Trustees' Annual Report

31 December 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the organisation for the year ended 31 December 2025.

**Legal and administrative information**

**Charity number:** 278817

**Principal address:** Prof. Sarah Bowskill (Queen's University Belfast, School of Arts, English and Languages, University Square, Belfast BT7 1NN. s.bowskill@qub.ac.uk +44 7577320171.

**Organisation**

The Society is run by the board of trustees, following the provisions made in our Constitution (https://www.slasuk.org/constitution), made up of the following persons for the year 2025:

**Officers**

President, Professor Sarah Bowskill, Queen's University Belfast (from April 2025). Preceded by Dr Marieke Riethof, University of Liverpool.
Vice-President, Dr Paul Merchant, University of Bristol (from April 2025). Preceded by Prof. Sarah Bowskill.
Co-Treasurer, Dr Karol Valderrama-Burgos, University of St Andrews.
Co-Treasurer, Dr Catriona McAllister, University of Reading.
Co-Secretary, Dr Rebecca Ogden, University of Sheffield.
Co-Secretary, Dr Geoffrey Maguire, University of Cambridge.

**Ordinary Committee Members**

Dr Yaneidys Arencibia Coloma, University of Manchester (2024-26)
Dr Paul Merchant, University of Bristol (2023-25)
Dr Penny Miles, University of Bath (2024-26)
Dr Daniel Mandur Thomaz (2025-2027)
Dr Clara Garavelli (2025-2027)
Dr Aiko Ikemura Amaral (2025-2027)
Dr Júlio Dória (2025-2027)

**Ex-officio Members**

Dr Marieke Riethof, Past President, University of Liverpool (from April 2025). Preceded by Professor Thea Pitman, University of Leeds
Dr Juan Pablo Ferrero, Coordinating Editor, Bulletin of Latin American Studies, University of Bath.
Dr Javier Pérez Osorio, Social Media Portfolio, Stirling University
Yasmin Getirana, President of Postgraduates in Latin American Studies, London School of Economics. Preceded by Dr Juan Luis Bradbury, University of Bristol.

**Independent examiner:**

Simon Young FCA, TC Group, 6 Queen Street, Leeds, LS1 2TW

**Banker:** National Westminster Bank Plc, Chatham Customer Service Centre, Western Avenue, Waterside Court, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4RT

**Objectives of the Charity in the Public Benefit**

The objectives of the Society, as stated in our Constitution (https://www.slas.org.uk/constitution) are to advance and promote the study of Latin America within the United Kingdom, and in particular to:

a. sponsor an annual conference for Latin Americanists.

b. sponsor or co-sponsor such other conferences or meetings as the Society shall from time to time deem appropriate.

c. publish a periodical bulletin, the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* (BLAR), the ownership of the copyright to the content and title of which will be retained by the Society.

d. maintain a website for the Society and publish other publications as the Society shall from time to time deem appropriate; and

e. co-operate with public, academic and institutional bodies which have similar interests or objectives.

**Review of activities**

Activities in calendar year 2025 included the following:

a. Our highly successful annual conference was hosted by the University of Bristol on 10th and 11th April 2025. A report on the conference is available here: https://www.slasuk.org/_files/ugd/6d8bd0_4e99a84a2abc4362a57ec074679cfb55.pdf

b. We supported the activities of PILAS, Postgraduates in Latin American Studies, including the running of their annual conference held at the University of Bristol on 8th and 9th April https://www.slasuk.org/pilas-conference-2025.

c. We also sponsored a variety of events and awarded grants and prizes on all our normal schemes (https://www.slas.org.uk/funding).

d. We awarded £45,898 in grants and prizes. Details of each of the funding schemes and recipients can be found in the Secretary's Report (https://www.slas.org.uk/annual-reports) for 2026, which captures activity for 2025.

e. We have continued to maintain our website, as well as develop our social media presence with investment in regular posting on behalf of SLAS and our journal.

f. We have continued to co-operate with all other public, academic and institutional bodies which have similar interests or objectives.

g. We furthermore undertook the following additional activities during the year:

1. Enlisted the services of a Social Media Provider with a new brief and re-launched the SLAS newsletter.

2. Launched a collaboration with the Eccles Institute at the British Library including the SLAS-BLAR-EI Fellowship and the SLAS-Eccles Institute Conference Access Award.

3. Began work to establish a new set of Financial Principles for the Society to ensure ongoing good management of the Society's financial resources. This work included beginning to move funds to the Flagstone Savings Account platform.

Additional details on the work of the Society in 2025 can be found in the President's Report delivered at the Annual General Meeting in April 2026: Annual Reports | SLAS .

**Plans for the future**

We will continue to focus on the core activities of the Society as listed above (a to e). In January 2026 we will hold a planning meeting to set the priorities of the Society going forward. We hope to continue the collaboration with the Eccles Institute as well as our work with the Standing Conference of Latin American Studies in the UK, the Arts and Humanities Alliance and the British Academy Learned Societies Network. We are also exploring new partnerships with publishers.

In 2026 we will seek to appoint a new Coordinating Editor for the Bulletin of Latin American Research.

**Reserves policy**

Our policy is to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to two years of annual operating expenditure, calculated on a rolling three-year average of actual expenditure.

**Risk Review**

The publisher of BLAR, Wiley, has been cautioning for a number of years that our revenues are likely to decline as a result of the transition to open access publishing. All of our financial planning takes into account the need to balance the long-term financial security of the Society and the desire to meet our charitable objectives by supporting our members and the field of Latin American Studies with our grants and activities.

Work continues on the Society's Climate Action Plan and on the Society's Policy on Anti-Harassment, Anti-Bullying and Anti-Discrimination Policy.

We have taken advice from the Society's accountant regarding the management of reserves and will continue to balance the need for ensuring the long-term financial security of the Society with the need to meet our charitable objectives.

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustee(s) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

● select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

● observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP

● make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent

● state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and;

● prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ascertain to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities, and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 22 June 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Professor Sarah Bowskill

SLAS President, 2025-2027

# Treasurers' report year ended 31st December 2025

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| **Incoming resources** | | |
| Bulletin of Latin American Research + Conference | 117,360 | 83,576 |
| Donations | 278 | 294 |
| Interests received | 3,270 | 8,628 |
| Total incoming resources | 120,908 | 92,498 |
| **Resources expended** | | |
| Charitable activities | 53,889 | 52,905 |
| Support & governance costs | 19,034 | 40,174 |
| **Total resources expended** | 72,923 | 93,079 |
| **Net incoming resources** | 47,986 | -581 |
| **Total funds brought forward** | 344,355 | 344,936 |
| **Total funds carried forward** | 392,341 | 344,355 |

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**
**BALANCE SHEET**

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| **Assets** | | |
| **Current assets** | | |
| Cash current account | 121,654 | 180,509 |
| Cash savings account | 270,687 | 163,845 |
| **Net assets** | 392,341 | 344,354 |
| **Represented by** | | |
| **Unrestricted funds** | 392,341 | 344,354 |

## Income

The main source of income for SLAS (£106,376 in 2025) came from the contract with Wiley. This income represents a share of the profits from BLAR (the Society's journal) for publication year 2024, coupled with the membership payments collected on behalf of SLAS in that year.

Donations of £278 come from standing orders from previous memberships that have not been cancelled. Interest on savings was received on our Skipton funds for 2025 and on our Nationwide savings for the period from 19th July 2024 until 31st March 2025. In total, this interest income came to £3,270.

We received the surplus from our 2024 Amsterdam conference, giving an income of £5,948, and £5,036 from our 2025 conference in Bristol (comprising a repayment of a £3,221 deposit SLAS had paid for catering, plus a surplus of £1,815).

## Expenditure

The main items of expenditure for 2025 correspond to Prizes and Grants, for £45,898. This was £1,421 more than in 2024.

We awarded more grants than usual (11) to enable Latin American scholars to attend our annual conference (total: £16,500). We gave bursaries for the same purpose to 5 PhD students and post-docs based at UK institutions (£2,218).

Our post-doc research support awards for 2024-25 were paid in 2024 and therefore do not appear in these accounts.

We paid 13 Postgraduate research support grants, plus 2 outstanding payments from awards made in this category last year (£13,604), the Cátedra SLAS (£600), 8 Seminar/Conference grants (£4,361), and 3 UK scholar research grants, two of which were awarded this year and the other was paid this year but awarded in 2024 (£8,399).

Total spend on grants was £8,429 less than budgeted. £6,000 of this was due to the fact that we paid our post-doc research awards in 2024. Additionally, our grant for UK PhD and Post-Doc researchers to attend our annual conference was significantly undersubscribed. Although we compensated by awarding more grants to Latin American researchers attending, this still left an overall underspend.

With regards to expenses by BLAR, a payment of editors' honoraria was made for each of the six BLAR editors, totalling £6,000. Three prizes totalling £1,400 (i.e. the Blakemore prize, the article prize and the Master's prize) were awarded by the BLAR editors.

Expenses by SLAS committee members, BLAR editors and PILAS Chair to attend the AGM within the annual conference in Bristol, plus committee members attending one in-person SLAS committee meeting in Bristol, totalled £6,674.

Other expenses include those to PILAS (£6,591), corresponding to the organization of their annual conference (in Bristol) and their other events; accounting services for £2,400; a fee of £200 for 2025 and 2026 UCML membership; and £3,588 for website and social media expenses.

## Conclusion

A higher-than-expected total income of £120,908 and expenditure of £72,923 left a surplus of £47,986 for the year. This means our reserves currently stand at £392,341. This provides an opportunity to explore ways to increase the delivery of our charitable objectives in the coming year.

Approved by Trustees on 08/04/2026 and signed on their behalf by

Catriona McAllister and Karol Valderrama Burgos (SLAS Co-Treasurers)

**THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

This report has been approved on the 11 September 2026 by the independent examiner Simon Young to confirm that it complies with both the accounting records and the accounting requirements of the Charities Commission.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of**
**Society for Latin American Studies**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Society for Latin American Studies**
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Society for Latin American Studies (the Society) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**
As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Simon Young FCA

TC Group
6 Queen Street
Leeds
LS1 2TW

Date: 11 September 2026