AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

FOUNDED 1881
“Almost every rock . . . every river . . . every portion of the soil appears to teem with historical recollections.”

EDWARD DODWELL
WRITER & TRAVELER
It begins in Greece.

If you are interested in society and how it should function, you would do well to study the past.

There are certain moments in history where the human spirit takes flight.

Whether we are talking about Democracy, Art, Philosophy — it doesn’t really matter what the subject is . . .
We bring Greece’s past to life.

“The American School was the first place that challenged me to rethink what kind of student and scholar I wanted to be. This place pushes you beyond books and takes a hands-on approach to learning about Greece.”

Morgan Condell
School Alumna

Students recreating the pediment from the Temple of Aphaia on Aegina

The American School of Classical Studies at Athens is a gateway not just to a different place but also to a different time. Founded in 1881 as a consortium of universities and colleges in North America, it is the oldest and largest U.S. overseas research center. Its mission is to preserve and promote Greece’s past—from antiquity to the present day.
Main campus of the American School in Kolonaki, Athens, Greece
A national landmark, the historic Gennadius Library was opened in 1926 with the collection of diplomat and bibliophile Joannes Gennadius. It houses rare books, manuscripts, and artworks from post-antique Greece to the present day. Staying true to its original mission, the Library provides exhibitions, lectures, concerts, and various other cultural experiences to the general public.
Blegen Library

One of the premier libraries for classical studies and archaeology in the world, the Blegen Library covers all aspects of Greek civilization from earliest prehistory through late antiquity. The Blegen is heavily used by Greek and international scholars, as well as members of the School.
The School’s Archives hold the personal papers of many leading Greek historical and cultural figures of the 18th–20th centuries, among them Heinrich Schliemann (the excavator of Troy and Mycenae), Nobel Prize winners George Seferis and Odysseus Elytis, and conductor Dimitris Mitropoulos. In addition, it is the repository of letters, photographs, excavation records, and other materials documenting the intellectual, cultural, and administrative history of the American School, incorporating the papers of Carl W. Blegen, William Bell Dinsmoor, Virginia Grace and others.

"We are a time capsule for future generations." Dr. Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan, Doreen Canaday Spitzer Archivist
Athenian Agora

Located in the heart of modern Athens, the Agora was the commercial, political, and legal center of the ancient city. The School has conducted excavations there since 1931, shedding light on a rich and splendid history of continuous habitation that extends over more than 3,000 years. This site—where Socrates once taught—is considered to be the “birthplace of democracy.”
Ancient Corinth

Corinth, inhabited since the Neolithic period, was a commercial, cultural, and political leader from the early expansion of the Greek world in the 8th century B.C. to the time of St. Paul and beyond. In addition to its yearly excavation training session and a comprehensive program of heritage management, exciting new digital initiatives are bringing Greece’s past to life as never before.
Affiliated Archaeological Projects

In addition to the School’s two excavations, it supports archaeological exploration across Greece. Each year, we offer fieldwork permits to five of our cooperating institutions. These projects have widened and deepened our understanding of Greece’s past, and the publication of their results has increased public awareness of the diversity of the Greek achievement.

*see map p. 41
Discovering scientific research

Dr. Panagiotis Karkanas, Director

MALCOLM H. WIENER LABORATORY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE

The Wiener Laboratory, built by Malcolm H. Wiener, operates on our main campus in a new state-of-the-art facility inaugurated in 2016. The Lab serves the interests of archaeological scholars both in Greece and abroad. Its research and cutting-edge scientific analysis, through 116 sponsored projects to date, have helped us better understand the past.

Malcolm H. Wiener Laboratory for Archaeological Science

MORE THAN 1,500 SKELETAL REMAINS UNDER EXAMINATION FROM PHALERON

Dr. Panagiotis Karkanas, Director
Throughout the year, the American School offers unparalleled opportunities for school teachers, undergraduate students, and graduate students to immerse themselves in the art, architecture, archaeology, literature, and topography of Greece. Participation is open through various programs, including our full academic year Regular Program, three- to six-week Summer programs, and a four-week Medieval Greek Summer Session. Each program gives the participants a rich experience and appreciation of Greece’s history and culture.
Sharing our research with the world is paramount to the mission of the American School. Our publications reflect the best of scholarship by disseminating the results of our fieldwork projects and digging deeper into topics and themes relevant to the Mediterranean world. Works include scholarly monographs, scientific studies, and popular books, as well as our award-winning quarterly journal, *Hesperia*. 

Director Carol Stein
Cotsen Hall

Cotsen Hall, which was inaugurated in 2005 and named for its benefactor and School Trustee, Lloyd Cotsen, serves as the cultural center of the American School. It is fully equipped for everything from lectures to chamber music concerts, and is viewed as one of the best venues in Athens. This space permits the School to build on its outreach to the international community through its seminars, lectures, concerts, and other special programming, many of which are live-streamed to the public throughout the world.
Ioannis Makriyannis Wing

Named in honor of one of the great heroes of the Greek War of Independence, General Makriyannis (1797–1864), this new addition is the School’s main exhibition space, offering an opportunity to experience our unique collections and a wide range of traveling exhibits.

Entrance to the new main exhibition gallery
Outreach

The American School strives to communicate its work with diverse audiences worldwide. An outreach program for K–12 enables young people to experience the world of Greek history, culture, and archaeology. Special lectures, events, and various engagement opportunities are held throughout North America and around the globe. With an expanding video library and a strategic social media presence, we immerse our viewers into the American School experience.
For generations, Loring Hall has been the heart of the School and the place where the academic community has gathered for meals, informal lectures, intellectual discourse, and traditional holidays. Designed by renowned architect W. Stuart Thompson, the student center was built to accommodate the growing numbers of scholars who were coming to use the facilities of the School. Currently, we are undertaking a renovation to completely transform and modernize this part of our campus.
WE ALL GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN OURSELVES BY LEARNING, TO INNOVATE BY THINKING AND DEBATING, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TO BRING EVERYTHING WE HAVE DONE BACK HOME TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

AARON HERSHKOWITZ
SCHOOL ALUMNUS

"We all get the opportunity to broaden ourselves by learning, to innovate by thinking and debating, and most importantly to bring everything we have done back home to make the world a better place.”

As of May 2018
“Rome may be eternal, but Greece is perennial. Once seen, it is never forgotten, and the desire to revisit it never abates.”

ANNIE SMITH PECK
FIRST FEMALE STUDENT OF THE SCHOOL, 1885
AND FAMOUS MOUNTAINEER