

# IADS: A brief introduction

The **International Association of Dental Students** was formed in 1951, to unite the dental students of the world and allow them to exchange knowledge and experiences about dentistry at an international level.

We represent the future members of the dental profession at a worldwide level. Our Central Office is at FDI Headquarters in London.

## **How many people are involved?**

National and local associations of dental students are eligible for membership. Presently we have member associations representing some 88,000 dental students around the world.

## **How often does the Association meet?**

We meet twice annually. The main meeting is our **Annual World Congress of Dental Students**, held each August. This meeting typically attracts around 600 participants. It centres around a scientific programme of lectures and seminars addressing the needs of the dental student, but also includes workshop discussions, an organised social programme and the various business meetings of the Association. Recent congresses have been held in Cape Town, South Africa (1994), São Paulo, Brazil (1995), Göteborg, Sweden (1996) and San Juan, Puerto Rico (1997), Istanbul, Turkey (1999) and Malta (2000).

A small **Mid-Year Meeting**, whose programme is devoted to business meetings, is held each February.

**English** is used as the common language at all our meetings.

## **Who runs the Association?**

Each member association sends their representatives to the **General Assembly**, which meets during the Congress and Mid-Year Meeting.

A six-person **Executive Committee**, headed by the President, is responsible for day-to-day management of the Association's affairs.

## **What activities are organised for members?**

As well as the **Annual World Congress of Dental Students**, we offer many things at an international level to our members. These are accessible to each and every dental student in the member countries, and include an **International Student Exchange Programme**, which allows students to visit a foreign country and experience its culture and its dentistry, both scientifically and clinically.

In collaboration with the World Health Organisation, we run a **Voluntary Work Abroad Scheme**, which allows students to experience primary oral healthcare in a developing country. This work with the WHO

developed from our participation in the WHO's Global Consultation on Oral Health Sciences Education during the World Year of Oral Health in 1994.

A database of **Dental Postgraduate Education** courses around the world is gradually being compiled and is kept on-line at our **Internet** site.

Our **Newsletter** is distributed by FDI to all 750 of the world's dental schools, with additional copies being sent to member associations and schools.

## **IADS on the Internet**

The IADS Website – the most up-to-date source of information, can be found at [www.IADS-web.org](http://www.IADS-web.org). Here you will find details of future meetings, the exchange programme and many other things about our activities. As this manual is published on paper, it is less easy to update than the electronic site.

You can also join around 500 other dental students around the world on the IADS e-group. To join this and participate in discussions, hear the latest news and get to know the dental students of the world from your own home, send a message to [WorldDentalStudents\\_IADS-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:WorldDentalStudents_IADS-owner@yahoogroups.com), with 'join' or 'subscribe' in the subject title.

## IADS Membership Summary

Type	Full	Corresponding	Affiliate
Can attend meetings & congresses	yes	yes	2 representatives maximum
Can speak at General Assembly	yes	yes	yes
Can propose motions at General Assembly	yes	no	no
Can vote at General Assembly	yes	no	no
Can hold positions on Executive Committee	yes	no	no
Pay membership fee	yes	no	no
Can participate in Exchange Programme	yes	limited	no
Can participate in Voluntary Work Abroad Programme	yes	no	no
Receive additional copies of IADS Newsletter	yes	yes	no
How long can this type of membership be held?	as long as membership fee is paid	2 years maximum	as long as reciprocal arrangement with IADS exists
Open to	national/local associations	national/ local associations	international associations & organisations

**Notes:**

- Corresponding membership does **not** have to be held before an application for full membership can be made.
- This list covers the major parts of membership, but is not exhaustive. Other benefits may be unavailable to Corresponding members.

# Dental students Associations around the world

## Introduction

The goal of this document is to group the information about the Dental Students associations through the world and to give a summary of their situation. It is only by sharing our information and experiences that we can build better associations.

The IADS congresses and meetings are too short to transmit this kind of information, that is why it has seemed important to put it in a written document.

It is the first of its kind in the IADS, and I hope that the next Executive Committees will update it and make it better, including more associations and more details and advises.

It is a pleasure, after seven years of active involvement in the Dental Students associations, nearly six in the IADS, to present you this work. It is a first edition, which will be better in the future, with your remarks and additions.

Eric Normand  
IADS President 1993-4  
Immediate Past President 1994/96

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## **I. Situation of some Dental Students Associations through the world (February 1996):**

This study has been possible with the making of a survey sent around the world between August 1994 and August 1995. If you detect any mistake, please contact us for correction.

The table hereafter summarises the principal characteristics of 29 associations. The fully detailed questionnaires are available at the IADS central office.

Country Abbreviation of the association's name	Type	Nature	Ex Co	Number of schools represented (number in the country)	Number of students in the country or in the school	Principal type of member- ship	Number of members	Annual fee
Brazil (São Paulo)	O	L	N	1 (80)	(10,000)	I	?	?
Canada	C	N	Y	10	1,680	I	1,480	25Can\$
Croatia	A	N	Y	2	?	I	200	15 DM
Denmark - OF	A	N	Y	2	550	I	550	20US\$
France - UNECD	A	N	Y	16	3,000	S	16	1,200 FF
Macedonia - MDSA	A	N	Y	1	400	I	400	?
Germany - ZAD	A	N	N	32	14,000	S	30	free
Hungary - MFHE	A	N	Y	4	600	I	600	?
Iceland - FIT	A	N	Y	1	40	I	40	100 US\$
Israel (Jerusalem) - JSMS	M	L	Y	1	?	I	?	free
Italy - AISO	A	N	Y	30	3,500	I	1,000	20 US\$
Latvia - LADS	A	N	Y	1	214	I	214	?
Malta	A	N	Y	1	23	I		3 US\$
Nigeria - NADS	A	N	Y	4	600	I	600	?
Romania - SSS	A	L	Y	1	1,500	I	200	20 US\$
Russia	M	N	Y	4	?	I	500	free
Slovenia - SIDSIC	A	N	Y	1	300	I	250	120GBP
South Africa - SAADS	A	N	Y	5	300	S	5	?
Spain(Barcelona) - AECS	M	L	Y	1	400	I	20	1,700 ptas
Sudan - DSS	A	N	Y	1	250	I	250	0.25US\$
Sweden - SOF	A	N	Y	4	800	I	800	300 SEK
Switzerland - VZSS / ASEMD	A	N	Y	4	240	I	240	10 SFR
Turkey - TURKDENTSIC	C	N	Y	6 (12)	6,500	I	1.000	10 US \$
United Kingdom - BDSA	A (C)	N	Y	14	~ 3,000	S	14	0.75 GBP
USA - ASDA	A	N	Y	54	16,000	I	11. 449	35 US\$
Yougoslavia - SADS	A	N	Y	4	2,300	S	2.300	2 DM
Asia-Pacific Region - APDSA	A	R	Y	10 countries	?	N	?	20 US\$
European Community - EDS	A	R	Y	12 countries	?	N	?	50 ECUs
International Association - IADS	A	I	Y	45 countries	~ 60,000	N, S	45	varies

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**Abbreviations used:**

Y = Yes ; N = No ; ? = Not communicated

**Type :** A = Independent Dental Students Association ; C = Committee of a National Dental Association ; M = Part of a Medical Students Association ; O = Others.

**Nature :** L = Local ; N = National ; R = Regional ; I = International.

**Ex. Co. :** Executive Committee or equivalent : Y = Yes ; N = No.

**Principal type of membership :** I = Individual ; S = School ; N = National Association.

### Services to members :

Country Abbreviation of the association's name	Students defence	Publications	Students exchange	Congress	Scientific activities	Students life	Principal Resources
Brazil (São Paulo)	?	N	Y	N	?	?	?
Canada	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Su F
Croatia	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Sp
Denmark - OF	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Sp F
France - UNECD	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Su Sp F
Macedonia - MDSA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Sp Su F
Germany - ZAD	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Su
Hungary - MFHE	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Sp Su F
Iceland - FIT	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	F Su Sp
Israel (Jerusalem) - JSMS	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Su Sp
Italy - AISO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su Sp F
Latvia - LADS	N	N	N	N	N	?	F Su
Malta	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Sp F
Nigeria - NADS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su Sp
Romania - SSS	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	?	Su Sp
Russia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Sp
Slovenia - SIDSIC	N	Y	Y	N	N	?	Su
South Africa - SAADS	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Sp F
Spain(Barcelona) - AECS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?
Sudan - DSS	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su
Sweden - SOF	Y	N	Y	?	N	N	F (Su)
Switzerland - VZSS / ASEMD	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su F Sp
Turkey - TURKDENTSIC	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Sp F
United Kingdom - BDSA	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Sp Su F
USA - ASDA	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Sp F
Yougoslavia - SADS	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Sp F
Asia-Pacific Region - APDSA	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Su Sp F
European Community - EDS	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Sp F
International Association - IADS	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su Sp F

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#### **Abbreviations used :**

Y = Yes.

N = No.

? = Not communicated.

**Principal resources :** F = Membership fees ; Sp = Sponsors ; Su = Subsidies.

### External relations :

Country Abbreviation of the association's name	with the Ministry of Health	with the Ministry of Education	with the Deans	with other associations	member of other associations
Brazil (São Paulo)					IADS
Canada	++	++	++	ASDA	IADS
Croatia	0	0	++		IADS
Denmark - OF	0	0	+++		IADS EDS
France - UNECD	++	++	++	FAGE ANEMF ANEPPF	IADS ADF UFSBD AFDDE
Macedonia - MDSA	+	+	+		IADS
Germany - ZAD					IADS
Hungary - MFHE	+	0	+		IADS
Iceland - FIT	0	0	++		IADS
Israel (Jerusalem) - JSMS	++	0	+++		IADS
Italy - AISO	0	+++	++		IADS EDS
Latvia - LADS	0	0	++		IADS
Malta	0	0	+		IADS
Nigeria - NADS	0	0	++		IADS
Romania - SSS	++	++	++		IADS
Russia	+	0	++	IFMSA IPSF	IADS
Slovenia - SIDSIC	+	+	++		IADS EDS
South Africa - SAADS	0	0	+++		IADS
Spain(Barcelona) - AECS	+	+	++	IFMSA IPSF	IADS EDS
Sudan - DSS	+	+	++		IADS
Sweden - SOF	0	0	?		IADS EDS
Switzerland - VZSS / ASEMD	0	0	0		IADS
Turkey - TURKDENTSIC	0	0	++		IADS EDS
United Kingdom - BDSA	0	0	+		IADS EDS
USA - ASDA	+	+	++	Canada	0
Yougoslavia - SADS	++	++	++		(IADS)
Asia-Pacific Region - APDSA				IADS	
European Community - EDS	0 (E.U.)	0 (E.U.)	+(ADEE)	IMISO	IADS
International Association - IADS	WHO	FDI, ADEE	FDI	IMISO IFMSA IPSF	EDS

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#### Abbreviations used :

**External relations :** 0 = none    + = some relations    ++ = active relations    +++ = common works

ADEE = Association for Dental Education in Europe

ADF = Association Dentaire (French Dental Association)

AFDDE = Association de formation et de défense des étudiants (Defence and training students association)

ANEMF = Association Nationale des Etudiants en Médecine de France (French Association of Medical Students)

ANEPPF = Association Nationale des Etudiants en Pharmacie de France (French Pharmaceutical Students Association)

E.U. = European Union

EDS = European Community Dental Students Committee

FAGE = Fédération des Associations Générales d'Etudiants (Federation of city students associations)

FDI = Fédération Dentaire Internationale / World Dental Federation

IADS = International Association of Dental Students

IFMSA = International Federation of Medical Students Associations

IMISO = Intersectorial Meeting of International Students Associations

IPSF = International Pharmaceutical Students Federation

WHO = World Health Organisation

UFSBD = Union Française pour la Santé Bucco-Dentaire (French Association for oral health)

## **II. Remarkable actions of four associations:**

The associations have about all the same way to work, and similar activities. Some of them were original, and are presented here.

### **A. American Students Dental Association (ASDA):**

It is the biggest national association of Dental Students. It groups all the states of the USA, 54 Dental Schools, 11.449 students, 540 post-doctoral, 730 pre-dental, 153 associated members and 20 international.

Each Dental School has an ASDA section with two delegates responsible of the functioning of the local association (called Chapter). The House of Delegates, equivalent of our General Assembly, meets once a year. Five commissions work on different subjects. It has a political education network (PEN), a « career guidance network ».

Seven and a half employees work full-time for the association in its headoffice in Chicago.

The remarkable actions of the ASDA are:

- publication of a « Delegate Handbook », which assembles all the documents important for the Delegates: constitution, functioning of the association, addresses, minutes, history of the association, various information,
- many advantages for the students: lower prices for dental material, mortgages, credit cards, car rental, stores;

### **B. French Association of Dental Students (UNECD):**

It groups all the 16 dental schools in France. One delegate of each school is part of the General Assembly.

Remarkable actions:

- agenda published in September distributed for free the 3.000 dental students in France, and guide of postgraduate studies in France;
- participation in the organisation of a skiing week for 1.000 Dental Students every winter;
- direct links with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education;
- advantages in a bank (free credit card, lower mortgages, ...) and insurance, lower prices for dental materials.

### **C. South African Association of Dental Students (SAADS):**

- This association is currently preparing with the government and the dental schools a compulsory community service for Dental Students.

### **D. Swiss Association of Dental Students (VZSS/ ASEMD)**

This association created in 1993 links the four Swiss Dental Schools and 240 Dental Students.

Remarkable fact:

- For two years, it has organised for Easter a campaign of information about the risk of sugar on the teeth. Funny drawings have been published for free in many Swiss newspapers, and a good answer was received from the people.

### **III. The « ideal » Dental Students' association:**

An ideal association does not exist. But you can always increase the quality of an existing organisation.

When we look at the previous tables, we see that the Dental Students' world is rather well organised. Most of the associations described work in the same three directions: representation, defence and formation of the students, services to the students, students' life. They are all democratic organisations.

#### **A. Democracy:**

A students' association has to be run by students. It has to be non-political to be able to represent all them.

It is very important to be fully democratic: elections (usually every year), every member must have the right to vote and to speak in the General Assemblies. The Executive Committee must always listen to the voice of its members, and take the decisions and solve the conflicts in a democratic way.

#### **B. Directions of work:**

The ideal association should work in the following three directions.

##### **1. Representation, defence and organisation of the students:**

###### **a) Representation:**

The association should have enough members in order to be the « voice of the students » within the schools and the professional organisations.

The association should work or have contacts with any organisation related with the Dental Students: education level, professional level, students life level.

For a local association, there must be contacts and representation with: the dental school (the dean, the committees, ...), the University, the professional local association and union, the local dental companies (dealers, insurances, ...), the local students associations (especially medical and pharmacy, plus the town association), the national association of dental students, ...

For a national association, there must be contacts and representation with: the national associations for dental education (Deans, dental schools, different education fields), the national professional

organisations and unions (Syndicates, dental association, public health association, ...), the governmental Ministries and Offices related to dental education (Health and Education), the national non-political associations of students, the continental association of dental students and the International Association of Dental Students).

On a continental and world level, the contacts should be of the same kind.

*b) Defence of the students:*

The word defence does not mean here that they have to fight, but they have to be aware of the problems of the students and have to solve them in the best way for the interest of the students.

In any project concerning the students, the representatives must be there with their proposals, their creativity and their power to balance the ideas of the other institutions. The students have to give their opinion about what they are doing. They have to prepare their meetings with the official bodies to have strong proposals.

*c) Organisation of the students:*

The responsible people in an association have to transmit their knowledge to the newcomers. For this, they have to organise training meetings and publications assembling the way the association works, as well as its environment. For example, how a decision is taken into the school, how to get subsidies, how to write an official letter, what has to be done in a peculiar case, ...

This has to be done early enough to preserve the continuity in the work of the association. The turnover is quick, and a team leaving without transmitting its knowledge can cause important problems in the association. The recruitment of responsible people has to be constant.

## **2. Services to the students:**

We list here some important activities:

- a) International exchanges: With the IADS on a world level.
- b) Scientific conferences and congresses: Once a year.
- c) Newsletter: If possible, provided for free to all the students.
- d) Cheaper dental material: By making a link between the students and the dental companies.
- e) Agreements with banks and insurance companies: To allow the students to have cheaper advantages.

### 3. Students life activities

a)Parties Parties on a local level, and social programme in the congresses. This is where we meet each other the best way !

b)Sports activities: Like for example the Scandinavians Odonto Games, the regattas, beach volley tournament, skiing weeks, ...

Finances of student associations:

The most difficult point.

- Fee: as it has to be low for the students, it does not bring much money to the association.
- Benefits out of parties and material sold.
- Subsidies: from the school, the Dental Association, the syndicates. As the students are the future of the dental world, they usually are willing to help the good projects.
- Sponsoring: difficult to get, especially in a period of economical crisis. The companies have to understand that a student will remember the material that he knows during his studies for all his professional life.

### IV. What does it bring to the people involved?

An association is a little world in itself.

Above the work done by the people involved, it is a good place to learn the human relations, to learn the social life, the « political » life, the professional and economical world, and to see different things from the activity in the dental school.

The freedom of creativity is very large in such an association. With a good idea, energy and motivation, it is possible to realise projects that were not expected. If the work is done strictly, then it has to work.

It is a non-professional work which brings a lot of satisfaction and memories for all your life, as long as you believe in it !