and has a programme of regular outreach and public engagement. We constantly ask and answer pertinent questions while focusing on **knowledge exchange, teaching, outreach** and **mentoring**. Partnership is key to all our work and the BSA's strong relationships with the British Embassy and the British Council in Athens, as well as the British Academy in the UK, are testament to our role in Greece as a hub of cultural exchange, education and research.

Around **500 researchers** and **1,000 students** use our facilities annually and we hold several undergraduate and postgraduate courses annually. The BSA collaborates with over 100 institutions in the **UK, Greece, throughout Europe, North America, the Middle East** and **Australia**. This includes UK universities, other foreign schools in Athens, and universities throughout Greece.



Teaching on site at the Acropolis Museum



The Fitch Laboratory is a leading centre for **science-based archaeology** in the Mediterranean. It actively promotes the role of women researchers in science and works at the intersection of Arts, Humanities and Sciences in a way that few institutions do.

The BSA's long history at Knossos has played an important role in the academic development of **generations of archaeologists**, now secured by the forthcoming development of the **Knossos Research Centre**.



Fundraising Priorities (2024–2030)

The BSA remains steadfast in its commitment to academic excellence and cultural exchange. At the heart of our work is the cultivation of our Greek, UK and international community, fostered through fellowships, research endeavours, fieldwork, and educational initiatives. The BSA is on the cusp of a transformation that will elevate its mission into a new era, befitting a world leading institution. To achieve this, the BSA has identified in its Strategic Plan (2024–30) the following key areas for investment:

- **Investing in Digital Infrastructure:**

£75,000 (plus 400 hours work time @ **£15,000**). One of the BSA's four strategic pillars, this investment will enable free access to key elements of the BSA Archive that includes material pertaining to **1821** (Finlay records) and **Byzantine Architecture**

- **Endowing staff positions:**

In particular, the Librarian and the Archivist. **£1,000,000** per position (for endowment). We could also accept periods of funding for these positions: **£120,000** per position for a three year period

- **Archive & Library:**

Development of Archives to a sustainable academic facility by digitising all material for preservation and accessibility: **£38,000** plus a new Archival Assistant @ **£32,000 per annum**

- **Sustainable BSA:**

An environmental initiative to improve the energy efficiency of all our buildings in Athens including the refurbishment of the space for conferences and lectures in the Upper House. **£275,000**

- **The Fitch at 50:**

A capital project around the 50th anniversary of the Fitch Laboratory, to ensure that it continues to be a world-leading centre for science-based archaeology and the study of Ancient Technology and Crafts. This will include the construction of a state-of-the-art laboratory, lecture and storage space as well as freeing up space in the old Fitch building. **£4.5 million** and new equipment up to **£500,000**

As the UK's major research institute in Greece, the BSA has fostered close collaboration between our communities through research partnerships and support of UK and Greek Scholars in Greece and Greek Scholars in the UK. Your contribution, no matter the size, plays a crucial role in furthering our endeavours.

In addition to the projects set out here, other examples of what a donation could fund include:

- **£5,000** — annual maintenance of our grounds as an oasis in central Athens
- **£10,000** — annual running costs of the Stratigraphical Museum at Knossos
- **£20,000** — environmentally sustainable improvements to our landmark 19th-century buildings
- **£25,000** — to fund a BSA Studentship at a critical point in the career of a young academic
- **£40,000** — the annual cost of a three-year BSA Post-Doctoral Fellowship (£120,000 total)
- **£100,000** — investment to ensure the sustainable future of the BSA

Private philanthropy makes a huge difference to the BSA and your donation will have a profound effect on future generations of scholars and students. As has always been the case, the BSA will recognise transformative generosity through the naming of studentships and other aspects of life at the School, as well as acknowledgements on Donor Honour Boards at both Athens and Knossos to acknowledge particularly generous supporters.



“My career as a Greek scholar began at the BSA, half a century ago. The School has in various ways been part of my professional life ever since. That’s the wonderful thing about the BSA: it provides a hospitable and welcoming environment for all kinds of study of Greece and Greek culture, of all historical periods, including the present day”

Prof. Roderick Beaton FBA | Chair of the British School at Athens

Emeritus Koraes Professor of Modern Greek & Byzantine History, Language & Literature, King’s College London and recipient of the Medal of Commander of the Order of Honour of the Hellenic Republic

“I first came to the BSA as a PhD student in 2018 and have been involved with the School ever since, first as the Richard Bradford McConnell Student and now as A.G. Leventis Fellow in Hellenic Studies. Through teaching on the BSA Summer School and working with different communities in Athens, the BSA has been pivotal in my professional and personal development. As a thriving research centre, it is the place I feel most creative, productive and welcome”

Dr Tulsi Parikh | A.G. Leventis Fellow in Hellenic Studies, 2021–24

Former Richard Bradford McConnell Student at the BSA, PhD in Classics at the University of Cambridge





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