

The Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme Annual Report 2018

A report prepared for the Alphawood Foundation



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Introduction

A message from our Director



"SAAAP has achieved a great deal since 2014 and I am delighted to see the breadth and depth of the partnerships developed and the strengthening of the Programme over the last year."

I am pleased to present the 2017-18 report prepared for the Alphawood Foundation. The report reviews progress across the Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) over the course of the past year, and since the Programme was first launched in 2014.

As we mark the five-year milestone for SAAAP, we are pleased to be able to point to significant successes. SAAAP alumni are already making an impact in the field of ancient to pre-modern Hindu and Buddhist art in Southeast Asia. We have tracked, through our in-depth survey of alumni, the impact of the work that the Alphawood Scholarship alumni have embarked upon since graduation. We have also seen a wide range of projects, publications, research events and workshops supported by SAAAP, taking place across the region. SAAAP is beginning to have a transformative impact by advancing the field of knowledge and scholarship through new research supported through the Programme, and the impact of extensive networking through outreach work.

SAAAP has achieved a great deal since 2014 and I am delighted to see the breadth and depth of the partnerships developed and the strengthening of the Programme over the last year. We are confident that SAAAP is making a positive and lasting impact in the field and in the region, enabled by the generous support of the Alphawood Foundation.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Baroness Valerie Amos

Director, SOAS University of London

Valerie Arz

Statement from SAAAP Programme Board Chair



"It has been especially pleasing to see the support to SAAAP students in their career aspirations, with the successful piloting of an internship scheme and the establishment of an online academic journal edited by students."

This year has been the second since I took over as Chair of the Programme Board, and it has been a year of record achievement for SAAAP. Highlights have been the most competitive scholarship round yet, including awards to two doctoral students, the initiation of the partnership on *Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology: Hindu-Buddhist Traditions* with the National University of Singapore Press and the "dream come true" launch of *Vibrancy In Stone: Masterpieces of the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture* catalogue, including the work of a SAAAP alumna.

It has also been especially pleasing to see the support to SAAAP students in their career aspirations, with the successful piloting of an internship scheme with the Royal Asiatic Society and the establishment of an online academic journal, *Pratu*, edited by Alphawood Scholars and alumni.

The increasing number and calibre of applications for scholarships is the result of an impressive outreach effort in eight countries this year, which has carefully nurtured the emerging network of alumni. The Programme has been supported this year by a strong administration team, which has been an important contribution to the success, along with the commitment of the academics and staff in the Programme Sub-boards.

Most important for the long-term legacy of SAAAP is the first impact survey, which gives an exciting glimpse of the result of the investment so far in building capacity and linking up alumni across the region.

Dr Tamsyn Barton

Lay Trustee, SOAS University of London

Report Summary

The Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme Annual Report 2018 summarises key activity from across the Programme this year and reviews the growth and impact of the Alphawood Scholarships scheme over the past five years. The Report presents important indicators of positive change in the field that the Programme has been able to bring about, thanks to the generous commitment of the Alphawood Foundation.

In summary:

- On the Alphawood Scholarships, we've exceeded our overall targets on awards, making 94 offers for Scholarships over the past five years, including four at the PhD level (see section *The Alphawood Scholarships: Applications and Award 2014-2018*). Application levels in 2018 were the highest in the history of the Programme, owing to the Programme's dedicated outreach work and to the positive word-of-mouth of our Alumni in the region.
- Our Alphawood Scholarship Alumni Survey this year corroborates this, with over 60% of Alphawood Alumni reporting a score of 10 out of 10 on "likelihood to recommend the Alphawood Scholarships" (see section *The Alphawood Scholarships Alumni Survey*). Respondents also average a score of over 9 out of 10 when asked how much their experience at SOAS has "influenced [their] recent, current or upcoming research question" and their "approach to teaching." Three-quarters of respondents also tell us they have taken up new and more responsibilities in the workplace once returning home, where they are exceptionally well-placed to use their skills to advance knowledge in the field.
- SAAAP has been active in the region, with our In-Region Liaison and dedicated library at the University of Yangon, and by supporting four conferences and symposia over the past year (see section SAAAP Project Summaries). These include Emerging Lotus: Art of the Ly Dynasty Conference in Hanoi (2017), the Bagan Metropolis Conference in Yangon and Bagan (2017), the 2nd SAAAP Summer Programme in Yogyakarta (2017) and the 3rd SAAAP Summer Programme in Singapore (planned for 2018).
- The Programme is also supporting a range of new, high-impact publications (see section SAAAP Project Spotlights), including Vibrancy In Stone:

 Masterpieces of the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture (2018), the new Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology: Hindu-Buddhist Traditions series in partnership with NUS Press (beginning 2018) and Pratu: Journal of Buddhist and Hindu Art, Architecture and Archaeology of Ancient to Pre-modern Southeast

Asia, soliciting papers from emerging scholars in the field this year, and led in part by Alphawood Scholars and Alumni. SAAAP has also been leading **new research in the field** (see section *The Alphawood Endowed Academic Posts*) which will support new publications over the coming years as well.

Through applying our experience, building and strengthening partnerships and through drawing on our networks and our academic expertise, SAAAP is making a positive impact in the field and in the region. At this five-year milestone for the programme, we look forward to continuing with our mission to advance understanding of the ancient to pre-modern Hindu and Buddhist art of Southeast Asia.



Programme overview from Professor Anna Contadini

The Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme Scholarships Sub-board Chair, Outreach Sub-board Chair and Programme Board Member



"Our Alphawood scholars and alumni are making a significant and positive impact on the understanding and preservation of ancient and pre-modern art and architecture in the region."

The SAAAP Programme in brief

The Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) at SOAS is a transformational programme that aims to further the understanding and preservation of ancient to premodern Hindu and Buddhist art and architecture in Southeast Asia. Over the past five years, the Programme has exceeded expectations by providing over 90 postgraduate scholarships to support students from the region coming to the Department of History of Art and Archaeology (School of Arts); it has funded three fully-endowed academic posts; and it has supported conferences, summer programmes, symposia and publications in Southeast Asia and London.

SAAAP is designed to enhance existing research expertise and institutional ties in order to create a vibrant network with highly qualified staff linking the art, archaeology and heritage organisations in Southeast Asia. We pursue these aims through the guidance of the SAAAP Programme Board, which provides overall strategic oversight and governance for the Programme, and three Sub-boards across three main streams of activity: Scholarships, Outreach and Research and Publications.

SAAAP Programme Board

Each of SAAAP's three Sub-boards report to the SAAAP Programme Board, chaired by SOAS Lay Trustee Dr Tamsyn Barton and attended by SOAS Director Baroness Valerie Amos. Meeting five times per academic year, the Programme Board is responsible for overall governance and strategy for the Programme as a whole. The Board regularly reviews the financial management of the Programme and takes decisions on the allocation of funding of projects through the Academic Support Fund. It also approves awards for Alphawood Scholars recommended by the Scholarships Sub-board.

With the support of the Directorate of Development, Alumni and External Engagement, the Programme Board engages with the Alphawood Foundation on matters concerning the Programme's strategic direction.

Membership of the SAAAP Programme Board		
Dr Tamsyn Barton (Chair)	SOAS Lay Trustee	
Baroness Valerie Amos	SOAS Director	
Dr Ben Murtagh	Head, Department of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics	
Dr Hettie Elgood	Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	
Prof Anna Contadini	Head of the School of Arts	
Ruth O'Hanlon	Director, Development, Alumni and External Engagement	

Scholarships

The **Alphawood Scholarships** are designed to bring outstanding Southeast Asian postgraduate students to SOAS to undertake Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and Doctoral programmes, which focus on ancient to pre-modern Hindu and Buddhist art in Southeast Asia.

They are overseen by a dedicated Scholarships Sub-board, comprised of both senior experts in art history and in the region, and experts in scholarships administration at SOAS. The Sub-board manages all aspects of Scholarships delivery, from the point of application and selection through to student support as well as research into alumni impact and the legacy of the Scholarships in Southeast Asia. A Selection Panel appointed by the Scholarships Sub-board reviews and makes recommendations on applications for awards in each round, which are then tabled at the SAAAP Programme Board for approval.

Alphawood Scholars are supported not only through the financing of their tuition fees, travel costs and living allowances during their time at SOAS, but also over the course of preliminary English language study at SOAS, when required. Alphawood Scholars may benefit from English language tutelage at the International Foundation Courses and English Language Study centre (IFCELS), with classes lasting from between four weeks and three full academic terms. This support is in many cases of critical importance in enabling our Scholars to thrive in a UK postgraduate environment.

In addition, through dedicated project support through the Academic Support Fund, SAAAP meets costs associated with other activities, including tours of European collections of ancient Hindu and Buddhist materials at leading museums, galleries and archives in Paris, Amsterdam and Leiden. SAAAP also provides financial support to SOAS students specialising in Southeast Asian art history and archaeology but who do not have an Alphawood Scholarship, enabling them to participate in these unique opportunities as well. This contributes to the capacity building in Southeast Asian history of art and archaeology at SOAS more broadly.

With this support, through their engagement with leading academics and through the strong networks that they build during their time at SOAS, our Alphawood Scholars are well positioned to join our Alphawood Scholarship alumni in making a significant and positive impact on the understanding and preservation of ancient to premodern art and architecture in the region. With continuing support from SAAAP, they are able to apply new skills in their home institutions, advance the body of knowledge and develop important new threads of research. They have the ability to lead on specific projects, events and activities, and can build strong international networks to support them throughout their careers.

Membership of the SAAAP Scholarships Sub-board		
Prof Anna Contadini (Chair)	Head of the School of Arts	
Dr Hettie Elgood	Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art, School of Arts	
Prof Elizabeth Moore	Professor Emerita in Southeast Asian art	
Dr Peter Sharrock	SAAAP Outreach Manager, School of Arts	
Prof Ashley Thompson	Hiram W. Woodward Chair in Southeast Asian Art, School of Arts	
Dr Mulaika Hijjas	SE Asia section of the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics	
Ms Pippa Smith	SOAS Head of Scholarships	

Outreach

Scholarships and Outreach are mutually sustaining: the achievements of our alumni in Southeast Asia give greater visibility to SAAAP and thereby help us to attract more outstanding candidates. SAAAP is committed to building a strong network of institutions and leaders in the field through an active Outreach Sub-board, which comprises senior experts in art history, an In-Region Liaison, an Outreach and Communications Manager and a SOAS expert in student recruitment. It is dedicated to raising the visibility of the Programme, supporting the further academic and professional development of our alumni and fostering meaningful collaborations with leading institutions in the region.

To this end, the Outreach Sub-board has been active in supporting a range of activities and successfully engaging across eight countries this year: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. SAAAP has established a range of partnerships with universities and heritage bodies in Southeast Asia to co-host three summer programmes, three dedicated conferences and several symposia and workshops. We support the development of important libraries and collections in the region and engage with regional universities, cultural and heritage advancement bodies to raise professional and public awareness, in part through collaborative publications - including the recently-launched *Vibrancy In Stone: Masterpieces from the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture* catalogue, published as part of the centenary celebration of this important museum.

Through our Outreach work, we also produce the SAAAP Newsletter three times a year, with each issue co-edited by one of our current Alphawood Scholars. The Newsletter features news and updates on all SAAAP partnerships, conferences and events both in Southeast Asia and in the UK. SAAAP is also active on social media, engaging with a wide range of stakeholders in the region and around the world. With more than 3,000 Facebook followers and growing, SAAAP is able to raise the visibility of our work and build up positive recognition for the Programme amongst diverse stakeholders, prospective scholars and a growing community of partners and alumni.

Membership of the SAAAP Outreach Sub-board		
Prof Anna Contadini (Chair)	Head of the School of Arts	
Dr Hettie Elgood	Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art, School of Arts	
Dr Peter Sharrock	SAAAP Outreach Manager, School of Arts	
Prof Elizabeth Moore	Professor Emerita in Southeast Asian art	
Dr Ben Murtagh	Head, Department of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics	
Nick Butler	Student Recruitment Manager	

Research and Publications

The Research and Publications Sub-board is dedicated to the dissemination of outstanding research in the field of ancient to pre-modern Buddhist and Hindu Art History, Archaeology, Museum and Heritage Studies. Its purpose is to establish SAAAP's leadership in the research field and to support the ongoing scholarly development of SAAAP alumni. Composed of six SOAS academics specialising in Southeast Asia (including the three Alphawood endowed academic post-holders) and one specialist in East Asian Art, the Sub-board collaboratively develops new projects, makes funding opportunities widely known, and reviews and makes recommendations on funding applications to the SAAAP Board.

Two notable projects form the pillars of its work this year. A new research publication series, *Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology: Hindu-Buddhist Traditions*, has been launched in collaboration with the National University of Singapore Press - perhaps the most highly-renowned academic press in Southeast Asia. This series will publish six substantive new publications, bringing original research in the field to new and expert audiences. We have also launched *Pratu*, a new multilingual, peer-reviewed online journal committed to publishing original articles by emerging and early career academics in the field. With their high international visibility, both of these projects will contribute to individual and collaborative professional development by involving SAAAP staff, alumni and students, and by providing new fora for the dissemination of world-class research.

Other activities include: managing a postgraduate internship programme for Alphawood Scholarship graduates, mentored by curators in UK-based archives; supporting research seminars, workshops and conference sessions at SOAS and in partnership with institutions in Southeast Asia; leading our annual postgraduate study tours of European collections of ancient Southeast Asian Hindu and Buddhist art; and supporting original archival research and fieldwork. Further to this, the ongoing research that SAAAP funds in Southeast Asia now often involves alumni that help inform the Sub-board's assessments and decisions.

Close, sustained contact with our Scholars and Alumni allows the Sub-board to identify pressing needs and promising opportunities. In particular, it seeks to support high-impact projects, those transforming the research environment at large and those furthering ground-breaking research.

Membership of the SAAAP Research and Publications Sub-board		
Prof Ashley Thompson (Chair)	Hiram W. Woodward Chair in Southeast Asian Art, School of Arts	
Dr Christian Luczanits	David L. Snellgrove Senior Lecturer in Tibetan and Buddhist Art, School of Arts	
Dr Louise Tythacott	Pratapaditya Pal Senior Lecturer in Curating and Museology of Asian Art, School of Arts	
Dr Pamela Corey	Lecturer in Southeast Asian Art, School of Arts	
Dr Ben Murtagh	Head, Department of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics	
Prof Rachel Harrison	Professor of Thai Cultural Studies	
Prof Timon Screech	Professor of the History of Art, School of Arts	

Each of the three SAAAP Sub-boards and the SAAAP Programme Board are supported by Liam Roberts (SAAAP Programme Manager) and Chloe Osborne (SAAAP Programme Administrator).



Alphawood Scholars and SOAS staff gathered in 2016

The Alphawood Scholars 2017-18 and 2018-19

At the time of reporting, there are a total of 35 Alphawood Scholars enrolled and studying at SOAS through the generous support of the Alphawood Foundation. This includes 22 Scholars enrolled in their full academic programmes of study (Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and PhD levels) as well as a further 13 Scholars studying under the English Language and Academic Studies (ELAS) programme, offered by SOAS's IFCELS department, which is designed to prepare Scholars with the academic language proficiency to excel in their chosen programmes of study. Our ELAS students, once graduated, will be taking up their full academic programmes this coming September.

In September, we will also welcome a further 23 new Alphawood Scholars to SOAS, including newly-selected Scholars (awarded in 2018) along with previously-selected but deferring Scholars (awarded in 2017) ready to now take up their programmes of study. Brought together with one of our continuing PhD students and our expected 13 ELAS graduates, this will mean we will have 37 Alphawood Scholars enrolled at the School come September 2018.

The tables below give details of Alphawood Scholars currently enrolled and to be enrolled this year. Two awardees in the 2018 round of applications have opted to defer their awards till 2019, and are not included in the list below. Please note that two awardees in the 2018 round of applications have opted to defer their awards till 2019, and thus are not included in the list below. We are greatly looking forward to welcoming the next cohort of Alphawood Scholars to the School, just as our current cohort will be returning to Southeast Asia to apply their new knowledge and to help advance the field of study even further.

2017-18 Academic Cohort			
Name	Current Programme	Home Country	
Sopheara Chap	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia	
Christa Hardjasaputra	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Indonesia	
Kyaw Minn Htin	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Myanmar	
Vuthyneath Khut	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia	
Hninn Wut Yee Latt	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Myanmar	

Name	Current Programme	Home Country
Sanda Linn	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Myanmar
Van Tho Nguyen	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Vietnam
Tu Anh Nguyen Thi	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Vietnam
Akphivath Vitou	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia
Conan Cheong	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Singapore
Selina Chong	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Singapore
Praphaphan Chuenkaek	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Thailand
Kittikhun Janyaem	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Thailand
Ye Myat Lwin	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Myanmar
Chy Rotha	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Liliek Suhardjono	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Indonesia
Thon Tho	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Nachanok Wongkhaluang	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Thailand
Chonthicha Khunthong	MA Religious Arts of Asia	Thailand
Karuna Srikureja	MA Religious Arts of Asia	Thailand
Duyen Nguyen	PhD	Vietnam
Heidi Tan	PhD	Singapore

2017-18 Pre-sessional English Language and Academic Studies (ELAS) Cohort

Name	Programme to start 2018-19	Home Country
Theint Theint Aung	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Myanmar
Sreivy Bun	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia
Ranet Hong	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia
Leaksmy Kong	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia
Dhammasami Linkara	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Myanmar
Pwint Phyu Maung	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Myanmar
Monyroath Reth	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia
Tuan Nguyen Anh	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Vietnam
Nan Htike	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Myanmar
Sanpiseth Kim	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Sopheap Meas	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Vitou Phirom	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Kunthy Seng	MA Religious Arts of Asia	Cambodia

2018-19 Incoming cohort; Continuing and 2017 Deferring Scholars

Name	Current Programme	Home Country
Mo Mo Thant (2017 deferral)	Postgraduate Certificate in Asian Art	Myanmar
Khin Thidar	Postgraduate Certificate in Asian Art	Myanmar
Thet Thet Aung	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Myanmar
Yav Huon	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia
May Su Ko	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Myanmar
Chantha Seng (2017 deferral)	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia
Sovanrattana Sin	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Cambodia
Saw Chaw Yeh	Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art	Malaysia
Sopheara Chap	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Rachna Chhay	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Be Kalyan	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Vuthyneath Khut	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Tu Anh Thi Nguyen	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Vietnam
Dara Phoeung (2017 deferral)	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Sonetra Seng (2017 deferral)	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia
Akphivath Vitou	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Cambodia

Name	Programme to start 2018-19	Home Country
Miriam Yeo	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Singapore
Nyein Aye Yin	MA History of Art and Archaeology	Myanmar
Soe Yu Maw	MA Religious Arts of Asia	Myanmar
Su Nguyen (2017 deferral)	MA Religious Arts of Asia	Vietnam
Amphol Sengphachanh	MA Religious Arts of Asia	Laos
Saw Tun Lin	PhD	Myanmar
Duyen Nguyen (continuing)	PhD	Vietnam
Seang Sokha	PhD	Cambodia

"As a recipient of the Alphawood Scholarship, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your generous support of my MA at SOAS.
Graduating from SOAS allows for many possibilities for me. Upon returning home, I was hired by the National Museum of Cambodia, a place I always wanted to work for. It also solidifies my academic background, which I believe to be very significant for my pursuit of a PhD programme." Seang Sokha (Cambodia), Alphawood Scholar and PhD candidate

"I hope that the Alphawood
Foundation will keep supporting
students or specialists in arts in
Southeast Asia to have a chance to
improve knowledge. This is a rare
opportunity (one in a million
opportunities) to be given awards
about culture and the arts." Davin
Chhay (Cambodia), Alphawood
Scholar and Postgraduate Diploma in
Asian Art (2016)

The Alphawood Scholarships

Applications and Awards, 2014-18

At its inception in 2014, SAAAP at SOAS established the Alphawood Scholarships scheme, designed to enable outstanding Southeast Asian scholars of ancient Buddhist and Hindu art and architecture to pursue postgraduate study at SOAS. With the funds committed in 2014 to support this endeavour, 80 postgraduate scholarships were envisaged to be introduced across the five-year period, with the majority for study under MA, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate programmes at SOAS as well as an anticipated three awards for PhD study.

Over the course of the programme, SAAAP has been able to exceed our Alphawood Scholarship targets, making 94 offers of award over the five years of the programme to date, including offers of award to four PhD candidates, all from eight different Southeast Asian countries. As the Alphawood Scholarships programme builds its brand recognition in the region, including through word-of-mouth from alumni and through SAAAP's Outreach and Research and Publications project work, we have seen interest in the Alphawood Scholarships grow steadily over the programme to date, with growing numbers of applicants in each year since 2015. As new cohorts of Scholars graduate and return to the region, we are also seeing a deepening pool of PhD-calibre candidates in the region, which has made 2018-19 such an extraordinarily competitive year.

In this section, we provide some analysis of the trends in application and award over the five years of the Alphawood Scholarships to date. Through this, we can shed further light on how and why the scheme has grown, where Scholars are coming from, and how this can inform our continued engagement in the region in support of the SAAAP mission.

Highlights

- The Alphawood Scholarships have strengthened research capacity in the field and in the region. By making available over 90 Scholarships across five successive cohorts, Alphawood and SOAS have established a growing pool of PhD-calibre candidates in Southeast Asia. These are the future leaders in the field, enabled by the Scholarships they have received.
- We have seen significant growth in interest in the Alphawood Scholarships programme over the course of the past five years, as the scheme builds strong brand recognition and as it continues to return skilled, networked, well-respected graduates to the region.
- The scholarship application process has become ever-more competitive as the programme attracts a growing volume of applications overall, and as the pool of applicants continues to broaden and deepen in quality and experience.

• Outreach and engagement in the region has had a marked impact on several aspects of the Southeast Asian community as well as raising the profile of the programme and attracting outstanding scholars. This teaches us a great deal as to how we might remain active in the region going forward.

Applications and Awards (all programmes)

In this sub-section, we present trends in Alphawood Scholarships applications and awards across all eligible programmes of study at SOAS. In *Figure 1* below, we show the total number of applications for award that we have received in each of the five years of the Alphawood Scholarships scheme to date, as well as total awards offered to scholars from amongst these applications. Please note, from 2014-15 to 2016-17, applications for scholarships were considered to support study across several MA programmes with a focus on Southeast Asian studies and art theory offered through the Department of History of Art and Archaeology. From 2017-18, it was agreed that only applications for study under the MA History of Art and Archaeology and MA Religious Arts of Asia programmes would be eligible for award. For better comparability between years, Figure 1 represents all applications received in each year of the programme (All programmes) as well as all applications, in each year, pertaining to programmes currently eligible (*Post-2017 eligible programmes*).

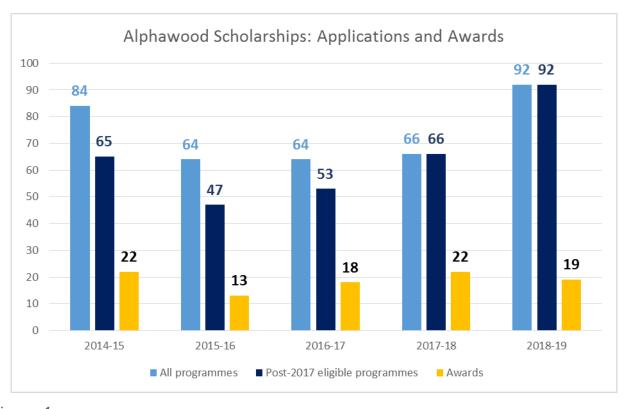


Figure 1

Between 2014-15 and 2018-19, we have had a total of **370 applications for award across all programmes**, including **323 applications to programmes currently eligible**. By both metrics, 2018-19 saw the highest level of applications for award yet, with 92 complete and eligible applications for award having been received. This represents a **40% growth in the number of eligible applications from the previous year**, which itself saw the highest number of applications for award under currently eligible programmes up until that point.

From these applications, SAAAP has been able to offer 94 Alphawood Scholarships over the five-year programme to date, with the largest cohorts (22) in each of 2014 -15 and 2016-17. Important to note here is that, although 2018-19 saw us receive the highest number of applications of any year to date, a high volume of applications does not necessarily correlate with the number of awards that may be offered in any given year. The Selection Panel assesses all applications on the basis of quality and perceived potential impact in the field and region, but must also take decisions in consideration of available resource for scholarships spend. Our best forecasts indicated that we could not exceed 19 awards when including two PhDs without incurring an overspend on this strand of the programme. With a total of 94 Alphawood Scholarships having been offered overall, SAAAP has nevertheless exceeded the total number originally projected (80), including full scholarship support for four PhD scholars (exceeding original projections of three), two of whom commence in the 2018-19 academic year.

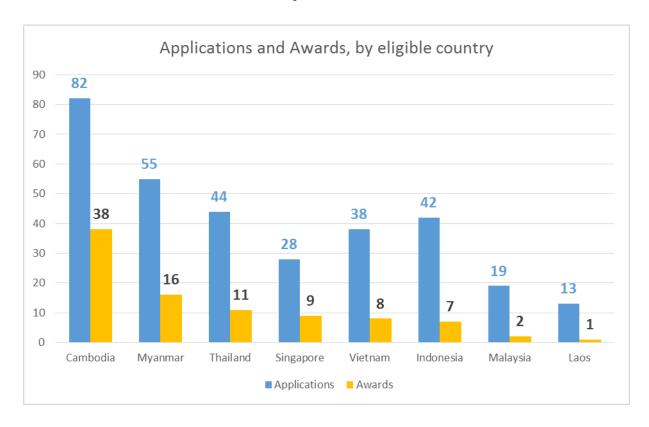


Figure 2

In *Figure 2* above, we illustrate the total number of applications received and awards granted, arranged by eligible country of application (in descending order of awards). Overall, Cambodian scholars have together sent the highest number of applications of any nationality (82), and Cambodians have received the highest number of awards (38). Myanmar scholars have made the second-highest number of applications (55) and have received the second-highest number of awards (17). This serves as one demonstration of the significant capacity building that has been achieved in these countries in particular.

Within these overall figures, the growth in the rate of applications and awards from Myanmar has been very steep since 2016-17, rising from a relatively low base to reach the second-highest overall level of applications and awards. For example, in 2014-15 the largest sending nations were Cambodia (18) and Indonesia (16), with Myanmar some way back in third (8). By 2018-19, Myanmar contributed the highest number of applications (23) for the year, exceeding the number from Cambodia (19) for the first time.

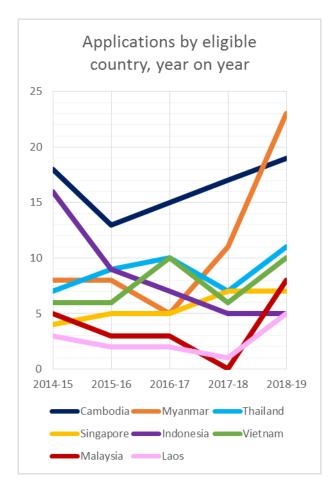
Engagement and outreach have had a marked influence on trends here. SAAAP's In-region Liaison Professor Elizabeth Moore, oversees development of the E. Moore Collection Anthropology Library at the University of Yangon. The library serves a popular meeting point for scholars in the field and for Alphawood Alumni, where they

are able to share their experiences of their time on scholarship, provide support with new scholarship applications and design potential new projects and conference panels. This activity corresponds with significant growth in applications from Myanmar since 2016. Of particular note too is the growth in the number of Laotian, Malaysian, Vietnamese and Thai applications from 2017-18 to 2018-19, reversing declines in the previous year. This coincides with onthe-ground student recruitment drives in these countries in October and November 2017, led by SAAAP staff and in-region

"The Alphawood Scholarship provides me a great opportunity to learn and improve my knowledge about the art and archaeology of Southeast Asia. This knowledge helps me to pave the way for my future career." Chonthicha Khunthong (Thailand), Alphawood Scholar and MA Religious Arts of Asia (2018)

project leads. These application and awarding trends are illustrated in *Figure 3* on the following page.

Along with trends in applications and trends in awards by country, we also brought these figures together to highlight the percentage of applications yielding awards by country. In *Figure 4* on the following page, we can see that Cambodian applications have the highest overall success rate, with 46.3% of applications from here yielding an offer of award. Applications from Myanmar, despite being the second-highest in number, have the third-highest success rate (29.1%), falling just below Singapore (32.1%). Singapore, with the second-highest application success rate, has only the sixth-highest number of applications overall. This confirms that, from a relatively small pool of candidates, Singaporean applications have been of a very high quality overall. At the same time, with more than half of all awards made to Myanmar and



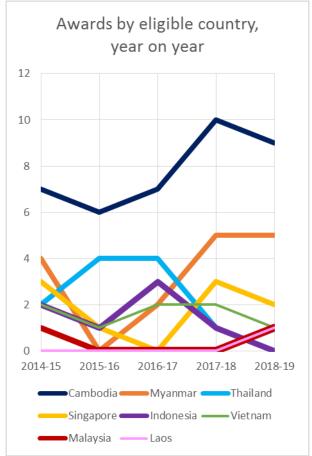


Figure 3

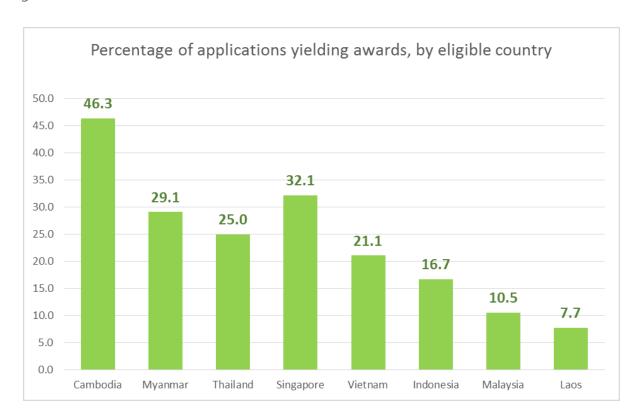
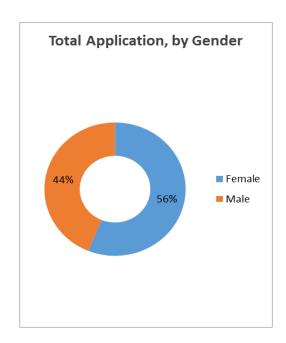


Figure 4



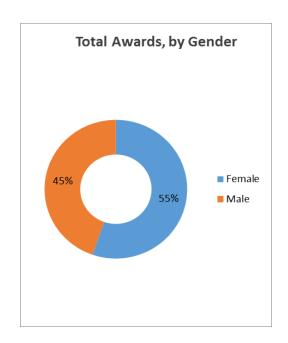


Figure 5

Cambodian applicants (also reflecting the very high quality in these larger applicant pools), the capacity building role of the Programme in these countries has been significant.

In *Figure 4*, please note that countries are listed in descending order by number of awards, rather than descending order of percentage yielding awards, for ease of comparability with *Figure 2*.

In terms of gender, we see very close alignment in the gender balance between total applications and total awards over the lifespan of the Programme, and more women than men overall. As seen in Figure 5 below, 56% of all applicants have been women and 55% of all awards have been offered to women, whilst 44% of all applicants have been men, and 45% of all awards have been offered to men.

Applications and award: by programme of study

In this sub-section, we look further into trends in applications and awards under each of the MA, Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate and PhD programmes over the five years of the Alphawood Scholarships to date.

In *Figure 6* below, we can show that trends in the rate of application for award for MA programmes has been broadly steady since 2014, especially when considering application to the MA History of Art and Archaeology and MA Religious Arts of Asia specifically (i.e., the two post-2017 eligible programmes).

In looking at applications to these programmes in particular, we see a range of between 32 and 39 applications in each of the rounds between 2014-15 to 2017-18 (averaging 36.5 applications per year over that period), though this jumps to 46 applications for 2018-19. Awards granted for MA study each year are also broadly steady, with applications yielding between eight and 13 scholarships in each of the five years of the Programme.

As noted earlier, although the number of applications in 2018-19 was relatively high compared with past years, and while the quality of applications overall was

exceptional, the effect of this was a round that was extraordinarily competitive (rather than it being a round in which we were able to make a higher number of awards than normal). The Selection Panel assesses all applications in consideration of academic quality, potential impact and a clear articulation of the objectives in the SAAAP remit, but it must also allocate awards in consideration of clear financial parameters. *Figure 6*

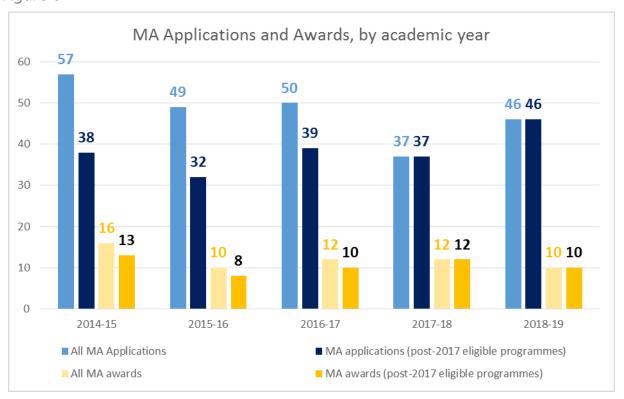
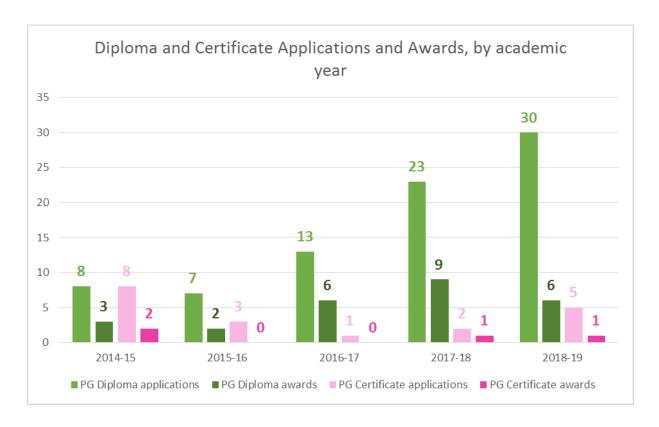


Figure 7



In Figure 7 above, we see a significant and steady rise in the number of applications for award to study under the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art programme, from seven applications in 2015-16 to 30 applications in 2018-19 – a growth of over 320%.

This steady growth has been particularly strong amongst Myanmar applications, in the last year especially, with: two Myanmar applications in 2015-16; two in 2016-17; five in 2017-18; and then 14 in 2018-19. A strengthened interest in the Postgraduate Diploma amongst Myanmar applicants coincides with the hosting of the SAAAP-supported Bagan Metropolis Conference in Myanmar in July 2017, which, amongst the proceedings, featured a panel presentation by several Alphawood Alumni from Myanmar who studied under the Diploma previously, as well as the keynote speech of Dr Hettie Elgood, Course Director for SOAS's Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art, at the conference.

Direct on-the-ground engagement with prospective scholars has had a marked influence on application trends, especially when supported by Alphawood Alumni themselves. Alumni have been able to use conference papers and panel presentations to demonstrate to their peers the knowledge and expertise they've gained while at SOAS. This evidence of the impact that outreach and engagement efforts in the region can have, including when involving our growing body of Alphawood Scholarship Alumni, will naturally inform our future engagement in the region as well.

Similarly to the case with rising numbers of applications for award to the MA, we note here too that growth in the number of applications (in parallel with a high overall calibre of applications) does not, in itself, necessarily result in a higher number of awards offered, due to funding considerations across each round. With this in mind, we have been able to make between six and nine offers of award under the Diploma in each of the 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years, although application numbers more than doubled across the same period.

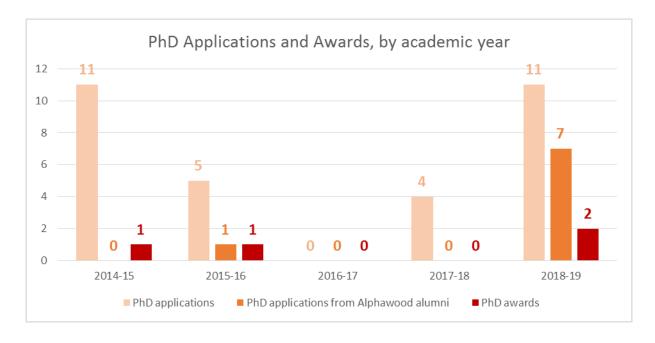


Figure 8

Applications for award to study under the Postgraduate Certificate have been relatively low, with a high of eight applications in 2014-15 (yielding two awards), and five applications in 2018-19 (yielding one award).

After declining numbers in PhD award applications from the Programme's launch, application figures have since strengthened, with 11 applications received in 2018-19. Notably, we have seen a surge this year in the number of PhD award applications from previous and current Alphawood Scholarship award holders. Just as the single Alphawood PhD awardee for 2015-16 had held a previous Alphawood Scholarship in 2014-15, the two

"I would like to thank the
Alphawood Foundation for this
best opportunity. I would like to
bring Thai art history and
archaeology to the world
audience, and would like to
develop the study of art history
and archaeology in Thailand."
Pawinna Phetluan (Thailand),
Alphawood Scholar and MA
History of Art and Archaeology
(2017)

Alphawood PhD awardees for 2018-19 had also held Alphawood Scholarships to support study under the MA in 2014-15 and in 2015-16 respectively.

This growth is a natural consequence of the fact that, with each passing year of the

"Honestly, without the
Alphawood Foundation, I could
not complete my dream of
studying at SOAS. I could learn
more knowledge from
Alphawood Scholars and other
staff - they were always helpful.
This way of making friendships
and sharing knowledge is quite
important for me." Kunthea Kou
(Cambodia), Alphawood Scholar
and Postgraduate Diploma in
Asian Art (2017)

Alphawood Scholarships programme, SOAS graduates new, highly-skilled cohorts of students from the region, thus broadening and deepening the pool of suitable PhD candidates from which we can draw. PhD applicants with previous UK postgraduate experience, as well as with a research focus that clearly articulates and aligns with the SAAAP remit, are well positioned to apply for a research degree in this area and for scholarship to support their study.

We are confident that the Alphawood Scholarships programme to date has already helped to strengthen the art historical and archaeological research capacity in Southeast Asia in accordance

with the SAAAP mission, and that the pool of PhD-calibre scholars in the field and region is set to grow further with the graduation of our current and upcoming cohorts of Alphawood Scholars.

The Alphawood Scholarships Alumni Survey

Analysis and review

Between January and March 2018, SAAAP conducted the **2018 Alphawood Scholarships Alumni Survey**, engaging with all SOAS graduates who were supported by Alphawood Scholarships between 2014-15 and 2016-17. Although SAAAP has now

made 94 offers of award in total, only 33 awardees are currently considered to be alumni. This is because many awardees are still studying, others are yet to begin study, and the number of graduates in any given academic year has tended to be lower than the number of awards made for that year, owing to Englishlanguage pre-sessional coursework, and requests for a deferral of award.

Of the 33 Alphawood alumni contacted we had 29 survey responses, a response

"Please continue your generous scholarship programme for new archaeologists and art historians in ASEAN countries. Alphawood is cultivating human resources, which is essential for the sustainable heritage mission of ASEAN." Thu Ya Aung (Myanmar), Alphawood Scholar and Postgraduate Diploma in Art (2016)

rate of 87.9%. Although the sample size is naturally small for a survey of this kind, the response rate itself is exceptional. In future years, as the alumni community continues to grow to its expected 2022 level of 84 alumni (and their combined 94 awards), quantitative analyses should further develop our understanding of the alumni pathway post-award and the impact that Alphawood Scholars are having in their home region.

In the Alumni Survey for 2018, we asked questions across six areas:

- Your experience as an Alphawood Scholar at SOAS
- Academic and professional development
- Influence and change
- New scholarship in the field
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Outreach and engagement

In this section, we provide a summary and analysis of the responses we received to the Survey, and reflect on how this evidence can support future SAAAP activity in the region.

Takeaways

- Over 60% of respondents give a score of 10 out of 10 on "likelihood to recommend the Alphawood Scholarships to a peer or colleague."
- Respondents average a score of 9.3 out of 10 as to how much their time as an Alphawood Scholar has "influenced [their] approach to teaching and learning."
- Respondents average a score of 9 out of 10 as to how much their time as an Alphawood Scholar has "influenced [their] recent, current or upcoming research question."
- Alphawood Diploma graduates rank "Knowledge of ancient Southeast Asian Buddhist and Hindu art" as the greatest skill gained during their time on award, and Alphawood Masters graduates rank "knowledge of research techniques" most highly.
- An overwhelming majority of graduates indicate that they apply their skills learned at SOAS in the workplace "all the time", or "often".
- Three-quarters of Alphawood Scholars returned home to take up more and new responsibilities in the workplace.
- Building up academic connections with Alphawood Scholars and the SOAS community has been the most highly-ranked aspect of alumni time on award.

Respondent Profiles

In this first sub-section, we provide a simple breakdown of respondent profiles and demographics. Of the 29 respondents we had to the survey, we have a gender split of 15 male to 14 female (which just slightly over represents males, as the gender balance across all awardees [including non-alumni and non-responding alumni] is 45% male and 55% female). At a national level, the survey attracted:

- 10 responses from Cambodia (34.5% of respondents against 40.4% of awards);
- 6 from Myanmar (20.7% of respondents against 18.1% of awards);
- 4 from Indonesia (13.8% of respondents against 7.4% of awards);
- 4 from Thailand (13.8% of respondents against 11.7% of awards);
- 2 from Singapore (6.9% of respondents against 9.6% of awards);
- 2 from Vietnam (6.9% of respondents against 8.5% of awards);
- and 1 from Malaysia (3.4% of respondents against 2.1% of awards).

In terms of programmes of study, 21 respondents were graduates of the MA (only), 7 were graduates of the Diploma or Certificate (only) and 1 was a double-awardee and graduate of both the Diploma and the MA. As such, when comparing any trends in response between MA and Diploma graduates, the relative sample sizes should be taken into consideration.

As seen in *Figure 9*, the age ranges of respondents are relatively evenly broken across 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 age bands, giving a broad spread from early career academics to those with longer academic of professional expertise. This relatively even spread across age bands is perhaps a natural facet of our surveying alumni after just five cohorts, giving us a relatively high number of alumni whose graduations may still be considered recent – this is corroborated by the fact that 31% of respondents also indicate that they are currently studying under another, further postgraduate programme (as seen in *Figure 10*). With more cohorts graduating in future, though, we can expect the overall age profile of alumni to rise, which will allow us to learn more about the perceived longer-term impact of the award on their careers.

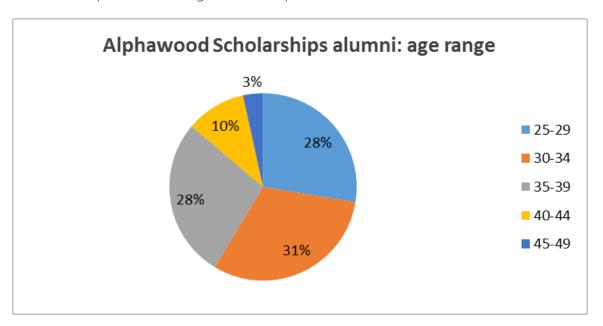


Figure 9

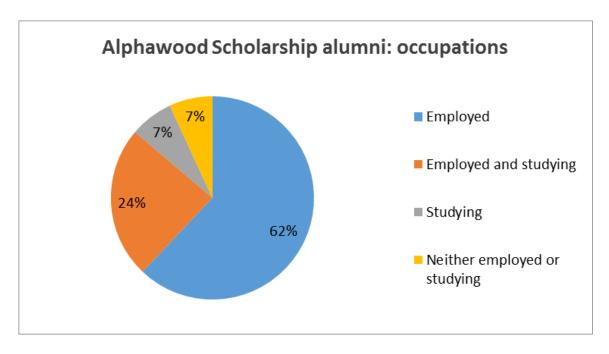


Figure 10

Your experience as an Alphawood Scholar at SOAS

In this survey section, we asked respondents to reflect upon their time while on award (as opposed to their activity since completing their programmes of study). As in all sections, we asked respondents to answer both ranking and multiple choice questions, as well as free text answer questions.

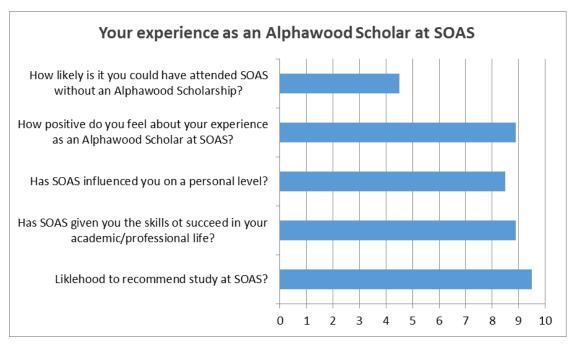


Figure 11

Of note in Figure 11, when asking alumni to indicate how likely it is that they would have been able to study under their programmes without an Alphawood Scholarship, the average response was 4.6 out of 10, indicating that the scholarship was largely decisive in enabling respondents to take up study. Diploma graduates indicated a slightly higher probability (4.4) than Masters (3.3) when asked this question.

Alumni were very positive about the programme on reflection, scoring 9.5 out of 10 on likelihood to recommend a colleague or peer to study at SOAS through an

"I am very grateful to have received a scholarship from the Alphawood Foundation. Not only has it increased my knowledge about Buddhist art and museums, but also developed my academic and critical thinking."
Wieske Sapardan (Indonesia)
Alphawood Scholar and MA
History of Art and Archaeology (2015)

Alphawood Scholarship (with over 60% of respondents scoring this at 10 out of 10), and 8.9 on how positive they feel about the experience. Figures 12 and 13 set out the ratio of responses across available scores for each question on positive feeling and likelihood to recommend.

When asking alumni to reflect upon which aspects of their time on award were most important, the *highest-rated aspect of their experience was Academic connections with Alphawood Scholars and the SOAS community* (89.7% selecting this option), with over 80% of respondents also selecting *Developing research and critical thinking skills and Access to the SOAS Library and other university resources.*

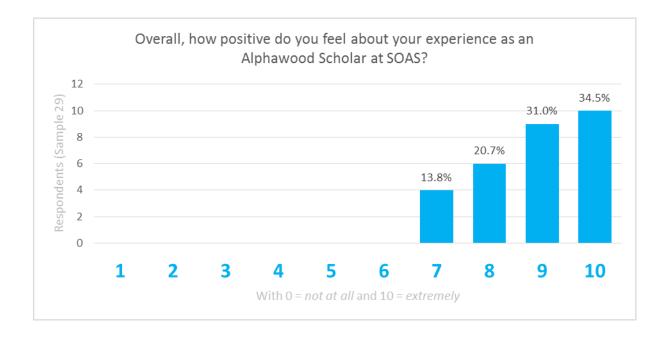


Figure 12

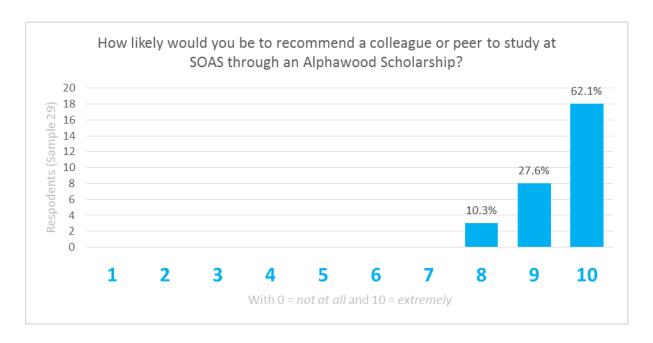


Figure 13

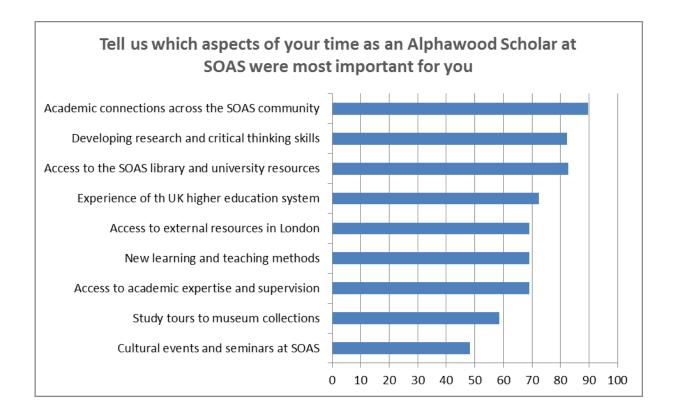


Figure 14

Academic and professional development

In this survey section, we asked respondents to tell us more about how their time on award has helped support the academic and professional growth that they might have seen since graduation. While it has been a relatively short period since

"I am extremely grateful for the scholarship - it is a myth that all Singaporeans are rich and can afford to study in the UK. SOAS was always my top choice university to study Asian art and this was a dream come true in so many ways, and SOAS and London definitely exceeded expectations. Hope the Alphawood Foundation can continue to support and partner with SOAS for this programme after the first five years." Jackie Yoong (Singapore), MA History of Art and Archaeology (2015)

graduation for even our earliest cohort, the trends emerging here point us towards what we can look out for in future as our current and upcoming cohorts return to the region and put their skills into practice.

In terms of early trends, we are beginning to see graduates moving away from undergraduate study and volunteering or internship and away from project-based work, whilst moving towards sector-specific professional work in museums, galleries and heritage sites and, in one case, senior university administration. Respondents average a score of 6.2 out of 10 when asked about the likelihood they would be in their current role if not for their time on award.

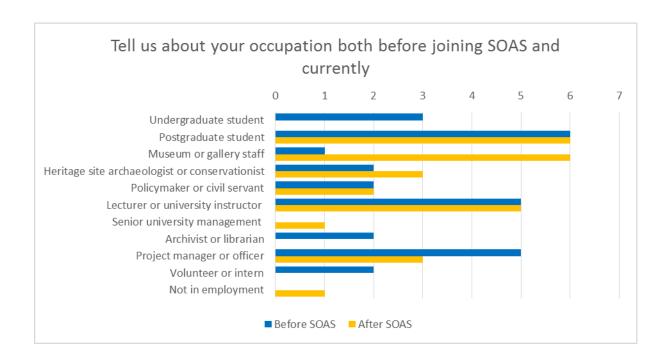


Figure 15

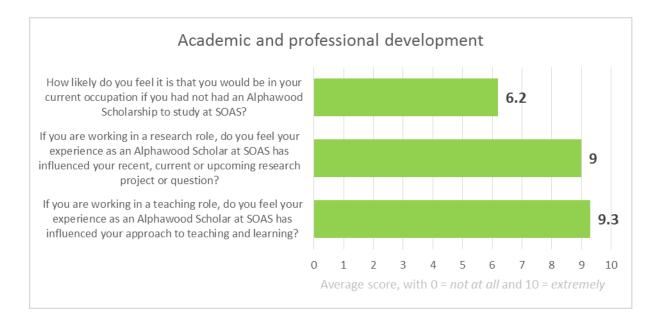


Figure 16

Change across role types, though, is not identical to professional development. Within role types, we also see encouraging responses (see *Figure 17*), whereby 75% of respondents have more or new responsibilities at work as compared with their time pre-award, and 20% have about the same. Considering the short time since graduation, this seems a positive trend, and suggests that our graduates are broadly well-positioned to apply the skills they obtained on award in a decision-making capacity in institutions in the field.

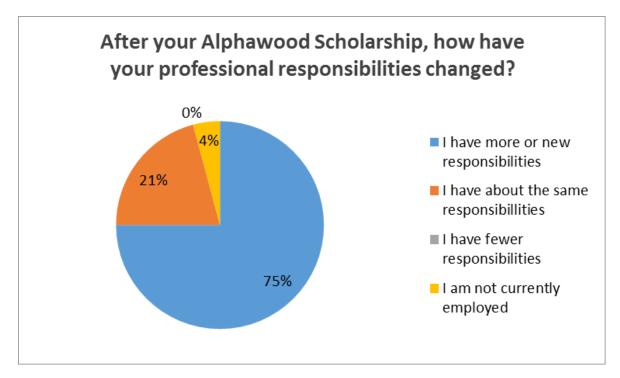


Figure 17

We also asked respondents to link skills they learned while on award to things that they do in the workplace now. As seen in *Figure 18*, by and large, respondents are applying skills they learned at SOAS most of the time: only one respondent indicated that they never *use knowledge or skills from their studies in their employment* (whereas eight respondents do this all the time and 19 do it often), and only one *never encourages a senior manager to make a change* (whereas seven respondents do this all the time and 13 do it often).

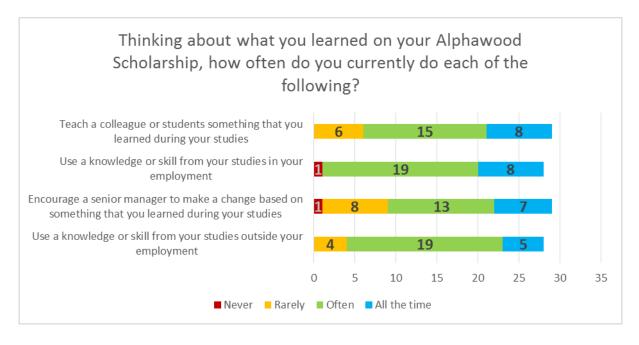


Figure 18

Even when factoring in the rare instances of a "never" or a "rarely" type of response to this question, respondents did not tell us that any inhibitions they may have in using a

skill in the workplace is the result of not having acquired the skill in the first place (while on award). As seen in *Figure 19*, all respondents were positive about how their time at SOAS has *given them the skills to succeed in their academic and professional life*.

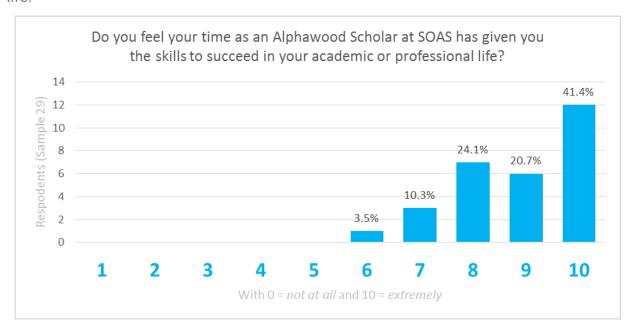


Figure 19

We also asked respondents to specify the types of skills they feel they learned while on award which may be applicable in their work. *Figure 20* sets out these responses, differentiated between MA and Diploma graduates (noting, again, that the MA sample size is 21 and the Diploma size is 7). Overall, MA graduates felt that knowledge of research techniques, critical thinking skills, networking skills and ability to influence decisions were all skills acquired to a level of 7 out of 10 or higher. Diploma graduates scored knowledge of ancient SE Asian Buddhist and Hindu art at higher than 7 out of 10.

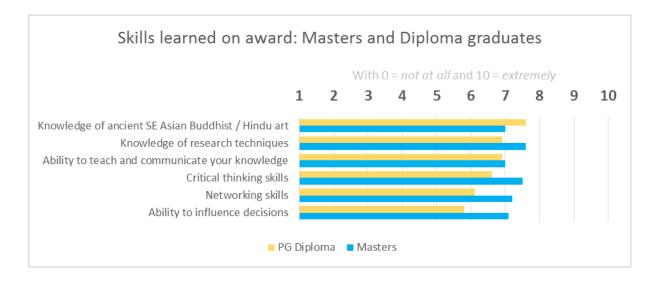


Figure 20

Besides ranking and multiple choice questions, we asked respondents in this section to give us some notable examples that show how their time on award has influenced their working life. A selection of responses follows:

"Tell us about a recent challenge you have faced in your academic or professional life. Were you able to apply your experience at SOAS to try and resolve this challenge?"

"In my office, I have a new job description, and am responsible for publications and exhibition production. My SOAS experience has taught me to be rigorous, especially during class discussions and paper writing. Its hands-on approach has been very valuable for my new professional life." Panggah Ardiyansyah

"I received an enquiry from an important collector about UK collections of Peranakan ceramics, and was able to respond effectively. The collector was also pleased to learn that I keep in touch with my SOAS supervisor who is a respected authority in the field, and met relevant curators in London while studying in SOAS." Jackie Yoong

"My goal is to become a professional/scholar of art history (archaeologist). To achieve my mission, I need to get a PhD degree from an international university and, as a consequence, I need to be an international master degree holder before I try to apply. Many of the new generation of art historians in third countries are facing difficulties in funding or scholarships, when we make a comparison with other specialisations such as political science and development studies. Now, Alphawood is filling the gap." Thu Ya Aung

"Finding academic resources for my work, both academic and professional, is very challenging in Cambodia. Every time I need a resource, I always thought about how convenient it was when I was at SOAS. I wonder whether the British know how lucky they are, since most academic resources they need can be found closer to their home." Seang Sokha

"Before SOAS, I was curator of Peranakan Museum only. SOAS broadened my perspectives, networks, skillsets and confidence, so I could take on additional responsibilities and become curator of Asian Civilisations Museum too upon returning." Jackie Yoong

"Tell us about any recent example where you have been able to communicate your knowledge through the education sector."

"I always apply teaching methods that I learned from SOAS when I teach my students at the University." Saw Tun Lin

"I presented a paper during a three-day conference organised by the History Department of Gadjah Mada University in December 2017." **Panggah Ardiyansyah** "I am preparing a paper for the 22nd IPPA conference, Hue, Vietnam." Pawinna Phetluan

"I have done a Presentation about SPK at archaeology faculty in Cambodia." Menghong Chhum

"I presented a paper at the International Conference of Burma/Myanmar Studies (ICBM II) under the title of 'Current issues and challenges of Cultural Heritage Management in Myanmar'. This conference was organised by Chiang Wai University and Mandalay University and was funded by Open Society Foundation." Thu Ya Aung

Influence and change

In this survey section, we asked respondents to elaborate on how the award has both 1) influenced their lives, and 2) enabled them to influence their workplace, the field of study or their overall engagement in the field. This section was much more qualitative, with an emphasis on examples of ways in which our alumni are making a difference through projects and activities in the region.

As seen in *Figure 21* below, we asked how respondents feel their time on award has changed their life on a personal level. Responses are positive overall, with **over a third ranking the change as 10 out of 10**, and with a further 40% ranking the change as either 8 or 9 out of 10.

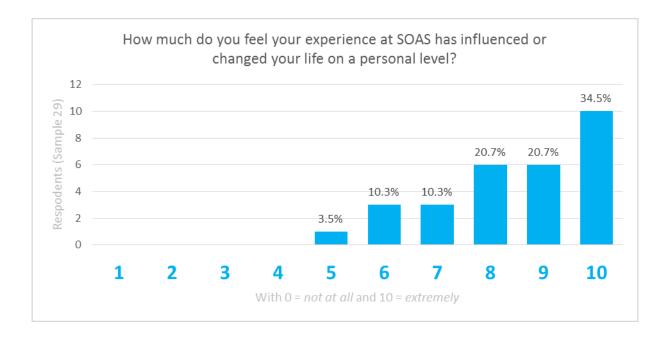


Figure 21

We also asked respondents to reflect upon projects in which they've been involved where they've made a contribution and to detail for us what that contribution has been. A selection of responses follows.

"Tell us about a project [...] where you've made a contribution."

"The SOAS experience pushes me to reach the other steps of my dream in the field of religious art proficiency. This is very connected to my tasks at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts (Intangible Cultural Heritage). So far, I also teach Research Methodology at Royal University. This is an opportunity to introduce to students about Research Methods which I have learned from SOAS." Davin Chhay

"I am now co-editing a new volume on object restitution in Southeast Asia with Dr Louise Tythacott and my study experience at SOAS in knowing what an academic paper should look like and thinking more critically and holistically towards a specific theme has enabled me to tackle such difficult responsibilities as an editor." Panggah Ardiyansyah

"I am developing a mapping project for the Angkor Park, and serving as GIS & IT Coordinator for research cooperation in Angkor Park. I am also preparing an article for publication." **Samnang Kim**

"I published a conference paper online on the SAAAP website about The Tradition of Drinking Siy (Se) and the Buddhist Perception of Surāmeraya Restriction in the Bagan Period presented in Bagan: The Metropolis of Buddhism in Indo-China Conference." Saw Tun Lin

"I was the manager in charge of the preparation for the exhibition (and also the main contributor of the exhibition text) for 'The Adornment for Deity and Human: Gold and Silver for the National Museum of Cambodia'." Seang Sokha

"I've brought soft skills and hard skills I learned from SOAS to work at the Royal University of Fine Arts. The soft skills I learned from SOAS include: art and history, knowledge of English, critical thinking skills and communication skills." **Socheat**

"Studying here has given me opportunity to learn about other cultures from many parts of the world. Studying in the UK and at SOAS also allows me access to the richest and most complete archives and data on Southeast Asia."

Nachanok Wongkhaluang (Thailand), MA History of Art and Archaeology (2018)

Nhean

"I am curating new permanent displays at the Peranakan Museum and Asian Civilisations Museum. For the ceramics gallery, it builds upon the foundational research and networks from my SOAS Alphawood thesis." Jackie Yoong

"Now, my current research area is art inventory and art historical approaches to Glaze Plaques (after the Bagan Period) in Upper Myanmar.

Moreover, I am acting as one of the Committee members for the World Heritage Nomination

Committee (for both the Bagan and Mrauk U Heritage Regions) in Myanmar, organised by

Ministry of Religious and Culture Affairs. Also, as a

secretary of the Myanmar Archaeology Association, I am either managing a Cultural Heritage Awareness Training Programme for the public (i.e., local people who are living in different heritage regions) or performing as a resource sharing person for new archaeologists and archaeology students. I also give some training to students and members of the Association, such as how to do ethical research work for art historians and how to behave in academic writing on research works. Moreover, giving guidance and sharing information and experience to students who are trying to apply for an Alphawood Scholarship."

"My time as an Alphawood Scholar allows me to develop my knowledge and expand my understanding to practice and succeed in my field of museology."

Sopheara Chap
(Cambodia), Postgraduate
Diploma in Asian Art
(2018)

Thu Ya Aung

"Upon completion of my study at SOAS, I returned to work for UNESCO Jakarta. As part of my work, I was responsible for the planning, implementation and reporting of a UNESCO project focussing on two Buddhist sites: the Borobudur Temple Compounds in Indonesia and the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley in Afghanistan. One of the fruits of this project was a series of exhibitions titled 'Crossroads of Culture' held at the Indonesian National Museum in Jakarta and Borobudur Site Museum in Central Java (Indonesia). Another key activity in which I was engaged is the revitalization of the Karmawibhangga Gallery at the Borobudur Museum. I developed the storyline and presentation of Buddhist Karmawibhangga." Wieske Sapardan

"I'm now doing a PhD at SOAS. I would say my MA course helped me a lot, especially with academic skills, supervisors and academic connections." Udomluck Hoontrakul

New Scholarship in the field

In this survey section, we looked to capture evidence of new contributions to the body of knowledge, through research projects, papers and conference proceedings that alumni have been involved with. This section was purely qualitative and, recognising that we have not graduated PhD scholars through the Alphawood Scholarships programme as yet, there are nevertheless some compelling examples of impact that our MA and Postgraduate Diploma alumni have had in the field.

"Can you tell us about any academic articles, popular articles, papers or reports that you have written or contributed to since completing your studies at SOAS?"

"Ardiyansyah, Panggah. Mencari Ken Dedes: Sisi Lain Rekonstruksi Majapahit dalam Sejarah Nasional Indonesia. In Menemukan Historiografi Indonesiasentris, edited by Sri Margana, Retno Sekarningrum, and Ahmad Faisol, 461-83. Yogyakarta: Penerbit

Ombak, 2017. It talks about the figure of a Javanese quasi-mythical queen, Ken Dedes, and her relation with the statue of Prajnaparamita and how their image has influenced the formation of national identity in Indonesia." Panggah Ardiyansyah

"The politic in the Front and Rear Palace in Ayutthaya based on archaeological evidence' and 'The iconography of Bhatuka Bhairava in Wiang Sa, Suratthani province' both are under publication" Pawinna Phetluan

"I have already written and presented two papers: first concerning Buddhist iconography and second related to Buddhist perception of drinking alcohol in the Bagan period 11th -13th century. Then another two will be presented in 2017 about the Buddhist art at Mrauk U, Arakan: (1) Hindu god in the Buddhist shrine and (2) Islamic art influence on Buddhist decoration." Saw Tun Lin

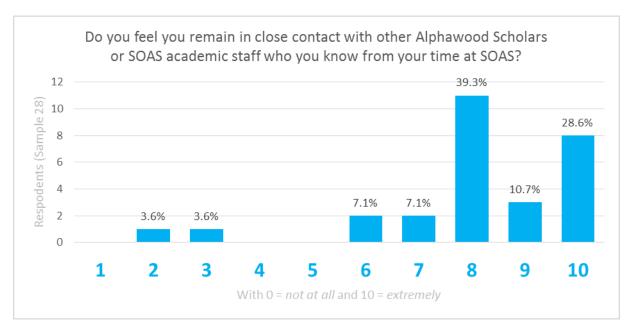


Figure 22

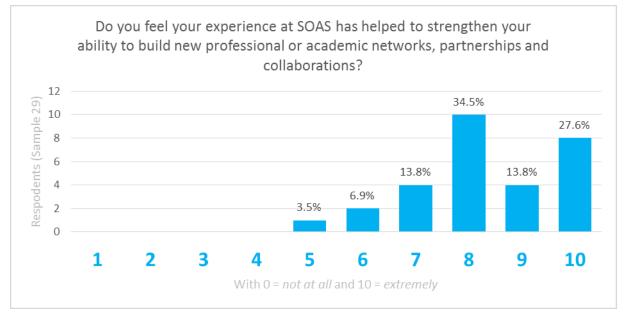


Figure 23

"The Cabalistic Writing on the City Drums of Bangkok: A Study on the Thai Manuscript at the British Library" Suppawan Nongnut

"Text for an exhibition entitled Adornment for Deity and Human: Gold and Silver from the National Museum of Cambodia" **Seang Sokha** "The thing that's been unique and positive for me is the opportunity to learn through part-time teaching. Engaging with fellow students in this way by exchanging ideas and knowledge has been hugely rewarding." Heidi Tan (Singapore), Alphawood Scholar and PhD candidate

Partnerships and collaboration

In this survey section, we asked respondents to tell us about the types and the range of partnerships they have been able to establish in part through their time on award. Overall, respondents were very positive about the role that SOAS has played in their ability to forge new networks – this corroborates with responses under Section 1, whereby building academic connections with other Alphawood Scholars and the SOAS community was the most highly-rated aspect of their time on award.

As illustrated in *Figures 22* and *23*, we see a somewhat greater range of responses to our question about keeping in touch with other alumni than we see in other questions. One respondent gave us a score of 2 out of 10 here, and another gave us a score of 3 out of 10, which are uncommonly low across our different ranking questions. Though these numbers may be outliers, they also remind us of the importance of alumni engagement going forward, and reinforce the benefits of inregion engagement, alumni events and programme-led activity involving our Scholars which can help to bolster our alumni community further.

The average score for the question in *Figure 22* was 7.8 out of 10 – which is slightly below the average of our next question in *Figure 23* as to whether the alumni experience on award helped to strengthen the ability to build new professional networks (where the average response was 8.3 out of 10). This may be interpreted to mean that, even in cases where some alumni have not kept in close contact, they nevertheless feel **positive that their time at SOAS has helped with network-building skills** generally and that their time has positioned them relatively well in building new partnerships.

"Tell us about an example of any professional or academic partnership you've pursued with another Alphawood Scholar, SOAS academic staff, or any other external partner."

"Life after SOAS means I have more of a network of people in the cultural fields in other parts of Southeast Asia. I keep communicating with them, and also with Peter Sharrock and Ashley Thompson, who are very important sources of knowledge for Cambodian and Southeast Asian history and culture." Socheat Nhean

"I'm working on a postgraduate journal, funded by Alphawood, with my PhD colleagues - two of them are Alphawood Scholars. This year, I am also going to organise a conference at Thammasat University and will be collaborating with Ashley Thompson and Mandy Sadan, who are SOAS professors." Udomluck Hoontrakul

"I recently did a field survey about the middle period of Angkor history with Prof. Ashley Thompson. This survey has started to push me to be interested in the research of the middle period of Khmer for my next mission of PhD level." **Samnang Kim**

"With Ms. Khun Sathal, 2015-2016 Alphawood Alumnus, I'm conducting research on Pedagogies, Pleasures, Powers: Towards a Critical History of the ancient Hindu-Buddhist art collection at the National Museum of Cambodia, this project is funded by SAAAP." Seang Sokha

"From the knowledge that I got from SOAS, this year I will hold a conference concerning history of art and archaeology in Bangkok." Pipad Krajaejun

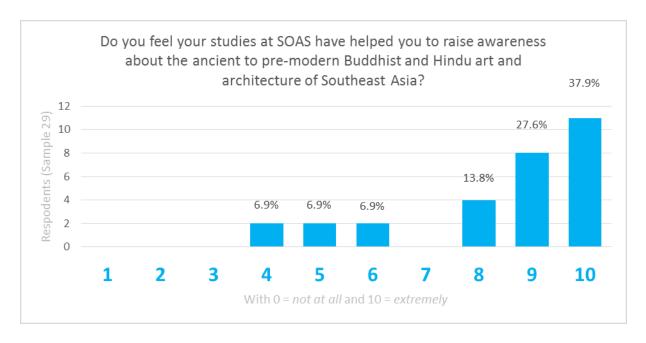


Figure 24

Outreach and engagement

In this final survey section, we asked respondents to tell us about whether and how

"Alphawood Scholarships provide me with the greatest opportunity to study abroad (and) to build up the network in terms of academic connections in the history of art and archaeology."

Kittikhun Janyaem (Thailand),
Alphawood Scholar and MA History of Art and Archaeology (2018)

they have been able to translate and engage their knowledge of the subject area with non-academic stakeholders, including the public at large, and how they have raised the visibility of their work outside of discrete partnerships. Over half of our respondents rated their studies at SOAS at 9 or 10 out of 10 for enabling them to do this type

of work, with an average response score of 8.4.

We further asked respondents to provide us with some examples of how they have engaged external stakeholders and the public at large with the knowledge or skills they acquired during their time on award. A selection of responses follows.

"Tell us about any recent example where you have been able to communicate your knowledge through civil society or policy-making channels"

"I founded a professional academic archaeology association (NGO) before I achieved the Scholarship. Now, this association is an official, non-government archaeology association recognised by both Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Religious and Culture Affairs. Moreover, our association provides academic advice and advocacy not only for related ministries, but also for the Hlut Taw (Parliament) relating to amending cultural heritage law in Myanmar." Thu Ya Aung

"I have taken on the responsibility to be the ASEMUS (Asia-Europe Museums) Secretary the past 8 months and a key responsibility include assessing eligibility of new Museum applications who want to join the network." **Jackie Yoong**

"I am working at the Borobudur Conservation Office, which is responsible for the preservation of the Borobudur cultural heritage area. My experience at SOAS has taught me to be reasonable and factual in giving opinions and that has resulted in me having



Alphawood Scholars, SOAS academics and staff from the *École française d'Extrême-Orient* gather during the SAAAP-supported Paris Study Tour in 2017

the capabilities to influence policy making in the office." Panggah Ardiyansyah

"Tell us about any recent public engagement work you've done relating to your area of study."

"I am organizing a series of discussions on Indonesian antiquities with my local community in Kediri, East Java (once a month), which will be used as a platform for young people in Kediri to explore and study more about the cultural heritage in Kediri. Additionally, I was invited to give a talk in Brawijaya University and also a couple of forum discussions related to my experience of studying in London. I used the opportunity to also introduce the Alphawood Scholarships." Eko Bastiawan

"I gave two interviews recently, one with a respected Nikkei journalist and one on local TV about a day in the life of a curator. In both interviews, I highlighted the importance of a good art history foundation for curators, and that I was lucky to get an Alphawood-SOAS scholarship and education." Jackie Yoong

Conclusions from the Alphawood Scholarships Alumni Survey

Five years on from the launch of the Alphawood Scholarships programme at SOAS, the investment made by the Alphawood Foundation has had a significant impact on our Scholars and, in turn, has already enabled them to make a real impact in the field and in the region. Each successive cohort of Alphawood Scholars returning to Southeast Asia has been able to bring with them:

- New perspectives into ancient Buddhist and Hindu artistic traditions they can bring to bear in the field
- Critical research skills and knowledge of new research techniques
- Stronger international networks and a readiness to forge and consolidate new partnerships
- Improved English-language, communication and pedagogical skills to help raise awareness and engage their knowledge with others

"The Alphawod Scholarship gives me the opportunity to meet young Southeast Asian archaeologists and art historians, which encourages me to make connections and share information." Pipad Krajaejun (Thailand), Alphawood Scholar and MA History of Art and Archaeology (2017) • The skills to take on more and new responsibilities in galleries, museums, heritage sites, heritage policy environments and universities across Southeast Asia

That we see evidence for this impact after only five years is extremely encouraging, given that much of the potential of the Programme is yet to come. As each successive cohort graduates from their postgraduate

programmes at SOAS, the Alphawood alumni community grows more expansive, with increasing numbers of graduates taking on more responsibilities in galleries, museums, heritage sites, heritage policy environments and universities in the region. This can go some way to explaining the rise in applications in recent years, as the scheme builds its visibility as a recognised and unique source of support for emerging Southeast Asian scholars. Alumni "word of mouth," as well as SAAAP's extensive outreach, research and publications work, helps to consolidate and establish this positive reputation for the Programme.

"Thank you so much for your generous funding. The English language is one of the most critical barriers for me in order to attend MA and PhD abroad, and it is hard to find a scholarship which provides a grant for language courses along with the MA course. This grant has given me a lot more chance in terms of academic connections and extending my academic circles."

Udomluck Hoontrakul (Thailand), Alphawood Scholar and MA History of Art and Archaeology (2016)

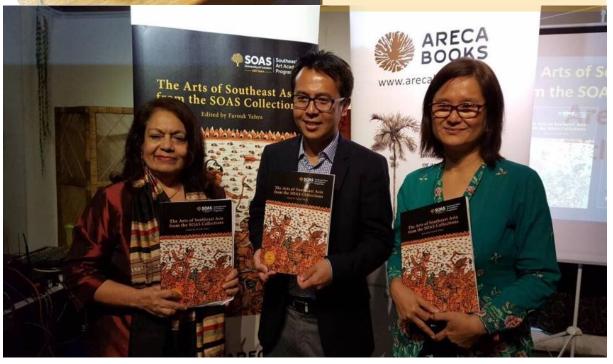
Moreover, as the number of graduates

increases year on year, the Alphawood investment has effectively helped broaden and deepen the pool of potential PhD candidates who are well-positioned to become future leaders in the field and in the region. This is clear not only through alumni testimony through the 2018 Alumni Survey, but also through the surge we have seen in Alphawood Scholarship applications to support PhD study this year, with the majority of these applications coming from former Alphawood Scholars under MA programmes. As these scholars clearly have relevant international postgraduate experience, have established growing academic and professional networks in the field and have articulated their research questions in ways that align well with the SAAAP mission, they represent the enormous potential that we would hope to be able to realise amongst our future postgraduate taught (PGT) graduates through future scholarship support for research degrees going forward.



Left: Alphawood alumnus Eko
Bastiawan during the SAAAPsupported Master's students' study
trip to Paris collections of
Southeast Asian art and artefacts in
2017

Below: SOAS research fellow
Farouk Yahya (centre) launches the
SAAAP-supported publication *The*Arts of Southeast Asia from the
SOAS Collections in Penang,
Malaysia in 2017



The Alphawood Endowed Academic Posts

Summary 2017-18

Through the generous support of the Alphawood Foundation, SOAS sustains three endowed Academic Posts dedicated to advancing knowledge in the ancient and premodern Hindu and Buddhist art of Southeast Asia. These posts include the Hiram W Woodward Chair in Southeast Asian Art (currently held by Prof Ashley Thompson), the David L Snellgrove Senior Lectureship in Tibetan and Buddhist Art (currently held by Dr Christian Luczanits) and the Pratapaditya Pal Senior Lectureship in Curating and Museology of Asian Art (currently held by Dr Louise Tythacott).

Each of the three endowed Academic Postholders apply their knowledge and expertise to advance the mission of the Programme through teaching and supervision of postgraduate students and PhD candidates as well as through developing new lines of research aligned with their endowed roles. The Postholders are active in the Programme through their membership and leadership of the SAAAP Research and Publications Sub-board, responsible for establishing new strands of research, new publications and through supporting Alphawood MA Scholars to engage with leading European collections of ancient Southeast Asian Buddhist and Hindu art through annual study tours, this year taking in galleries, museums, libraries and archives in Paris, Leiden and Amsterdam.

In the 2017-18 academic year, Dr Tythacott and Prof Thompson have been on periods of research leave, with their existing teaching commitments during this time covered by dedicated fractional academic staff, as per normal School policy. Each endowed Academic Postholder has retained their PhD supervisory commitments across the year.

While on research leave, Prof Thompson undertook SAAAP-funded field research on pre-modern 4-Buddha sculptural ensembles in Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia. This was to support completion of a chapter on 4-Buddha ensembles in a monograph: After Angkor: Image and Text in the Reconstruction of the Cambodian State, planned for submission for publication in summer 2018. Prof Thompson also presented her research at three international conferences and met with a number of contributors to the volume entitled Emergence of Theravada Buddhism in Cambodia she is co-editing with Hiram W. Woodward.

Dr Luczanits is Principal Investigator, with Dr Tythacott as co-Investigator, on a £438,000 research grant, lasting from 2016 to 2019, awarded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, focusing on *Tibetan Monastery Collections Today*. This research serves to advance understanding of Buddhist art in the region, drawing on the expertise of each of these postholders.

Concurrently, Dr Tythacott has secured a philanthropic donation of £83,000 to undertake research on the lives of objects from China's 'Summer

Palace' (Yuanmingyuan) in the UK, France and China for one year (January 2018 till January 2019). While this work is undertaken during a period of research leave, Dr Tythacott retains her supervisory role and other commitments, including supporting the newly-established NUS-SAAAP Research Publications Series.

Recent Publications

Dr Christian Luczanits

- Co-authored book chapter (2018) 'The secrets of 14th century wall painting in the Western Himalayas: Structural damage sheds light onto the painting technique in the Tsuglag-khang in Kanji in Ladakh'. *Earth Construction & Tradition, Vol. 2.* Vienna: IVA–ICRA Institute for Comparative Research in Architecture, pp 205-222.
- Article (2016) 'Portable Heritage in the Himalayas. The Example of Namgyal Monastery, Mustang: Part 2, Books and Stupas'. *Orientations*, pp 22-32.
- Article (2016) Portable Heritage in the Himalayas. The Example of Namgyal Monastery, Mustang: Part 1, Sculpture'. *Orientations*, (47) 2, pp 120-130.
- Book chapter (2016) 'The Nako Monuments in Context'. In: Krist, Gabriela, (ed.), Nako:
 Research and Conservation in the Western Himalayas. Wien; Köln; Weimar: Böhlau, pp 19
 -45.
- Book chapter (2016) 'Prajnaparamita, Alchi and Kashmir On the Cultural Background of a Unique Bronze'. *An Exceptional and Magnificent Bronze Alloy Figure of Prajnaparamita*. Beijing: Poly Auction.
- Book chapter (2016) 'Inspired by the Past: the Art of Chöying Dorjé and Western Himalayan Sculpture'. In: Debreczeny, Karl and Tuttle, Gray, (eds.), *The Tenth Karmapa & Tibet's Turbulent Seventeenth Century.* Chicago: Serindia, pp 107-151.
- Book chapter (2016) 'Puja and Piety in Buddhism'. *Puja and Piety: Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist Art from the Indian Subcontinent*. Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Museum of Art and University of California Press, pp 116-137.

Dr Ashley Thompson

- Book chapter (2017) 'Portrait of the Artist as a Buddhist Man'. In: Collins, Steven and Scober, Juliane, (eds.), *Theravada Encounters with Modernity*. Abingdon; New York: Routledge.
- Book chapter (2017) 'Emergencies: the Auto-Ethnographic Impulse in Contemporary Cambodian Art'. In: Wee, Low Sze and Flores, Patrick D., (eds.), *Charting Thoughts:* Essays on Art in Southeast Asia. Singapore: National Gallery of Singapore.
- Authored book (2016) Engendering the Buddhist State: Territory, Sovereignty and Sexual Difference in the Inventions of Angkor. Abingdon; New York: Routledge.

Dr Louise Tythacott

• Book chapter (2018) 'The Yuanmingyuan and its Objects.' In: Tythacott, Louise, (ed.),

- Collecting and Displaying China's 'Summer Palace' in the West: The Yuanmingyuan in Britain and France. Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, pp 3-24.
- Edited book (2018) Collecting and Displaying China's 'Summer Palace' in the West: The Yuanmingyuan in Britain and France. Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge.
- Article (2017) 'Curating the Sacred: Exhibiting Buddhism at World Museum Liverpool.' Buddhist Studies Review, (34) 1, pp 115-133.
- Article (2017) '英国军事类博物馆中的圆明园文物'. 美成在久 [Chinese Orientations], (Sept), pp 108-111.
- Book review (2017) Review of: UNESCO in Southeast Asia: World Heritage Sites' in Comparative Perspective. University of Hawaii Press, 2015.' Southeast Asia Research, (25) 1, pp 98-100.
- Book review (2016) 'Review of: The Great Chinese Art Transfer: How so Much of China's Art Came to America by Michael St. Clair, Rowman & Littlefied, 2016.' *The China Quarterly*, (228) December, pp 1140-1142.
- Book chapter (2016) 'British travels in China during the Opium Wars (1839-1860): Shifting Images and Perceptions'. In: Hill, Kate, (ed.), *Britain and the Narration of Travel in the Nineteenth Century: Texts, Images, Objects.* Farnham: Ashgate, pp 191-208.
- Article (2016) 'The power of taste: the dispersal of the Berkeley Smith collection of Chinese ceramics at Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum (1921-1960).' Journal of the History of Collections, (28) 2, pp 327-343.



Prof Rasmi Shoocongdej (left) of Thammasat University (Bangkok) and SOAS's Prof Ashley Thompson (right) during a SAAAPsupported research seminar at SOAS in 2017

Module Selection

Dr Chistian Luczanits

2016-2017

Undergraduate/ Postgraduate	Module Title	Enrolments
Undergraduate	Art and Architecture	6
Undergraduate	Great Works: art, films, literature, music (co-taught)	41
Postgraduate	Critical Themes in Tibetan Art	15
Postgraduate	Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context	18

2017-2018

Undergraduate/ Postgarduate	Module Title	Enrolments
Undergraduate/ Postgraduate (taught together)	Imag(in)ing Buddhas in South Asia (1)/ Imag(in)ing Buddhahood in South Asia (1)	10/27
Undergraduate/ Postgraduate (taught together)	Exploring Visual Expressions of the Mandala/Interpreting Visual Expressions of the Mandala	9/15
Undergraduate	Great Works: art, films, literature, music (co-taught)	39
Postgraduate	Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context	10

<u>Professor Ashley Thompson</u>

2016-2017

Undergraduate/ Postgraduate	Module Title	Enrolments
Undergraduate	Themes of Art and Archaeology of South and Southeast Asia (co-taught)	23
Undergraduate/ Postgraduate (taught together)	The "Historical" Buddha:Explorations in Southeast Asian Arts/The Figure of Buddha: Theory, Practice and the Making of Buddhist Art History	7/19
Undergraduate/ Postgraduate (taught together)	Gender, Art and Visual Culture: Explorations in the Representation of Southeast Asia/ (En) gendering Southeast Asia: Aesthetics and Politics of Sexual Difference	10/7

2017-2018 (On sabbatical Term 1)

Undergraduate/ Postgraduate	Module Title	Enrolments
Undergraduate	Themes of Art and Archaeology of South and Southeast Asia—Taught by Crispin Branfoot & others	32
Undergraduate/ Postgraduate (taught together)	The "Historical" Buddha:Explorations in Southeast Asian Arts/The Figure of Buddha: Theory, Practice and the Making of Buddhist Art History— Taught by Joanna Wolfarth	4/22
Undergraduate/ Postgraduate (taught together)	Gender, Art and Visual Culture: Explorations in the Representation of Southeast Asia/ (En) gendering Southeast Asia: Aesthetics and Politics of Sexual Difference	19/17

Dr Louise Tythacott

2016-2017

Undergraduate/ Postgraduate	Module Title	Enrolments
Undergraduate	Representing China in Museums	15
Undergraduate	Museums and Museology	29
Postgraduate	Collecting and Curating Buddhist Art in the Museum	19
Postgraduate	Curating Cultures	25

2017-2018 (On sabbatical 2017-2018)

Undergraduate/ Postgraduate	Module Title	Enrolments
Undergraduate	Themes of Art and Archaeology of East Asia—Taught by Stacey Pierson & others	37
Undergraduate	Representing China in Museums— Taught by Maria Kostoglou and Stacey Pierson	16
Postgraduate	Curating Cultures (cohort A)-Taught by Stephanie Tredan	19
Postgraduate	Curating Cultures (cohort B)-Taught by Maria Kostoglou	14
Postgraduate	Curating Cultures (cohort C)-Taught by Stephanie Tredan	23

The Alphawood Endowed Academic Posts

Additional Teaching Staff 2017-18

SOAS is committed to delivering its scheduled modules during periods of staff research leave by recruiting subject and area experts as additional teaching staff. Below, we introduce the additional staff who have delivered in 2017-18 the modules normally convened by SAAAP Endowed Academic Postholders.



Heidi Tan: Heidi was a founding curator of the Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore in 1996, where she was responsible for developing the Southeast Asian collections and permanent galleries of the museum. Heidi has curated a series of special exhibitions in collaboration with regional museums in South East Asia. Heidi is in year 4 of her PhD as an Alphawood Scholar at SOAS, her thesis looks at the relatively recent phenomenon known as "pagoda museums" that emerged in response to legacies of Buddhist merit-making and gift-collecting during the

1950s. Heidi has been published in journals such as Buddhistdoor.com and Asian Civilisations Museum.

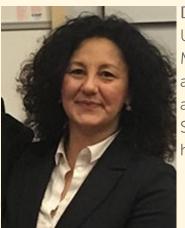


Dr Joanna Wolfarth: Joanna is a specialist in Buddhist art and the cultural history of Cambodia. Joanna received her PhD from the University of Leeds in 2015 and is currently a Research Associate at the Centre for South East Asian Studies at SOAS.



Dr Stephanie Tredan: Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in History, Ancient History and Archaeology from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. Within her Bachelor's degree she took part in an archaeological excavation on the Kurtonitj Indigenous Australian Property in Victoria, assessing the site of a stone circle; presumed hut. She holds a Master's degree in Art Gallery and Museum Studies from the University of Leeds, partaking in a work placement opportunity as a Registrar, at the Leeds Museum and Galleries Discovery Centre, focussing on processing loans and collection management. Stephanie is currently

completing her PhD in the History of Art and Archaeology department at SOAS.



Dr Maria Kostoglou: Maria holds an MPhil and PhD from the University of Glasgow with expertise in ancient metal work. Maria has worked as a curator in archaeological museums and university museums, in the UK and abroad. As a lecturer at the University of Manchester Maria, directed the Heritage Studies Programme and led outreach activities with the humanities and arts collection of the Manchester Museum.

SAAAP Project Summaries

Through SAAAP's endowed Academic Programme Support fund and Outreach and Related Costs fund, the Programme is able to support high quality projects that advance knowledge and enhance preservation of the ancient to pre-modern Buddhist and Hindu art and architecture of Southeast Asia.

Over the course of the past year, SAAAP has supported 23 new projects across our Research and Publications and Outreach strands of work, including conferences and workshops, new publications and journals, original research in the field, student engagement, library support, postgraduate internships and others. In some cases, discrete, time bound projects have already been fully funded and delivered, whereas other new projects will span the course of several months or years, with much of the funding committed to be expended at agreed project milestones. These newest projects and activities, deliberated and supported at the level of the SAAAP Programme Board, serve to advance the Programme's overall objectives of generating and engaging new knowledge in the field.

In the table on the following page, we outline the newly introduced or delivered projects that have been supported through our dedicated Programme funds.



SOAS Director
Baroness Valerie
Amos receives the
SAAAP-sponsored
publication Vibrancy
In Stone:
Masterpieces of the
Da Nang Museum of
Cham Sculpture from
the Director of the Da
Nang Museum, Vo
Van Thang, at SOAS in
2018.

Outreach and Related Costs: Projects approved in 2017, 2018

Project	Project Dates	Budget	Project Lead	Countries active
3 rd Annual SAAAP Summer Programme		£45,100	Peter Sharrock	Singapore
Emerging Lotus: The Art of the Ly Dynasty Conference	Apr 2017	£14,000	Peter Sharrock	Vietnam
Bagan Metropolis Conference	Jul 2017	£11,529	Elizabeth Moore	Myanmar
Myanmar Alphawood Alumni Panel at IPPA Conference	Sep 2018	£8,356	Elizabeth Moore	Myanmar, Vietnam
E. Moore Library Myanmar	Oct 2017 – Oct 2018	£5,085	Elizabeth Moore	Myanmar
Vibrancy In Stone: SOAS launch	Jan 2018	£4,300	Peter Sharrock	UK, Vietnam
Southeast Asia student recruitment (Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam)	Nov 2017	£1,759	Liam Roberts	Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam
National Museum of Cambodia: Accession Book Repair	Jan 2018 – Jul 2018	£1,663	Seang Sokha	Cambodia
Southeast Asia student recruitment (Laos, Thailand)	Sep 2017 – Oct 2017	£1,233	Lia Genovese	Laos, Thailand
The Arts of Southeast Asia: Malaysia Launch		£847	Farouk Yahya	Malaysia

Other recent, ongoing and planned Outreach projects and initiatives

Activity	Dates
Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, under extant 2014 MoU, PDS 3-day lecture series on C9-12 Buddhist art of Maritime Asia	Apr 2016
Yangon seminar series in Yangon Library space	Feb 2017
Yusof Ishak to give a Seminar at Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute	Sep 2018 – Oct 2018 (planned)
Myanmar research panel at IPPA Conference, Hue, Vietnam	Sep 2018
Paper presented at Mandalay International Conference on Burma Myanmar Studies	Jan 2018
Myanmar Libraries Project. Donation of EM library to (1) Field School of Archaeology Library, Ministry of Religious and (2) Cultural Affairs and Anthropology Department, Yangon University.	Oct 2017
Elizabeth Moore contributes to Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs and UNESCO Bagan World Heritage nomination dossier draft	Jan 2016
Elizabeth Moore appointed NSC- ISEAS Visiting Scholar Wider Bagan project	Oct 2016 – Oct 2017
Yale-NUS – Asian Civilizations Museum – NUS Museum Confer- ence speaker	Feb 2017
Engagement at Australia-Myanmar Institute (AMI) Conference Yangon University	Nov 2017
Engagement at Malay Archipelago Archaeology Conference, Global Centre for Archaeological Research, Universiti Sains Malaysia	Oct 2017
Asian Civilisations Museum public talk led by Elizabeth Moore	Jan 2017

Academic Support Fund: Research and Publications projects approved in 2017, 2018

Project	Project Dates	Budget	Project Lead	Countries active
Centre for Southeast Asian Studies / SAAAP Research Seminar Series		£7,924	Ashley Thompson	UK

SAAAP/NUS Press Research Publication Series – Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology: Hindu- Buddhist Traditions	Jan 2018 – Dec 2020	£55,000	Ashley Thompson	Singapore, UK, various
Pratu: Journal of Buddhist and Hindu Art, Architecture and Archaeology of Ancient to Premodern Southeast Asia	Jun 2017 – Mar 2020	£15,524	Udomluck Hoontrakul, Duyen Nguyen, Heidi Tan, Ben Wreyford	UK, various
Pedagogies, Pleasures, Powers: Towards a critical history of the ancient Hindu-Buddhist art collection at the National Museum of Cambodia	Jan 2018 – April 2020	£14,167	Khun Sathal	Cambodia
Paris, Amsterdam and Leiden Postgraduate Study Tour	Mar 2018	£9,622	Ashley Thompson	France, Netherlands
Monograph Research Trip	Sep 2017 – Dec 2017	£5,571	Ashley Thompson	Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand
Alphawood Scholars: Postgraduate Internships	Aug 2017 – Dec 2018	£2,400	Ben Murtagh	UK
PhD Research Trip	Aug 2017	£2,000	Miranda Bruce-Mitford	Indonesia, Singapore
Southeast Asia Material (SEAM) Digital Archive Membership	Mar 2017 – Jul 2018	£1,294	Pamela Corey	UK
The Routes of Transmission of Vajrayana Buddhism to Bali and Java	Jan 2018 – Jan 2019	£1,000	Ambra Calo	Indonesia
Conference panel on Borobudur at the 7th Southeast Asian Studies Symposium 2018 (Oxford South East Asia Project / University of Indonesia)	Mar 2018	£772	Panggah Ardiyansyah	Indonesia
Masters Dissertation Research Grant	Aug 2017	£325	Eko Bastiawan	Netherlands
Participating in the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS) Conference	Aug 2017	£325	Eko Bastiawan	UK

Project Spotlight—Postgraduate Internships

Through this project, SAAAP has established a Postgraduate Internship scheme to support graduating Alphawood Scholars to take up short placements at leading centres of research and exhibition of ancient to pre-modern Buddhist and Hindu Southeast Asian art in London and Southeast England. There exists a wide range of museums, societies, libraries and collections in the London area which have holdings specifically related to the SAAAP mission, many of which are well-positioned to take on interns and volunteers to work with the collections and gain important research and career related experience. Since access to such schemes is very much dependent on the individual financial circumstances of potential applicants, this project supports successful applicant Alphawood Scholars with a bursary of £600 per scholar to underpin 60 hours of professional experience through discrete placements at relevant institutions, taking place in the time between the submission of scholars' MA dissertations in September and the completion of their student visas (typically a 90-day period after the stated end of postgraduate programmes). The bursary is made directly to the successful applying Scholar, and supervision of the Scholar on work experience is provided pro bono by the hosting institution.

Application processes for both prospective hosting institutions and interested Alphawood Scholars are managed directly by SAAAP, with the hosting institution then agreeing workplans with SAAAP and the selected Scholars. Our first two Postgraduate Interns were placed at the Royal Asiatic Society (RAS) in London between September and December 2017. Aria Danaparamita (SOAS MA 2017) and Pawinna Phetluan (SOAS MA 2017) each spent up to ten hours per week at the RAS over an eight-week period. Their work while on placement involved researching and cataloguing collections concerning classical Javanese Hindu and Buddhist antiquities and other relevant artefacts from Sri-The and Wiang Sa in Thailand. The interns gained valuable curatorial experience, allowing them to apply skills and knowledge in interpreting Hindu and Buddhist iconography while also offering practical experience in the management of such collections. Each Scholar reported on their experiences in the SAAAP Newsletter (January 2018), which were deemed very positive, as corroborated by the RAS itself.

The next Postgraduate Internships will be made between September and December 2018, with SAAAP approaching RAS as well as other potential hosting institutions to provide this valuable experience to our forthcoming graduating MA scholars. SAAAP is delighted to be able to support these short placements to our students as they

transition from their academic degrees to a professional life in the field in Southeast Asia.

Reflection on the Postgraduate Internship from Pawinna Phetluan (RAS Intern and Alphawood Scholar, 2017)

When I heard about the internship opportunity at the Royal Asiatic Society from the Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme, SOAS University of London, I did not hesitate to apply as I am very interested in Southeast Asian antiquities. I was awarded an opportunity to work with the Collections of the Royal Asiatic Society. As a Thai archaeology student, I decided to work with H.G. Quaritch Wales' collection.

Quaritch Wales was a British archaeologist who played a significant role in Thai archaeology, and he contributed many publications such as Siamese State Ceremonies, related to the old Thai customs and traditions. He also ran an archaeological survey and excavated in many areas of Thailand. I had heard his name when I was studying in Thailand about Dvāravatī. Quaritch Wales had contributed a book upon the subject: 'Dvāravatī: the earliest kingdom of Siam (6th to 11th century A.D.)'. His book is still dominant today for anyone wishing to study about Dvāravatī.

Working on the Quaritch Wales' collection allowed me to see primary resources-his archaeological evidence, pottery, photographs journals, letters and records. These I had not had the opportunity to see before. This will be extremely helpful in my future research. I also learnt from his fieldwork; how he worked and recorded archaeological data. This, I believe, will be valuable for me to run archaeological programmes or further develop my research skills in the near future.

In my previous career, I worked as an archaeologist for the Thailand Fine Arts Department. My work was mainly outdoor work including archaeological survey and excavation. Thus, I feel that my time at the RAS was very exciting, valuable, and wonderful because I got opportunities to try to do something new, as I have never done curation work before. I feel I have benefited in learning organisations skills, as I dealt with a large number of books, diaries and letters, and learnt how to methodically sort and list them ready for cataloguing. I also learnt how to catalogue art works, helping to itemise the RAS Baker Collection on to the online catalogue.

For my future plan, I would like to be a lecturer in university, so I plan to take up a PhD. SOAS has already accepted me onto a PhD programme I am now looking for a scholarship to enable my studies. I think my experience in RAS will help me to suggest my further students about how archivist and librarian work. The important thing is I also know what has been kept in the RAS collection, which will be worthwhile for me to research in the future.

Reflection on the Postgraduate Internship from Aria Danaparamita (RAS Intern and Alphawood Scholar, 2017)

I am very grateful to SAAAP and the Alphawood Foundation for making possible the new internship programme at the Royal Asiatic Society (RAS). As a student, it was an honour for me to have the opportunity to work with the collection under the supervision of the kind and generous staff at the RAS, a leading institution and archive of Asian materials. With my interest in the archaeology of Java, I researched and catalogued two collections related to classical Javanese Hindu and Buddhist antiquities. The first was a series of photographs commissioned by the Batavian Society of the Arts and Sciences that documented the architecture, statues, and reliefs at various temples in Java, including Borobudur. This was a valuable collection, comprising some of the first photographic records of Borobudur. I then curated the photos and crafted labels for an exhibition display as part of the RAS Collections Open Evening on 21 November 2017.

The second collection was 'Java Sketches- in the Baker Collection, consisting of drawings and engravings of pre-modern Hindu-Buddhist objects. Working with these collections allowed me to apply knowledge and skills on interpreting Hindu and Buddhist iconography to describe the objects, whilst affording me practical experience in the management of an art collection, contributing to my future career path.



(Left-right) RAS Librarian Ed Weech, Pawinna Phetluan, Aria Danaparamita and RAS Archivist Nancy Charley



Pawinna Phetluan, and Aria Danaparamita at RAS

Project Spotlight—SAAAP/NUS Press Research Publication Series— Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology: Hindu-Buddhist Traditions

SAAAP is delighted to support a major new research publication series in conjunction with NUS Press in Singapore. The new series, *Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology: Hindu-Buddhist Traditions*, was designed and developed in 2017 in close concert with NUS Press and announced in January 2018. The series aims to support innovative work in the field, publishing monographs, edited volumes and critical English-language editions of seminal Southeast Asian texts in adherence to the objective and the mission of SAAAP. The project is a critical means of bringing the research dimensions of SAAAP's work to another level: building on an established dynamic to drive further intellectual development in the field.

A Series Editorial Committee is being established which comprises members of NUS Press, SOAS and a group of international leaders in the field who will help to guide the Series, issue calls for submission, oversee peer review processes and participate in decisions on titles for development and publication.

Over the course of the three-year project period, it is envisaged that six new peer-reviewed publications will be produced. Amongst these titles, a small number have already been proposed, with core research already being supported through other Academic Support Fund projects. These include *Pedagogies, Pleasures, Powers: Towards a critical history of the display of ancient Hindu-Buddhist art at the National Museum of Cambodia* and an edited volume on Borobudur temple building on original panel papers presented at the Southeast Asian Studies Symposium 2018. Although these examples of new research are supported through SAAAP, their publication through the new SAAAP/NUS Press series will also be further considered by the Series Editorial Committee.

Project Spotlight—SOAS launch of Vibrancy in Stone: Masterpieces of the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture

Director Vo Van Thang told a packed lecture theatre at SOAS that it was a dream come true to publish a catalogue of 100 masterpieces of his museum's world-leading collection of Cham sculpture on the centenary of its founding.

The SOAS launch of this milestone publication on 12 January followed a launch at the Museum in Vietnam. Mr Thang said the museum staff found the collaboration deeply rewarding. He recalled how the richness, depth and stirring spontaneity of Cham art, after being covered for centuries by dense tropical flora, had been gradually uncovered by scholars of various disciplines since the early 1900s. The Chams arrived in boats early in the first millennium and settled enclaves along the coast of what later became central Vietnam. The genius of the Chams was to build, along what is today Vietnam's littoral, one of the earliest internationally active trading polities of the region in the early centuries of the first millennium of the Common Era.

The skill of the Chams in shipping and trade brought them early prosperity, which enabled them to develop their exceptional gifts for constructing monumental temples in brick and in carving masterpieces in stone that have a vibrancy and human intimacy that made the Chams the Etruscans of early Maritime Asia. They employed their shipping skills to make their ports the favoured first stop for the vessels of the maritime trade between China, Europe and the Arab states.

From the 5th to the 15th Century, the Cham polities, which resisted fusing into a single state, developed a culture of a complexity and richness that rivalled or excelled that of all their neighbours, in what historians have called a 1,000 year miracle of an island people surviving on the Southeast Asian mainland. The Cham genius for music and dance is rendered visible in the 7th century My Son E1 altar pedestal that is now one of the Vietnamese national treasures in the Đà Nang collection.

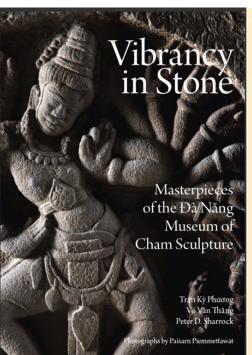
Temple song and dance developed in Champa in the 7th Century with the arrival from India of bearded Shaiva ascetics of the Pashupata sect, who enlivened the temple rituals of Champa and neighbouring Cambodia with their laughter, song and dance offerings to Shiva. The new catalogue contains a breakthrough study in the book of

these ascetics by Swati Chemburkar and Shivani Kapoor from Mumbai.

Grace Chiao-Hui Tu, a SOAS alumna now completing her PhD at Leiden, explained at the launch that dancers with scarves were uncommon in India but known in Tang China. This was one of many Chinese motif and concept transfers into Cham sacred art traced in her paper in the catalogue, which included dragons, 3-D representations of scenes featuring the Buddha and Bodhisattvas, ferocious guardians, monks wearing Chinese sandals, and a major Buddha icon seated with legs pendant and both hands on his knees, which is known from gigantic cliff and cave reliefs in China and, in Southeast Asia, found only in Champa.

Peter Sharrock of SOAS showed how newly found inscriptions were radically changing our understanding of how the Cham and Cambodian courts interacted in the 12th and 13th Centuries that saw the apogees of both states, ahead of the decline of both before the rising power of Vietnam and Thailand.

Vibrancy in Stone, made possible thanks to the generous funding of the Alphawood Foundation, is now available to order.



The front cover of *Vibrancy in Stone,* launched at SOAS on 12 January 2018.





Pasupata ascetics playing instruments on My Son E1 pedestal

Da Nang Museum of Cham Art, opened in 1919





Pasupata ascetics playing instruments on My Son E1 pedestal





Project Spotlight—Pratu, Journal of Buddhist and Hindu Art, Architecture and Archaeology of Ancient to Premodern Southeast Asia

A group of post-graduate research students in the Department of History of Art and Archaeology at SOAS together with advisory members of SAAAP's Research & Publications Committee recently launched *Pratu*, a new online journal dedicated to the Hindu-Buddhist art, architecture and archaeology of ancient to pre-modern Southeast Asia. The journal welcomes research on topics covered by SAAAP's remit: 'study of the built environment, sculpture, painting, illustrated texts, textiles and other tangible or visual representations, along with the written word related to these, and archaeological, museum and cultural heritage'.

Meaning 'gateway' or 'entrance' in several Southeast Asian languages, Pratu offers a transitional space for emerging scholars. This includes scholars who would like to reach a wider readership by publishing in English and benefitting from the peer-review process, as well as scholars who wish to reach an international audience while publishing in a Southeast Asian national language.

The journal will be issued annually, with a mix of feature articles and short reports. Although the working language is English, submissions in Southeast Asian languages are encouraged and the editorial team endeavours to provide peer review, translation and editing services for these.



Bayon, Angkor, Cambodia 12th century, (photograph by Duyen Nguyen)

Project Spotlight—Bagan Metropolis Conference

The Bagan Metropolis Conference (10 - 14 July 2017) in Yangon and Bagan, Myanmar celebrated not only the unique role of the Bagan Temple complex at the crossroads of Buddhist traditions in the region, but also the Alphawood Foundation and the SAAAP Alphawood Scholarships through new perspectives on the role of this ancient Buddhist kingdom.

The tone of the conference was set by the keynote speech of Dr Hettie Elgood, who underlined the shared traditions between the Buddhist culture of Bagan and that of North East India. These connections were also at the heart of the presentations by a dedicated panel of Alphawood Scholarship alumni who were able to apply much of their experience and knowledge gained during their time at SOAS through the presentations that they led. All brought forward innovative ways to frame the art and religion of Bagan.

The conference discussion itself (10, 11 July) was comprised of four panels: each with four to five speakers. The post-conference trip to Bagan (12-14 July) was led by the Alphawood Scholars and other speakers looking at the on-site evidence of the Buddhist art and epigraphy of the Bagan Kingdom.

The common focus on the ancient Buddhist art of Bagan bonded the Alphawood Alumni together with a current PG Diploma student, incoming PG Diploma students and upcoming PG Diploma and MA applicants.

One of the Alphawood Alumni, Dr Win Myat Aung, originally proposed establishing this conference on his return to Myanmar after completing his PG Diploma in Asian Art at SOAS. Thanks to his suggestion, successful collaboration began in developing the conference themes and panels with SEAMEO CHAT (Yangon), the Centre for History and Tradition, and the Ministry of Education, Myanmar. The institutional impact was significant in the formal collaboration of SOAS with the Ministry of Education. Impact within universities was excellent given the participation of the Heads of Department of Archaeology and Department of Anthropology (Yangon University), the Head of the History Department (Distance University Yangon), and the attendance and chairing by senior member of the Myanmar Historical Commission. Their participation successfully reminded all of the generous Alphawood Scholarships.

The activity has contributed significantly to the overall work of SAAAP in its scholarly focus on the ancient Buddhist art of Myanmar and in its pedagogical focus on the

Alphawood Scholars. The SAAAP mission includes mentoring of the Alphawood Alumni, assisting and encouraging them. Bagan Metropolis, in its planning, execution and follow up is closely following the SAAAP aim in this mentoring process.

It was extremely valuable to have the input of Dr Elgood, on the art and the aims of the SAAAP programme. Teachers and students listened closely and responded to her exploration of the special links between Bagan and North East India during the trip, her first visit to Bagan. We are in the process of mounting a Bagan Metropolis website hosted by SAAAP to be followed by a definitive publication and printed version to be published in Yangon in our continued collaboration with SEAMEO CHAT.



SOAS academics Prof Elizabeth Moore and Dr Hettie Elgood pose with Alphawood Scholarship Alumni and participants at the Bagan Metropolis Conference in 2017



Detail of mural at the Bagan Temple complex in Myanmar during the SAAAP-sponsored Bagan Metropolis Conference in 2017



Alphawood Alumna Su Latt Win visiting Bagan during the Bagan Metropolis Conference

SAAAP Memorandums of Understanding

MOU	Date	Summary
On academic and research cooperation between SOAS & The Sleuk Rith Institute of Cambodia (SRI)	December 2014	To develop academic and educational cooperation on the basis of equality and reciprocity and to promote relations and mutual understanding between both universities
On academic and research cooperation between SOAS & National University of Laos (NUoL)	October 2016	To develop academic and educational cooperation on the basis of equality and reciprocity and to promote relations and mutual understanding between both universities
On academic and research cooperation between SOAS & The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts (MCFA), Cambodia	December 2015	To develop academic and educational cooperation on the basis of equality and reciprocity and to promote relations and mutual understanding between both parties
On academic and research cooperation between SOAS & Dagon University	January 2016	To develop academic and educational cooperation on the basis of equality and reciprocity and to promote relations and mutual understanding between both universities
On academic and research cooperation between SOAS & Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)	December 2014	To develop academic and educational cooperation on the basis of equality and reciprocity and to promote relations and mutual understanding between both universities
On academic and research cooperation between SOAS & Vien Van hoa Nghe thuat quoc gia Viet Nam (Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies - VICAS)	January 2016	Considering their common interest in promoting the mutual cooperation in the area of education and research, both parties, therefore, wish to expand the basis for friendship and cooperative educational exchange



Alphawood Scholars during the annual Paris Study Tour, visiting the Musée Guimet in 2017



Alphawood PhD Scholar Duyen Nguyen (right) helps lead the Vietnam launch of the SAAAP-sponsored publication *Vibrancy In Stone: Masterpieces of the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture* at the Da Nang Museum in 2017

Conclusions

Five years on since the launch of the Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme at SOAS, the Alphawood Foundation's visionary commitment to this body of work has already been transformative. We see this through the trends and instances of impact that feature in this report, which also help us to chart a course for the future.

Over this foundational period, we have striven to continually develop and embed our programme of work in keeping with SAAAP's strategic mission, advancing the understanding of ancient to pre-modern Buddhist and Hindu art and architecture of the region. Through learning from experience and building on our successes year on year, we are confident in where we are today – with an established and growing programme of scholarship, well-recognised across SOAS and throughout the history of art and archaeology community in Southeast Asia and beyond.

As evidenced in this report, SAAAP is achieving real impact in the region through each of its key strands of work: in scholarships, outreach and in research and publications. For example, in this year alone:

- We launched a new postgraduate journal of Buddhist and Hindu art, architecture and archaeology of ancient to pre-modern Southeast Asia, under the leadership of Alphawood Scholars and Alumni themselves.
- We also launched a seminal new research publication series in concert with NUS Press, providing an important new platform to engage new and expert audiences with world-class research in the field.
- We have recently published the *Vibrancy in Stone* catalogue, commemorating the centenary of the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture, as well as *The Arts of Southeast Asia from the SOAS Collections*, showcasing the rich body of works held at the School itself.
- We continue to support important conferences and workshops at SOAS and in the region and, this year, we led the third annual SAAAP Summer Programme, bringing together academic leaders and emerging scholars to address key issues in the field and region and to consolidate international networks of expertise.

These projects, amongst others discussed in this report, are the direct result of the positive confluence of the Alphawood Foundation's generous investment and SOAS leadership in the field.

Through this year's Alphawood Scholarship Alumni Survey, scholars have shown us the impact their awards have had on their own careers – and, by virtue of that, the greater impact that they are realising in the field and in the region. Five years of Alphawood Scholarships to date have produced a talented new generation of SOAS graduates in Southeast Asia and, in doing so, has also deepened the research potential in the region by preparing more and more scholars for the prospect of PhD study as well. With the Alphawood Scholarships scheme clearly taking root and returning skilled new graduates to the region year on year, the potential future impact of the scheme is significant.

With a renewal of the Alphawood Scholarships programme for a further five years, we are confident we would be able to not only support the continuation of the positive trends we've recently seen, but also to take the scheme to a new level of support in advancing the SAAAP mission in the region. We would do this by:

- Making the most of the investment Alphawood has already made in terms of scholarship for predominantly PGT programmes by helping to realise the potential of emerging PhD-calibre candidates amongst our alumni (and beyond)
- Through this, increasing impact in terms of new, original research and new scholarly contributions to the field, as current and potential new PhD scholars graduate and return to the region as academic leaders
- Potentially directing more Academic Programme Support Funding to applicants from a growing Alphawood Alumni community to support new research projects, conservation efforts, conferences, exhibitions and publications
- Growing and consolidating the Alphawood alumni community as an established, well-recognised network of academic and professional leaders in the field
- Establishing and leveraging institutional partnerships in the region to develop new types of research degree support, including for split-site scholarships, allowing candidates to study both at SOAS and at regional universities

The impact of the Programme is, in many respects, cumulative and accelerative. Through dedicating ourselves over these first five years to establishing SAAAP's foundations, growing substantive new academic networks, supporting new scholars, building up a skilled alumni community and developing a solid track-record of outreach, research and publications activity, SAAAP is now recognised as a unique and experienced programme of work – and one which is well-positioned to support further advances in the field over the next five years and beyond.





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Front cover image: Rubbing of *apsaras* (celestial dancers), Cambodia, early 1960s, Ink rubbing on paper, H46 x W35 cm, SOAS Library Acc. 14111, Gift of Professor Frank Daniels, 1980.

Back cover image: Alphawood Scholars gather with representatives of SAAAP and the School of Arts (Peter Sharrock, Tamsyn Barton and Anna Contadini) at the UK launch of the SAAAP-sponsored publication Vibrancy In Stone: Masterpieces of the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture in 2018