



**British
Dental
Students'
Association**

BDA
British Dental Association

British Dental Students' Association (BDSA) Charity Awards

Acknowledgments

We would like to sincerely acknowledge and express our gratitude to the following individuals for their invaluable contributions to the establishment of this award. Their vision, dedication and efforts have been instrumental in bringing this initiative to life:

- Joshua Kennedy (BDSA Past President 2022-2023): For their initiative in conceiving this award, recognising its importance and taking steps to propose and advocate for its creation
- Afra Rahim (BDSA Immediate Past President): For their commitment to further exploration of the award in their role as BDSA President 2023-2024, ensuring its viability and impact
- Rosyln McMullan (Chair of the BDA Honours and Awards Committee): For their expert counsel and invaluable guidance in shaping the framework of the award

Their collective efforts have played a pivotal role in making this award a reality and we deeply appreciate their dedication to advancing this initiative

Introduction

The British Dental Students' Association (BDSA) Charity Awards aim to recognise the exceptional charitable efforts and initiatives undertaken by individual dental students and dental societies across the United Kingdom. These awards celebrate dedication, innovation, and impact in contributing to charitable causes, both within and beyond the field of dentistry within the last 2 years.

Award Categories

1. **Individual Award** Recognising an outstanding dental student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to charitable activities and made a significant positive impact.

2. **Dental Society Award** Honouring a dental society that has organised impactful charitable initiatives and showcased exemplary teamwork and innovation in support of charitable causes.

Selection Criteria

The selection process for the BDSA Charity Awards aligns closely with three core principles of the British Dental Students' Association - Charity, Community and Certification. The following criteria will be used to assess nominees:

Individual Award

1. **Charitable Engagement**
 - Evidence of sustained involvement in charitable initiatives.
 - Demonstration of leadership, initiative, and commitment to charitable causes.
2. **Impact**
 - Tangible outcomes of the nominee's charitable efforts (e.g., funds raised, individuals or communities supported).
 - Testimonials or feedback from beneficiaries or collaborators.
3. **Innovation and Creativity**
 - Introduction of novel ideas or approaches in charitable activities.
 - Overcoming challenges to achieve charitable objectives.
4. **Advocacy and Inspiration**
 - Contribution to raising awareness about specific causes or issues.
 - Inspiring peers and the wider community to engage in charitable activities.

Dental Society Award

1. **Team Collaboration**
 - Evidence of strong teamwork and collaboration within the society.
 - Effective coordination and delegation in planning and executing charitable initiatives.
2. **Scope and Impact**
 - Number of individuals reached or supported by the society's initiatives.
 - Long-term benefits or legacies created by the charitable projects.
3. **Creativity and Resourcefulness**
 - Unique or innovative approaches to fundraising and community engagement.
 - Effective use of resources to maximise impact.
4. **Engagement and Outreach**
 - Collaboration with external organisations, charities, or community groups.
 - Promotion and awareness-raising of the society's charitable efforts.

Nomination and Submission Process

1. Eligibility

- Individual nominees must be current dental students in the UK.
- A maximum of three dental students per dental school can be proposed at each round of submission.
- Nominated dental societies must be officially recognised by their respective dental schools.
- Should recognise achievements or contributions made within the last 2 years

2. Submission Requirements

- Completed nomination form (available on www.bdsa.uk).
- A supporting statement (maximum 1,000 words) detailing how the nominee or society meets the selection criteria.
- Up to three supporting documents, such as testimonials, media coverage, or project reports.

3. Deadline

- Nominations must be submitted by **1st April 2026** to generalsecretary@bdsa.uk. Late submissions will not be considered.

4. Judging Panel

- The judging panel will include members of the BDA Honours & Awards Committee, BDSA Executive Committee, BDSA Co-Leads and BDSA Student Representatives

Award Ceremony

The winners will be announced during the BDSA Annual General Meeting taking place at the Annual Sports Day and will receive:

- A commemorative certificate – accredited by the BDSA and BDA.
- A £500 donation to a charity of their choice.
- Recognition on the BDSA website and social media platforms.

Contact Information

For any queries, please contact generalsecretary@bdsa.uk