

## ASOR Draft Strategic Plan 2030

The American Society of Overseas Research (formerly the American Schools of Oriental Research) has grown from its roots in Biblical scholarship and archaeology of the Levant to broaden its reach. ASOR's members now undertake research, education, and outreach related to the archaeologies, cultures, histories, legacies, and connections from the [Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean, and Europe to the African Sahel](#) (map forthcoming).

### Mission

ASOR's mission is to initiate, encourage, and support research into, and public understanding of, the history and cultures of the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean, and Europe to the African Sahel, from earliest times. ASOR is apolitical and has no religious affiliation.

### Priorities

**ASOR's Place in the World:** ASOR encourages the study of the past through archaeological, historical, linguistic, cultural research, and conservation by fostering conversations about our members' research and the impact of our studies on the contemporary world. ASOR members promote the preservation of cultural heritage as it relates to global world history. Over the next five to ten years, ASOR will undertake the following initiatives to demonstrate our conception of our role in the world.

1. Support high-quality academic research in various venues, giving space for innovative, paradigm-shifting contributions, for example in ASOR's [publications](#), [annual meeting](#) sessions and workshops, and [early career scholars](#) and [Friends of ASOR](#) activities.
2. Cultivate [partnerships](#) in all educational and outreach efforts through the work of ASOR [committees](#) and [overseas centers](#).
3. Further develop relationships and joint ventures with local stakeholders and especially our overseas centers in our research areas, in order to enhance the understanding, preservation, and viability of [cultural heritage](#) related to our members' research and local needs.
4. Assist members in the practical and financial aspects of international research through enlargement of our ongoing grants programs as well as creation and continuation of venues for providing expert information and counsel.

**Looking Outward:** We aspire to be a leader and supporter of innovative, high-quality, forward-thinking scholarship, education, and partnerships related to the study of the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean, from Europe to the African Sahel.

1. Strengthen existing and activate new platforms and media for scholars and the public alike to enlarge the impact of our members' contributions to the study of the past as an essential aspect of solutions to issues of today.
2. Increase collaborative educational initiatives geared towards the public and K-12 classroom settings.
3. Develop clear strategies and policies for public-facing outreach and clear communication strategies for access, including translations of materials, for members and other interested parties.

**Preparation for the Future:** ASOR seeks to expand the audience for its work beyond traditional academics to enhance public understanding of the past and its impact on the present. We aim to support question-based research in the production and preservation of knowledge in the world. ASOR supports diversity that broadens the fields of archaeology, history, linguistics, cultural research and conservation beyond traditional academic careers, by mentoring and supporting early career scholars and scholars in partner countries, and by providing archaeological and technical training for a broad range of interested individuals. ASOR will continue to create and foster support from a broad range of sources to maintain ASOR's financial stability and resources for our growing membership.

1. Continue expanding ASOR's membership, including efforts to increase membership from groups underrepresented in the field.
2. Foster opportunities through mentorship and skills development to prepare members for diverse fields in a rapidly-shifting social and economic environment. Harness the experience of ASOR's membership to guide members along their chosen paths.
3. Enhance funding relationships to accomplish our mission and strategic goals.

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