APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Who is eligible for assistance from the British Dental Association (BDA) Benevolent Fund?
The charity helps those that have been or are currently registered with the General Dental Council (GDC) as a dentist or a dentist at a UK dental school. We also help dependents of registered dentists i.e. spouse or children. Applicants must be living in the UK. You must have little in the way of income or savings and be unable to support yourself financially due to unexpected hardship, unemployment, illness, disability or because you are over state retirement age. For dental student applicants, we would have expected you.

Our remit doesn’t extend to helping other dental registrants (unless they are the dependent of a dentist). Further support can be found by using the search tool on the Turn2us website; https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/

The BDA Benevolent Fund is an independent charity and you do not need to be a member of the British Dental Association in order to receive support.

How do I get help from the BDA Benevolent Fund?
You have to complete and return a form, giving details about your circumstances and financial information such as income and expenditure. Please fill out the form to the best of your ability completing all the questions and submit this with copies of your bank statements covering the last three months.

If you are unsure about whether you are eligible for help or about some of the details we are asking please contact us on the above details for further advice.

What happens to my application form after it has been sent in?
After your form has been sent in (either electronically or as a hard copy in the post) it will be processed by the General Manager. A follow up phone call will be made to make you aware that the application has been received and if necessary, to go through some of the details.

All new applicants are visited by the General Manager and this is usually organised prior to your request is taken forward to the next Trustee meeting. Meetings are every other month (January, April, May, July, September and November) and the General Manager will inform you of the dates.

What happens if I can’t wait until the next meeting or need emergency help?
If you feel you need immediate help, please contact the office on the above contact number
and/or email address for advice. Applications can be decided upon quickly, depending upon circumstances and we wouldn’t keep anyone waiting for a decision longer than is necessary.

**What kind of help might I receive?**
The BDA Benevolent Fund will try to help you in the way that is deemed most suitable. This is usually in the form of a one-off or longer term grant. Occasionally we award interest free loans where it is deemed appropriate and help is needed for short term situations before returning to work. We can’t help with business costs, private health care, private school fees or legal fees. No two cases are the same and we aim to be flexible to determine assistance within our resources that helps to meet your needs.

**Is my application confidential?**
All the information noted in the application form is confidential. From time to time we may contact other relevant organisations or charities on your behalf. This is because we often like to work with other charities in order to be able to access the maximum amount of resources for your case. In some instances where we aren’t able to help, we may be aware of other organisations that are more relevant or better equipped to assist you. We expect other organisations to maintain the same level of confidentiality. We will not contact anyone without your permission. This won’t prejudice your application in any way.

For further information please visit our website - [www.bdabenevolentfund.org.uk](http://www.bdabenevolentfund.org.uk)