British Dental Students’ Association
Constitution

This constitution details the importance of the British Dental Students’ Association (BDSA). It outlines the objectives of the BDSA, its structure and membership, and gives a brief outline of the roles of the Executive Committee.

Students who form the BDSA Committee also sit on the BDA Student Committee. It is important to note that the BDSA Committee focuses on the social aspects of dental students’ lives, whereas the BDA Student Committee focuses on political issues. There is a separate BDA Student Constitution.

More detailed information on the Executive Committee roles can be found in the “BDSA Executive Terms of Reference” document. Further information on the roles of the junior and senior BDA representatives can be found in the BDSA Representative Handbook.

1. Objectives

The principal aim of the BDSA is to promote dental students and the liaison and unity between the dental schools of the United Kingdom (UK). This can be broken up into the following objectives:

i. To promote the dental students of the UK.

ii. To promote the educational and social interests of dental students in the UK.

iii. To correlate the interests of the dental school students’ societies.

iv. To establish and facilitate liaison between the dental students of the UK.
v. To establish and facilitate liaison between dental students and the dental profession of the UK.

vi. To establish and facilitate liaison with the general public and any associations with shared interests.

vii. To establish and facilitate liaison with dental students within the European community and throughout the world.

viii. To advise in the formation of dental students’ association throughout the world when approached to do so.

2. Structure of the BDSA

Each dental school is allocated two representatives (reps) – one junior and one senior. These reps are called BDA reps, as they primarily sit on the British Dental Association (BDA) Student Committee, secondarily on the BDSA Committee.

Ideally, each dental school should elect their junior rep and this student should then automatically progress to the senior rep position the following year. Reps should be in the third year and above for undergraduate dental schools, second year and above for postgraduate schools.

There is a BDSA Executive Committee (outlined below); when a dental school has a member on the Executive Committee, they are allowed two reps in addition to this.

3. Roles of the BDSA Executive Committee members

President
a. Chairs all BDSA meetings
b. Formulates agendas for all BDSA meetings
c. Approves expenses in conjunction with the Treasurer
d. Approves the amount for the Douglas Jackson Grant in conjunction with the Treasurer
e. Votes on the recipients of the Douglas Jackson Grant with the rest of the Executive Committee
f. Ensures that all decisions made by the Executive Committee are implemented
g. Provides support for other members of the Executive Committee

Secretary / Sports Day Organiser
a. Takes the minutes at all BDSA meetings
b. Organises the annual BDSA Sports Day  
c. Votes on the recipients of the Douglas Jackson Grant with the rest of the Executive Committee

**Treasurer**  
a. In charge of the BDSA bank account. Keeps an account of all the money received and of all payments made  
b. Presents a summary of the accounts at the BDSA AGM  
c. Decides on the funds available for the Douglas Jackson Grant, in conjunction with the President  
d. Votes on the recipients of the Douglas Jackson Grant with the rest of the Executive Committee

**Conference Organiser**  
a. Organises the annual BDSA Conference, BDSA Ball and AGM  
b. Votes on the recipients of the Douglas Jackson Grant with the rest of the Executive Committee

**Communications Officer**  
a. Maintains the public BDSA Facebook page  
b. Advertises the Douglas Jackson Grant  
c. Votes on the recipients of the Douglas Jackson Grant with the rest of the Executive Committee  
d. Circulates all agendas, minutes and rep reports  
e. Keeps committee members’ contact details up to date  
f. Communicates with the press  
g. Provides content for the BDJ Student magazine and the BDSA area of the BDA website

### 4. Rules on voting in the Executive Committee

- Elections take place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).  
- Nominees must be current students from a UK dental school.  
- Each UK dental school in attendance at the AGM has two votes.  
- Nominees for the role of President must have attended a minimum of two BDSA committee meetings, or held a position in the Executive Committee.  
- No more than two positions can be held by students from the same dental school.  
- The Conference Organiser and Secretary should be from different schools if possible.  
- If there is a draw for any position, there will be a further vote in which each dental school in attendance will have just one vote. If this vote is also drawn, the current Executive Committee will have the deciding vote.  
- If a student stands for the position of President but loses the vote, he/she can then stand for another position.
5. **Membership**

Open to the student bodies of all dental schools in the UK. Each dental student is therefore “ipso facto” a member of the BDSA.

6. **Annual General Meeting**

An annual general meeting (AGM) shall be held every during the annual BDSA Conference. Nomination and election of new committee members will occur during the AGM, in addition to a report of the past year’s activities and financial status.

7. **Amendment of Constitution**

The BDSA Constitution should be considered and approved at the September BDSA committee meeting. The committee present at the meeting must vote in the constitution for the following year.