

AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN TURKEY

The American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) is a private non-profit consortium of American universities that was incorporated in 1964 to promote, encourage, and serve U.S.-based scholarship in Turkey in the humanities, social sciences, and archaeology, and to nurture and expand U.S. expertise in these areas of study. The knowledge gained in this process is in turn made available in the U.S. through teaching, lecturing, the media, scholarly publications and consulting. These outlets further promote U.S. scholarly interests in Turkey and help to ensure that the U.S. continues to be a major world center of teaching and learning about Turkey from ancient through present times. ARIT directly supports U.S. scholars in Turkey through programs of fellowships, and through the programs, services, and facilities available to all U.S. researchers at its centers in Istanbul and Ankara. The centers in turn become focal points of exchanges among U.S. and Turkish scholars.

ARIT's funds come primarily from U.S. sources. The fellowship programs are largely funded through grants from federal agencies (U. S. Department of State (formerly USIA), the National Endowment for the Humanities, and U.S. Department of Education). Remaining funds come from dues paid by institutional members, fellowship grants from private foundations, and from donations by Friends organizations in the U.S. and Turkey, where fundraising campaigns are carried out in conjunction with ARIT's public educational outreach programs.

ARIT has over 35 years of experience in administering fellowships and other outreach and exchange programs of high quality in Turkey. ARIT makes the most of U.S. taxpayers' dollars through cost-efficient, well-managed operations. The interest among American scholars for work in Turkey continues to be great; ARIT hopes to be able to continue serving their needs at the level that has been enjoyed, thanks to USED support, since 1994-1995. Funding sources exist for fellowship programs. Yet the USED-AORC Program offers the only real opportunity for ARIT to maintain its consolidated position and to maximize its programs, which serve not only its own fellows, but all American researchers in Turkey, under whatever auspices. ARIT-affiliated researchers form a core of scholars with first-hand knowledge and experience in Turkish language and Middle East studies.

ARIT is requesting continued operational funds to apply toward administrative support, and toward the cost of maintaining adequate facilities in Turkey. ARIT will thus continue to make efficient and effective use of its facilities and administrative personnel, and provide at the present level its many services to U.S.-based scholars in Turkey.