

SOAS
University of London

**Your Philanthropy
Impact 2022–23**

The World's University

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Thank you



Giving has an important role to play in the life of our university, whether it is to support teaching, helping our academics to undertake important research, or by providing life-changing scholarships and support for our students.

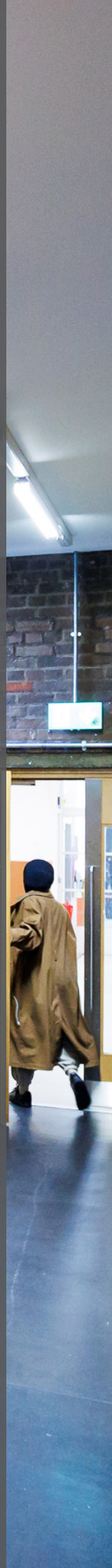
In this report, you will hear from some of our fantastic donors who tell us why they are inspired to give to SOAS. You will also read stories of David King and Apala Mandal, two scholars whose lives were changed by your generosity.

Dr Rookaya Bawa gives us a taste of the ambitious plans for the future of the SOAS Library as we celebrate its 50th year.

To all of our donors, thank you for your support of SOAS and our ambition to be a truly global university, based in the Global North, but with a focus on, and in equal partnership with the Global South.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming alumni and donor events.

Professor Adam Habib
Vice-Chancellor





Your Impact 2022–23

Total new
donations

£4,777,205



£23,460

from 230 regular
donors

Total endowment

£55 million



Number of donors

407



Number of student
scholarships and
bursaries awarded

56



Top **5** countries
donating

**BY TOTAL
DONATED**

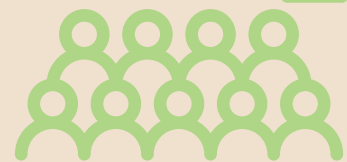
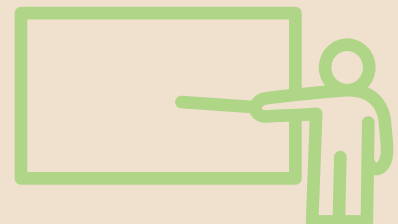
- 1 USA**
- 2 SOUTH AFRICA**
- 3 UK**
- 4 SINGAPORE**
- 5 JAPAN**

**BY NUMBER
OF DONORS**

- 1 UK**
- 2 USA**
- 3 UAE**
- 4 JAPAN**
- 5 HONG KONG**

Top **3** projects
receiving donations

- 1 SCHOLARSHIPS**
- 2 STAFF POSTS**
- 3 ACADEMIC SUPPORT**



Scholarship
donations

£3,167,514

from 163 donors



Building a Life

Our scholars

Each year, philanthropy at SOAS supports over 55 scholars. Each scholar's story is different, but they all show how giving to SOAS can make a difference to someone's life.



I came to the UK as the victim of child trafficking. I had done well in my exams and had the aspiration of furthering my education and studying abroad, but I fell into the hands of a group who told me they would help me carry on my education,

but turned out to be a gang who used children to traffic drugs across Europe. I was trapped for about five or six years, but eventually found a way to escape.

I was then stuck in legal limbo. The laws on modern slavery didn't come into effect until years later. I never lost my vision of trying to pursue my education. Student Access for Refugees helped me find a place at university. At the time, I still had to report to the Home Office on a weekly basis because of my status, so I needed a London university, and I chose SOAS because of its rich history.

The support I got at SOAS was phenomenal. It's given me a foundation in what I do now, which is human rights and public law, specifically around refugee rights. I already had that passion, but it was enthused even more by my time at SOAS.

I received a Sanctuary Scholarship and it gave me a new lease of life. Without it, I don't think I would have been able to get through my studies. It gave me the opportunity to believe again. I am the proof that giving to scholarships goes a long way. Not just to help people get their education, but to build a life.

**David King | Sanctuary Scholarship
LLB 2023**



I cherished the dream of studying at SOAS. I knew that if resources were not a question, I would choose SOAS over anywhere else. However, at that time, it was all a long way from my home in India and firmly out of reach so I tucked my

dream away. It was only after I received my offer of the Felix Scholarship that I allowed the reality of the moment settle around me, and to imagine what it would be like to spend the year in London.

This was everything I had dreamt of, and more. I was able to study a whole new discipline under the most inspiring, kind and supportive teachers.

I am so thankful for this incredible year. I will ensure that the impact of it goes beyond me and that your generosity changes more lives than just mine.

**Apala Mandal | Felix Scholarship
MA Migration and Diapsora Studies 2023**

Creating Opportunities

Our donors

Giving is a very personal choice, and people donate for many reasons. Here, Joe Earle and Ida Chow tell us why they give to scholarships at SOAS.



I graduated in Chinese from Oxford 50 years ago, then joined the Victoria & Albert Museum which arranged for me to attend Japanese language instruction at SOAS with Professors Dunne and O'Neill. I have been a regular user of

the SOAS Library ever since and have known many members of the Japanese faculty over the years, notably Professors Timon Screech and John Carpenter. I am a lifelong specialist in Japanese art. I have worked for the V&A in London and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. I'm now a senior consultant at Bonhams auction house and also advise several private clients around the world.

During my time in the US (2003–12), I got involved in SOAS alumni groups and when I came back to the UK, I re-engaged with SOAS and donated to the Library. I then learnt about the Sanctuary Scholarships.

Sanctuary Scholarships are a great partnership – I contribute and SOAS waives the fees. They allow me to make a big difference to one person, which is satisfying, and it is so important for the UK to retain its historic welcoming attitude towards immigrants, and to help them get through the system and prosper. There are very few places like SOAS. It is an institution that represents all that is best about Britain today – a truly transnational force that connects us to Asia and Africa. I am now 71 and I have got a lot of history with SOAS. It is a vibrant place in the middle of London with a great library and a lot of programmes. I wish I had time to attend more of them, but it is great that they keep in touch. SOAS deserves our support.

Joe Earle
BA Japanese 1977



I am from Singapore and Hong Kong. I am a lawyer by training and worked in the telecom sector before my retirement. In 2009, I took up the Postgraduate Diploma of Asian Art at SOAS. I really enjoyed the course. SOAS is unique in

its coverage of Asian Art studies. People come from all over the world to study on this diploma as there's nothing else like it in the world.

I helped to establish the Dr Hettie Elgood Scholarship for the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art in recognition of my teacher and my time at SOAS. The aim of the scholarship is to provide access to this fantastic course for students who are in financial need, and who hopefully will go on to work in the art world in their home countries.

Ida Chow
Postraduate Diploma in Asian Arts 2009–16

Donor Insights

At SOAS, we are fortunate to receive support from many alumni, friends and philanthropic organisations.

Luminate CEO, Stephen King tell us why he supports language teaching at SOAS.

I did a Masters in African and Asian History at SOAS from 1985 to 1987. Shortly after, I worked for Voluntary Services Overseas and went to Thailand. At the end of my time I took a holiday to Myanmar, or Burma as it was then called. I arrived in July 1988 just before the big uprisings. As I went around the country, the repression was getting worse. In Mandalay and Rangoon there were riots, students were being rounded up, and there were tanks on the streets.

I was about 25 at the time and this was very different from the life I was living in London; it gave me a deep appreciation of Southeast Asia, and particularly Myanmar. Later, I worked for HelpAge International and lived in Thailand for three years in Chiang Mai where I came across a lot of Burmese refugees and exile movements.

I am now CEO of a foundation called Luminate, which focuses on human rights and freedom of expression. About 10 years ago, as Myanmar started opening up, we undertook some programmes there, so I went back and spent some time in the country. I had picked up some Thai living in Chiang Mai, but reconnected with SOAS to start learning Burmese, which really stretched me; it is a hard language. SOAS was a life-changing experience. It opened my eyes to different cultures. I remember my first



seminar in South African history. There was a fantastic professor called Shula Marks and after class we introduced ourselves. I was working in a fairly dull job; the person next to me had spent the last nine months in a Johannesburg jail. Being in a room with these people lit a spark. It inspired me to think differently about the world and gave me proximity to different viewpoints, cultures and life-experiences.

SOAS is a wonderful institution and a national treasure. My son graduated in Thai from SOAS this summer, and just going back into the buildings gives me energy. It is a place for which I have a very deep affection.

Stephen King
MA African and Asian History 1987

We are very grateful to the **Alphawood Foundation** for donating £1.8 million to support the SOAS-Alphawood Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art and for additional scholarships. Through their continued support over the last ten years, over 100 students have been able to access scholarships.

The Ford Foundation made a generous grant to support the establishment of The Feminist Centre for Racial Justice, led by Professor Awino Okech. The Centre aims to bridge the gap between movements, social justice activists, and academics to produce research that solves real world problems.

A Lasting Legacy

Leaving a gift in your will is one of the best ways to support SOAS.



It is rewarding to think that your memory and affection for SOAS will live on through your legacy.

SOAS has benefitted from the generosity of many legacies over the years, which have provided funding for teaching, student welfare and many aspects of university life.

There are different ways you can remember SOAS in your will, such as a residuary gift where you leave part of your estate to SOAS once you have looked after your family. You can also give a sum of money – a pecuniary gift – where you choose exactly how much you want to leave, or you might wish to leave something that could be sold, such as property or valuable items, to benefit SOAS.

It may sound complicated, but it can be quite easy. A solicitor can help you draw up your will to make your wishes clear – supporting your family and loved ones and supporting our work at SOAS.

Dr Theodora Bynon studied and taught at SOAS where she also met her husband, Dr James Bynon. Sadly, Dr James Bynon has passed on, but in their joint will, they decided to support SOAS.

“I experienced SOAS as both a student and a member of staff. In 1963, my fellow students were missionaries and young academics, at that time all from Asia. Talking to them over lunch and in the junior common room opened up a new world for me.

At the end of my studies, I was offered a lectureship in the Linguistics Department and I met my later husband James, who taught Berber language and culture in the Africa Department. We both cherished our work at SOAS. It was challenging but rewarding.

We decided to leave the bulk of our estate to SOAS so they will be able to use the money both to support Berber studies and, as we had both been advisers to students and had seen the financial misery some students were experiencing when their funding had run out while their thesis was still unfinished, to the support of students, especially research students in their final year.

We felt loyalty to SOAS for having enabled us to do the work we loved.”

If you would like to talk to someone about how you can remember SOAS through a legacy, please get in touch with us by phone on **020 7878 4706** or email **philanthropy@soas.ac.uk**. We would also love to hear from you if you have already decided to leave a gift in your will.

soas.ac.uk/about/giving-soas/leave-legacy

SOAS Library

Our vision

SOAS Library is marking its 50th anniversary, and our **Chief Librarian, Rookaya Bawa**, reflects on its celebrated past, and our vision for the next 50 years.



Dr Bawa joined SOAS in February 2023 after a long and distinguished career in public and academic libraries in South Africa, and heading up the Carnegie library programme in the US and globally.

Despite her impressive background, nothing prepared Dr Bawa for how incredible the role of Chief Librarian at SOAS would be: It's an extraordinary privilege to be Chief Librarian at SOAS and I feel a great responsibility. SOAS Library is one of only five National Research Libraries in the UK, and we have a national mandate to collect material on and from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

SOAS Library is not only a home for students at SOAS, but also for visitors from academia and beyond. In fact, there are over 1,000 visits to the Library every

day. We have miles of shelving holding over 1.3 million items. Our special collections include treasures such as a fragment from an ancient Qu'ran, one of the copies of the Yongle Dadian – a Ming dynasty Chinese encyclopaedia, and collections from missionaries in languages which are no longer spoken.

Sadly, 50 years have taken their toll on our beloved Library and it is now outdated and failing to accommodate all the Library users. Designed when SOAS had 1000 students, we now have 6000 and we are growing. We have a vision to make a world-class space to reflect our world-class collections.

We want SOAS Library to evolve and to make the next 50 years more inclusive, accessible and innovative than ever before. Our vision is to transform our Grade II listed building into a more welcoming space with a disability hub, an events venue, areas for training and learning complete with technology updates, and to improve the experience for every visitor through new lighting and furniture.

The Library is at the heart of campus and part of the very fabric of SOAS. We plan to redevelop so that there is a specialist floor for each of our specialist areas: an Africa floor, an Asia floor, and a

Middle East floor, each of which will reflect its area with specialist librarians, collections and art from the region.

Digitisation and discovery of the archives will continue and there are undoubtedly treasures yet to be discovered. We will continue to collect materials from underrepresented regions and communities to help preserve history, language and culture, and we will contribute to the continuing decolonisation of learning.

Libraries make a difference to people's lives. They are a window to education. SOAS Library

gives people an opportunity to experience a wider world. We have been fortunate to receive donations from the Foyle Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Wolfson Foundation creating a dedicated collection care and digitisation hub in the Library, enabling us to care for our collections and increase access globally. To realise the next phase of our ambitious plans to transform the Library, and secure its future, we need your support.

If you're interested in supporting the Library, please email Suzy Rushforth, Senior Philanthropy Manager, at sr77@soas.ac.uk



Alumni Groups and Ambassadors

Our Alumni Groups and Ambassadors act as advocates for SOAS, using their experience and connections to support alumni engagement, student recruitment, philanthropy and global partnerships.

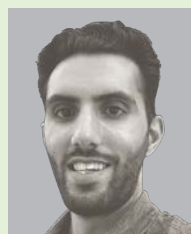
We are proud to have 104 Alumni Ambassadors across 44 countries who are vital to our worldwide programme. Our Ambassadors host events, welcome travelling academics, support prospective students, recent graduates and fellow alumni to enjoy a lifelong membership to the SOAS community.



In the coming year, we are looking to develop an Alumni Group in cities with over 100 alumni, and recruit an Alumni Ambassador for those with fewer.

With around 40% of the global alumni community based in London, our London Alumni Group, co-chaired by alumni Brooke Beardslee and Darius Billimoria, is a great example of how alumni can get involved and the many ways of supporting SOAS. We are grateful for people's time and experience as well as much needed financial support. Darius explains his reasons for volunteering.

If you would like to be more involved email alumni@soas.ac.uk



My year as a Development Studies Master's student at SOAS was special. From critically exploring new subject areas and making lifelong friends, to unexpectedly discovering a passion for yoga, my year was immersed in all

aspects of campus life and was truly memorable. Since graduating I have had the privilege to work for International Planned Parenthood Federation and Amnesty International.

In my work I have set up a sexual health rights programme that has reached over 8 million women and girls across East and Southern Africa and Asia. I have designed a global campaign on the harmful impact big tech companies are having on young people, especially in Argentina, Kenya and the Philippines.

When the Alumni team asked me to help establish the London Alumni Group I was thrilled to have the opportunity to remain connected to the School. As with many other alumni, I wanted to find a way to give back to the School to help current and future students experience the transformative potential an education at SOAS offers.

The London Alumni Group will help bring SOAS alumni back together in London. We will hold events with guest speakers, musicians and academics, and will use our collective experiences to mentor current students on choices they make after graduating. The Group aims to cultivate community and connection that strengthens our bonds to one another and to SOAS.

Darius Billimoria
MSc Development Studies 2016



How to give

By supporting SOAS, you can help break down barriers to education, fund world-class research and enable us to be the diverse and unique institution we all love, with our global outlook and academic areas of specialisation in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

SOAS creates the activists and peacemakers of the future. We train generations of academics and leaders, who think differently. Your support will directly help shape futures in policymaking, human rights, economics and more.

There are many ways you can give to SOAS, and gifts of all sizes are important and appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Make a gift today.

Follow this link to donate to an area of your choosing.

soas.ac.uk/about/giving-soas

Leave a legacy.

Find out more about making a gift to SOAS in your will.

soas.ac.uk/about/giving-soas/leave-legacy

Get in touch.

Contact our team who can help you find the best way to make an impact.

philanthropy@soas.ac.uk

We are incredibly grateful to all our donors for their support. Follow this link to view the list of the 2022-23 donors soas.ac.uk/about/giving-soas/philanthropy-impact-report-2024

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