

British Dietetic Association (BDA) Membership Bylaws

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Student Members

Eligibility

Any person who is currently studying for an HCPC approved degree, postgraduate diploma or MSc in dietetics and nutrition at one of the [BDA accredited colleges/universities in the UK](#), which leads to eligibility for registration as a dietitian with the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC), is entitled to join the BDA as a Student Member.

BDA Student membership is free for the first year of study and includes membership of up to two free specialist groups.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>BDA Student membership applications are made online via the BDA website.</p> <p>This includes an automated approval process whereby an approval tutor confirms their enrolment at the respective college/university in the year stated.</p>	<p>BDA student membership runs from either 1 October – 30 September or 1 February – 31 January depending on the start date of the respective course.</p>

Associate Student Members

Eligibility

Any person currently enrolled on a [BDA accredited pre-registration dietetic apprenticeship](#) which when you qualify, leads to eligibility for registration as a dietitian with the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC), is entitled to join the BDA as an Associate Student Member.

BDA Associate Student membership reflects the pricing structure of Associate Band 4/Below and includes membership of up to two free specialist groups. This is due to an increased insurance requirement while practising as a dietetic support worker during the degree apprenticeship.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>Applications for BDA Associate Student membership are made online via the BDA website.</p> <p>This includes an automated approval process whereby an approval tutor confirms their enrolment at the respective college/university in the year stated.</p>	<p>BDA Associate Student membership can be joined at any time of the year, starting from the first of the current or following month.</p>

International Student Members

Eligibility

Any person currently enrolled on degree, postgraduate diploma or MSc in dietetics overseas which is partnered with a BDA-accredited UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) is entitled to join the BDA as an International Student member.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>Applications for BDA International Student membership are made online via the BDA website.</p> <p>This includes an automated approval process whereby an approval tutor confirms their enrolment at the respective college/university in the year stated.</p>	<p>BDA International Student membership can be joined at any time of the year, starting from the first of the current or following month.</p>

Graduate Members

Eligibility

Existing Student members from each of the aforementioned categories are automatically upgraded to Graduate membership at the end of their course. This category reflects the same offering as Full membership, but at a 50% discounted rate. It is also at this point that the two free specialist group memberships offered with student membership become payable.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>Please note that this membership category is not available to join online and is open to existing Student, International Student and Associate Student members only.</p>	<p>Membership dates for Graduate membership are predicated on the course end date entered upon the individual's application for Student membership.</p> <p>The BDA is not obliged to back-date any membership or access to services including Professional Indemnity Insurance or Trade Union cover.</p>

Associate Members

Eligibility

BDA Associate membership is open to anyone who is working within the dietetic support workforce. This category has two levels (and costs) depending on which NHS band the member is working in:

- Associate Band 4/Below
- Associate Band 5

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>BDA Associate membership applications are made online via the BDA website.</p>	<p>BDA Associate membership can be joined at any time of the year, starting from the first of the current or following month.</p> <p>The BDA is not obliged to back-date any membership or access to services including Professional Indemnity Insurance or Trade Union cover.</p>

Full Members

Eligibility

Any practising dietitian who is currently registered with the HCPC is eligible to join the BDA as a Full member.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>BDA Full membership applications are made online via the BDA website.</p> <p>Applicants are requested to provide their HCPC number and details of their employment upon registration.</p>	<p>BDA Full membership can be joined at any time of the year, starting from the first of the current or following month.</p> <p>The BDA is not obliged to back-date any membership or access to services including Professional Indemnity Insurance or Trade Union cover.</p>

International Members

Eligibility

BDA International membership is open to dietitians living and practising outside of the UK. If an individual joins this category and subsequently takes up work in the UK as a registered dietitian, they will be required to transfer to the Full member category immediately to ensure they are covered by our HCPC-mandatory professional indemnity insurance and Trade Union support.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>Applications for BDA International membership are made online via the BDA website which require proof of qualification.</p>	<p>BDA International membership can be joined at any time of the year, starting from the first of the current or following month.</p>

Alliance Members

Eligibility

BDA Alliance membership is open to anyone with an occupational interest in nutrition and dietetics who supports the aims of the organisation and is not eligible for membership of any other category. This would include:

- Food workers not supervised by a dietitian
- Catering managers and staff in any setting including health, care, schools, prisons or hospitality
- Doctors and nurses
- Allied health professionals
- Food scientists or technologists
- Public health or health promotion staff
- Health trainers

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
Applications for BDA Alliance membership are made online via the BDA website.	BDA Alliance membership can be joined at any time of the year, starting from the first of the current or following month.

Affiliate Members

Eligibility

BDA Affiliate membership is available to anyone who is either:

- A nutritionist who has completed a recognised degree in human nutrition
- A UK citizen who is undertaking recognised training in nutrition and dietetics overseas and is not eligible for International Student membership
- Anyone who has completed a recognised dietetics degree in the UK but is not registered with the HCPC

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
Affiliate membership applications are made online with relevant documentation. Applicants who are nutritionists would need to provide proof of their degree (e.g. a copy of their certificate or letter from the relevant college/university where they completed their degree).	BDA Affiliate membership can be joined at any time of the year, starting from the first of the current or following month.

Return to Practice Members

Eligibility

Any dietitians who have taken a break from the profession for at least two years, and who are undertaking a recognised return to practice route, are eligible to join the BDA as a Return to Practice member.

This category provides all the same benefits as full membership including access to professional indemnity insurance and Trade Union support but with a 50% discount.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>Applications for BDA Return to Practice membership are made online via the BDA website.</p> <p>Applicants are requested to provide information regarding their return to practice route and are obliged to inform the BDA of their re-registration to the HCPC in order to be upgraded to Full membership.</p>	<p>BDA Return to Practice membership can be joined at any time of the year, starting from the first of the current or following month.</p>

Change of Circumstance

Existing Full and Associate members (only) are able to transfer onto the following subsidised membership options should their circumstances change:

- Non-practicing
- Parental Leave
- Retired

Non-practicing Members

BDA Non-practicing membership category allows Full and Associate members to retain BDA membership at a reduced rate to keep up-to-date with the profession and continue to receive regular dietetic news and information, whilst taking a break from working in dietetics. Please note that professional indemnity insurance cover and trade union support is not available for this category.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>Existing Full and Associate members can apply to transfer onto the Non-practising category via their MyBDA area on the BDA website from either the 1st of the current or following month.</p>	<p>If the member returns to dietetic practice at any point, it is their professional obligation to transfer back to the BDA full member category immediately to ensure they have adequate professional indemnity insurance cover. This can happen at any point during their annual membership.</p>

Parental Leave Members

Eligibility

BDA Parental Leave membership category allows Full and Associate members, to retain BDA membership at a reduced rate whilst taking maternity, parental or adoption leave. Parental Leave membership includes all of the same benefits as full membership including Professional Indemnity Insurance and Trade Union cover for keeping in touch (KIT) days.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>Existing Full and Associate members can apply to transfer onto the Parental Leave category via their MyBDA area on the BDA website.</p> <p>If the member returns to dietetic practice before the 12-month period is complete, it is their professional obligation to transfer back to the BDA full member category immediately, to ensure they have adequate professional indemnity insurance cover.</p>	<p>Membership of this category can commence from either the 1st of the current or following month and is available for the duration of a members' period of parental leave from work, up to a maximum of 1 year (12 calendar months).</p>

Retired Members

Eligibility

BDA Retired membership category allows existing Full and Associate Members who are no longer registered with the HCPC and who no longer intend to work in dietetics, to retain BDA membership at a reduced rate to keep up-to-date with the profession and continue to receive regular dietetic news and information.

Procedure to apply for membership	Membership dates
<p>Existing Full and Associate members can apply to transfer onto the Retired category via their MyBDA area on the BDA website from either the 1st of the current or following month.</p>	<p>If Retired members return to working in dietetics, it is their professional obligation to transfer back to the BDA full member category immediately, to ensure they have adequate professional indemnity insurance cover via their MyBDA area.</p>

General

Applications

All membership applications can be made online at bda.uk.com/join-online.html. Membership will begin from the 1st day of either the current or following month.

All membership applications are automatically approved based on the information provided and upon successful payment or supply of payment details. Any applicants providing false information could be removed from membership and subject to disciplinary proceedings and not eligible for any membership refund.

Reporting

The BDA Board of Directors and members may receive reports on membership figures, finances and other data from time to time. All personal data requested from and provided by members will be stored and used in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, GDPR and any other active UK legislation.

The BDA Privacy Statement can be accessed online at bda.uk.com/privacy.

Annual subscriptions

BDA Board of Directors sets annual subscription fees which are made available at <https://www.bda.uk.com/membership/join-us/membership-fees.html>. All BDA memberships are for one full calendar year, and membership must be upheld for this full period.

Any member wishing to view a record of their previous and upcoming membership payments can do so via the [Membership History page](#) in their MyBDA area.

Cancellation

Members are able to resign from the BDA once their full membership year payment has been settled in full. Members wishing to resign their BDA membership must notify the BDA in writing via email to membership@bda.uk.com and completing any outstanding payments in full before this can be actioned.

The BDA will not issue refunds on subscriptions paid if members fail to notify the BDA of their intent to resign more than 3 months after the start of their new membership year.

Cancellation criteria

- No longer practicing (and do not require the BDA non-practicing membership)
- Includes illness and care leave
- Retiring from the profession (and do not require BDA Retired membership)
- Moving abroad (and do not require BDA International membership)
- Financial hardship

Payment

All BDA memberships are for one calendar year. The option to pay the annual membership subscription by monthly Direct Debit instalments is not a part yearly/monthly membership; it is simply intended as an option to spread the cost.

Membership payments must be upheld for the full membership year. If Direct Debit instalment payments are cancelled by the member, or fail on two consecutive occasions, the membership will be cancelled upon the date of the last successful payment.

If a member chooses to cancel their direct debit without first requesting to cancel their membership, the amount outstanding will be recoverable by the BDA and will remain on the member's file for future reference.

Failed payments

The BDA Accounts department will contact you (up to three times) to inform you if your payment has failed for any reason. Any member whose fees are more than three months in arrears will be removed from membership and will lose access to all benefits and services of membership thereafter, including Professional Indemnity Insurance and Trade Union cover. The BDA is not obliged to back-date any membership or access to services including Trade Union.

Rejection

Any person who is refused BDA membership will have the right to appeal. Individuals must write to the Membership team at membership@bda.uk.com, stating the reason they feel they are eligible for membership. This appeal will be taken to the next available BDA Board of Directors meeting for assessment, providing the letter of appeal is received no less than 2 weeks prior to the Board of Directors Meeting.

The individual will be notified of the outcome of their appeal following the meeting. Board of Director's decision will be final.

Suspension and Appeal

The BDA has the right to terminate or suspend membership of any member for any of the following reasons:

- Disciplinary Action
- [Threatening behaviour towards staff](#)
- Failure to pay membership subscriptions
- Failure to pay any other money outstanding to the BDA.

When a member is due to be suspended or membership cancelled for non-payment of either subscriptions or other outstanding money, the BDA will advise the member of their intention, and providing the outstanding money is paid within the allotted time stated on that notification, the decision may be reversed. If the money is not paid within the allotted time, then the membership will be cancelled.

The member will then have the right to appeal in writing upon notification of their membership being cancelled. Notice of such an appeal must be sent in writing to the Membership team at membership@bda.uk.com within twenty-one days of notification to the person concerned of the decision. This appeal will then be taken to the next available Board of Directors meeting.

The decision of Board of Directors will be final.