



BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS ΒΡΕΤΑΝΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ



EARLY-STAGE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN CERAMIC ANALYSIS

Research project:

Culinary traces of the past: Aegean-Balkan mobility and interaction at the dawn of urbanisation in late 2nd and early 1st millennium BC through an interdisciplinary study of cooking pots and practices

Research position and overall project

The British School at Athens, as beneficiary of the Horizon 2020 MSCA-ETN-ITN project *Training the next generation of archaeological scientists: Interdisciplinary studies of pre-modern **Plasters** and **Ceramics** from the eastern Mediterranean* ([PlaCe-ITN](#)), offers a fully funded research position with the above research project, based at the Fitch Laboratory of the British school at Athens. This high-profile Innovative Training Network aims at training Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) to conduct state-of-the-art, science-based research on the provenance, use, and technology of plasters and ceramics, in pre-modern societies in different regions of the eastern Mediterranean.

The successful applicant will be based at the Marc and Ismene Fitch Laboratory for science-based archaeology, an integral part of the British School at Athens, receiving high quality interdisciplinary training through practice and taught courses on a broad range of topics in the fields of archaeology and archaeological sciences, and particularly plaster and ceramic analysis. The ESR will conduct most of the research and acquire her/his training at the Fitch Laboratory, with study sessions at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, but s/he is also expected to travel to partner organisations for further training, including a secondment to the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

For this project, the successful candidate is expected to undertake a macroscopic study of cooking pot assemblages from excavated sites in coastal northern Greece, namely [Toumba Thessaloniki](#), dated to the late 2nd and early 1st millennium BC. The aim will be to record vessel forms, technological features and traces of use, as a basis for the selection of representative samples for subsequent complementary analyses. Ceramic fabric compositional and textural characterisation through petrographic and elemental analysis will contribute to the



reconstruction of technological traditions and mobility of such pots or of their manufacturers, while organic residue analysis will provide additional evidence for understanding cooking practices and their transformations through time. The successful candidate will be trained in the acquisition and integration of different strands of data (archaeological, scientific, contextual, but also experimental) in order to understand transformations in pottery technology and cooking practices/diet, using the extensive reference collection of the Fitch Laboratory of pottery and geological samples from the wider study area. The ultimate objective will be to discuss the data acquired in the context of the intense mobility and interaction attested in the region with other Aegean and Balkan communities during the so-called Mycenaean period through to the time of the first Greek colonies, resulting in significant socio-cultural and economic transformations and roles of the area's communities.

The ESR based at the Fitch Laboratory will be supervised by Dr. Evangelia Kiriati (Fitch Laboratory Director) and Dr. Noémi S. Müller (Fitch Laboratory Scientific Research Officer). The project will be carried out in collaboration with the Department of History and Archaeology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and more specifically with Dr Sevasti Triantaphyllou, Associate Professor and current director of the Thessaloniki Toumba excavation, and professor Stelios Andreou, Professor Emeritus and former director of the excavation).

Expected starting date: 1st September 2021

Qualifications

The successful candidate is expected to have a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in archaeology, cultural heritage, heritage science, earth or material sciences, or a related field. For the particular research requirements of this fellowship, a Bachelor's degree and/or a Master's degree in archaeology will be considered as an advantage. Very good oral and written communication skills in English, as well as the ability to work in an international, interdisciplinary research environment are essential.

Note: It is envisaged that the successful candidate will apply to be enrolled in the PhD programme of the Department of History and Archaeology, of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. For this reason, applicants ideally should also fulfil the [relevant admission requirements](#). The PhD thesis will be written in English.

Application

Applicants for the current ESR fellowship should send their application by email to the BSA Administrator, Mrs Tania Gerousi (school.administrator@bsa.ac.uk) mentioning in the email's subject the title of the post (PlaCe-ITN, Research Fellowship ESR12) and the name of the applicant.

Applications should include the following documents as attachments (all attachments should be in pdf format, entitled PlaCe-ITN_ESR12_Applicant's Name_title of document):

1. **A covering letter** (*not exceeding 2 pages, giving the applicant's contact details, outlining the reasons for applying, and summarising their principal qualifications for the post. Applicants should refer to educational, research and personal experience that shaped their interest in the particular research project. They should also mention concise examples of their work that demonstrate academic maturity and potential to meet the expectations of the current training research project, as well as outline their future professional plans*).



2. **Curriculum Vitae** (*Giving details of academic and other qualifications, academic research interests, and other relevant experience, but also including a detailed account of places of activity/places of residence for the period 1 September 2018 - 30 September 2021*). Please fill in the following table without leaving any gaps to indicate the period(s) and the country/countries in which you have legally resided and/or had your main activity (work, studies, etc) during the last 3 years up until the starting date of the current ESR.

Starting date	End date	Duration	Country	Activity

(add rows as necessary)

3. **Academic Degrees** (*Copies of Bachelor and the Master's degree certificates and transcript of grades. If an applicant has not yet completed a Master's degree, a transcript(s) that lists coursework and grades thus far, and expected date of completion of the Master's degree, should be provided*).

4. **Example of Written Work.** (*An example of - or a part of - current or previous work by the applicant that demonstrates the candidate's interests and abilities for fulfilling their research project. This piece of writing may comprise any of the following: an essay (or excerpt) from undergraduate/postgraduate work, a publication, a conference presentation, a part of Undergraduate or Master's Thesis, or a text written specially for the purpose of this application. This document must be in English and not exceed circa 3000 words.*

5. **Two References.** *The names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of two referees, whom the applicant has contacted in advance and who have agreed to supply letters of reference sent directly to school.administrator@bsa.ac.uk by the closing date. Recommendations should be provided by professors, supervisors, employers or others able to comment on the applicant's academic and professional goals and potential. Recommendations should specifically address the applicant's ability to succeed in the proposed research/academic program and discuss any experience that may have prepared her/him for this.*

Note: Candidates may be asked to provide additional documents on request

Financial Support

This Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) ITN offers competitive and attractive salary and working conditions. The successful candidate will receive a gross salary in accordance with the MSCA regulations for Early-Stage Researchers; it includes living and mobility allowances, and a family allowance, if the researcher is married or with children. The exact salary will be confirmed upon appointment. Moreover, additional PlaCe-ITN funding will cover approved training, research and outreach expenses.

Any tuition fees: covered by PlaCe-ITN

Employment basis: temporary for specified period

Duration of the contract: 36 months without provisions for extension

Maximum hours per week: 40 (full-time)

Eligibility Criteria

According to the eligibility criteria set by the European Commission and the particular MSCA-ITN-2020 call, the recruited ESR will have to comply with the following conditions:



1. Not have resided or carried out her/his main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Greece for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date. Short stays, such as holidays, are not taken into account;
2. Be — at the date of recruitment — an ‘early-stage researcher’ (i.e., in the first four years of her/his research career and have not been awarded a doctoral degree). This is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle her/him to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate is or was ever envisaged.

Qualified applicants from all countries are welcome to submit an application, provided they meet the **eligibility criteria**.

Deadline for applications

The deadline for applications is **Friday, 30 April 2021**.

Interviews will be held online (by Zoom).

Contact us

For general information about the ESR position and the MSCA-ITN PlaCe, please contact the Fitch Laboratory Director, Dr Evangelia Kiriati (e.kiriati@bsa.ac.uk).



Further details about the British School at Athens

(see also www.bsa.ac.uk)

An educational charity founded in 1886, the British School at Athens (BSA) is the UK's research hub in the humanities and social sciences in Greece and its wider Balkan, European, Mediterranean and Levantine contexts. It conducts, facilitates and promotes research of international excellence in all periods – from the Palaeolithic to the present – and across all humanities and social science disciplines, as well as offering targeted courses to develop the next generation of researchers and academics in those fields. Greece's centrality in the history of the western tradition, combined with its key position in post-Ottoman southern Europe and on the front line of the current refugee crisis, make it an unusually rich location for research.

The BSA forms part of the British Academy's network of British International Research Institutes (BIRI) which sustains and supports British research overseas: <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/international/research-institutes>. In Athens we support research in Greece and neighbouring countries as well as collaborations with local institutions. Our 130-year history brings a strong reputation, an unparalleled regional network, an accumulation of library and material resources, and a body of expertise that benefit both UK-based researchers and those who engage with us as research partners. Typically, over 600 researchers and almost 1,000 students use our facilities and the BSA collaborates with around 20 UK and 60 institutions worldwide, the majority in Greece.

The BSA's goals are achieved through:

- an academic programme of seminars, lectures, and conferences;
- its internationally renowned library;
- the work of the Fitch Laboratory in science-based archaeological research across the Mediterranean;
- supporting the work of individual researchers from the UK and elsewhere, including applications for study and fieldwork permits; advice on the development of research programmes; accommodation and facilities in Athens and Knossos; and provision of online services;
- making research carried out at the BSA or with its assistance known through the publication of its journals and monograph series;
- promoting the use of its archival, laboratory, and museum collections by the scholarly community worldwide;
- providing funding (including studentships and visiting fellowships) for research in Greece, and to enable Greek researchers to visit the UK;
- providing internships and training courses for undergraduates, postgraduates, and schoolteachers.

The BSA's biannual *Newsletters (June and December since 2017)*, *Corporate Plan* and *Strategic Plan for Research 2015-2020* are posted on www.bsa.ac.uk.



Size and Scope

The BSA, founded in 1886, is an institute for advanced research and a registered UK charity (no. 208673). It maintains a hostel, world class library, archive, laboratory for archaeological science and offices in Athens; a smaller hostel, library and museum for study purposes in Knossos; and an office in London. It has five full-time academic staff (including the Knossos Curator), two research fellows, three full-time and two part-time administrative/secretarial staff, three full-time library/archival staff; and five full-time and two part-time domestic staff. The academic staff, the research fellows, and the Archivist are all actively engaged in research, and all staff are actively encouraged to undertake professional development. In addition, the BSA is supported by research-active non-executive staff in the UK – in particular the Chair of Council (Dr Carol Bell), Vice-Chair of Council (Prof. Robin Osborne) and the Deputy Honorary Treasurer (Huw Smith). Its turnover for the financial year 2019-20 was approximately £1.5m. It offers two full-year research fellowships ('studentships') and several smaller bursaries for scholars every year. The BSA has over 260 supporters and over 220 members, i.e. scholars or scientists who use its facilities for study purposes every year. In addition, around 1,000 researchers, who are not members, are given rights to use the library each year.

Staffing

The BSA has the following research staff, details of whose research interests and publications are available on the BSA's website (www.bsa.ac.uk):

Full-time academic staff: Professor John Bennet, Director; Dr Evangelia Kiriati, Director of the Fitch Laboratory; Dr Michael Loy, Assistant Director; Dr Noémi Müller, Scientific Research Officer; Dr Kostis Christakis, Knossos Curator.

Full-time research fellows: the current Leventis Fellow, Dr Bela Dimova; the Williams Fellow in ceramic petrology, Dr Carlotta Gardner.

Research-active staff with other primary responsibilities: Ms Amalia Kakissis, Archivist.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The BSA's principal research infrastructure consists of its *Library*, its *Museum*, the *Fitch Laboratory* and its facilities at *Knossos*. Most staff are based in Athens, but a London office is maintained in the British Academy (10 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y 5AH), staffed by a part-time Administrative Assistant and a Development Officer.

The *Library* in Athens contains over 70,000 volumes, 1,300 periodical titles and 2,000 maps, and has space for 50 readers. Its collections and desk spaces are housed on several different levels, which are served by stairs, reflecting its evolution over 120 years. It is staffed by two full-time librarians (Mrs Evi Charitoudi and Ms Sandra Pepelasis) with the help of a student library assistant. Members have 24-hour access. While providing a broad, research-level coverage of Greek archaeology of all periods, it specialises in the fields of Aegean prehistory, ancient art and epigraphy, and Byzantine and modern Greek studies (recently enriched with a major donation); it also houses historical collections (such as George Finlay's library) and a particularly good collection of Greek and Balkan journals. Its collections are complemented by those of the other foreign schools and institutes in Athens with whom we have reciprocal arrangements giving access to a unique collection of more than 450,000 titles on Hellenic Studies. We have particularly strong links with the neighbouring Blegen and Gennadius libraries of the American School, with whom we share a common online library catalogue



(AMBROSIA, **American British Online Search in Athens**).

The BSA's *Archive* collections contain records of the BSA's field projects going back to 1886; material from the Byzantine Research Fund, c. 1895-1936 (c. 6,500 unique plans, drawings and photographs of Byzantine architecture - some of buildings now destroyed); the George Finlay papers, including journals from the Greek War of Independence; travel notebooks (Gell, Stuart); ethnographic records and a large collection of glass negatives. Our Archivist is responsible for access and conservation of the collection and has secured outside funding in support of projects to conserve, electronically catalogue and digitise images from selected collections. The Archive hosts an annual lecture by a visiting scholar on a relevant topic.

The ***Marc and Ismene Fitch Laboratory for Archaeological Science***, founded in 1974, was the first of its kind in Greece. It specialises principally in the analysis of inorganic materials (mainly pottery, as well as metals, wall paintings, glass) and in geophysical prospection, specialisms which are complementary to the neighbouring Wiener Laboratory of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. It maintains facilities for petrological analysis of pottery (facilities for thin section preparation and 3 research polarising microscopes coupled with digital photography system) and a WD-XRF spectrometer for chemical analysis. It houses comparative collections of over 10,000 archaeological samples and over 3,000 geological samples. For the needs of geophysical prospection it has a magnetometer and a resistivity meter. It also maintains reference collections of mammal and fish bones as well as of seeds with ample space for storing archaeological material, and offers annually two bursaries for graduate students or early-career postdocs and a visiting lectureship. It is staffed by its Director, a Scientific Research Officer, an administrator/analytical assistant, a research fellow, and visiting researchers or research associates linked to specific externally-funded projects. The Fitch plays a full part in the BSA's postgraduate teaching activities, currently staging short courses on ceramic petrology and the study of ancient glass.

Knossos has been a highly productive centre of research for the British School at Athens since 1900, when Sir Arthur Evans and David Hogarth, then BSA Director, began systematic excavations there. It remains a powerhouse of research, both in the field and in the study of excavated material, under the aegis of the BSA. The *Knossos Research Centre* (KRC) is focused upon the Stratigraphical Museum (a study centre and finds archive for all British fieldwork at Knossos since the time of Evans, and for several other BSA projects focused elsewhere in Crete) and has a self-catering hostel (the Taverna) and library, open year-round. The Library has a good collection of books and offprints (especially about Crete), and full access to e-resources via AMBROSIA. The Library is also used by local researchers, members of the Archaeological Service, the University of Crete, and other institutions. The Taverna serves principally as a base for those studying in the Stratigraphical Museum or the Herakleion Museum. Knossos is fully integrated into the BSA's ICT network. There is a resident Curator and a small domestic staff. The KRC hosts an annual postgraduate course on Prehistoric, Greek and Roman pottery, drawing on the collections in the Stratigraphical Museum.

In addition, the BSA's administrative and academic staff (principally the Administrator) makes use of the BSA's wide-ranging connections to help individual scholars with permit applications.

Dissemination and Publication of Research

The BSA maintains a policy of publishing the results of its own research, particularly in the fields of archaeology, epigraphy and history. The BSA's *Annual* (running since 1895 and



published by CUP) is devoted to publishing research in all areas of the BSA's broad scope, including work carried out by its officers and other members. The BSA also compiles annually in collaboration with the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies *Archaeology in Greece*, a collection of synthetic articles on recent archaeological fieldwork in Greece which draws on *Archaeology in Greece Online*, a regularly updated database of fieldwork reports produced in collaboration with the École française d'Athènes. Final reports on major excavation or survey projects usually appear in the BSA's *Supplementary Volumes*, while other collections are published in two series: BSA Studies in Greek Antiquity (CUP) and BSA Studies in Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies (Routledge). The BSA recognises its role in conserving and facilitating access to the archives (in all media) produced by major excavations, surveys or other studies. To this end we are active in cataloguing and digitizing our archive, and in making it available via the BSA's website through our Digital Collections platform: <https://digital.bsa.ac.uk>

