

International Member Information

2026/2027

Welcome

The Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) exists to 'champion boarding excellence and provide worldwide boarding support'.

Founded in 1966, the BSA is the world's largest provider of boarding support services. We represent more than 640 independent and state boarding schools in the UK and globally. BSA members directly provide outstanding care to more than 70,000 boarding students in the UK and thousands more in 41 other countries.

Our services include training boarding staff through webinars, one day seminars and the BSA Academy professional development pathway as well as through bespoke programmes both online and in person. We also offer advice, consultancy, newsletters, online forums, publications, jobs advertising, conferences and events. We look forward to you joining us soon.

Types of membership

The Boarding Schools' Association offers two types of membership to international schools:

Full international member

Full membership is available to schools outside the UK which have passed the BSA International Accreditation Scheme or are members of one of the BSA approved associations (HMC, IAPS, COBIS, CIS, BSO etc.).

Affiliate international member

Affiliate membership is available to schools outside the UK which are not in membership of one of our approved associations but wish to move to full BSA membership status. Affiliate membership is also available to schools which are planning to start or restart boarding. Affiliate members must start the BSA International Accreditation scheme within two years of joining the BSA, which leads to full international membership.

The BSA International Accreditation scheme is designed for boarding schools outside the UK seeking an internationally recognised mark of boarding quality assurance. The scheme, based on the English National Minimum Standards for boarding schools, is responsive to local needs and customs, and is available online.

For more details about our International Accreditation scheme, email Executive Director, Scotland/Wales and Accredited /Compliance, Dale Wilkins, via bsa@boarding.org.uk.

Becoming a BSA member

All applicants must complete the application form and return to BSA Head of Membership, via bsa@boarding.org.uk. All applications for membership are validated by Head of Membership, and then recommended to BSA Executive Committee for approval.

Full international membership application

Applicants will be required to sign an agreement to uphold the **BSA Commitment to Care Charter** and **either** submit their latest inspection documents from a BSA approved association **or** undertake a BSA International Accreditation visit.

Affiliate international membership application

Applicants will be required to sign an agreement to uphold the BSA Commitment to Care Charter and send documentation relating to the nature and ethos of their boarding for consideration by BSA. This information must include details of how the school safeguards and promotes the welfare of their boarders. Schools are required to apply for accreditation within two years of being accepted into affiliate membership. Schools will be accredited subject to a visit by a BSA approved inspector who will evaluate the boarding provision against a set of accreditation standards.

Benefits of BSA Membership

- **Free use of the BSA logo** according to membership status – an internationally-recognised mark of quality
- **Free BSA membership certificate** according to membership status
- **Free advice and guidance by phone, email or video call** on all matters relating to boarding (including inspection, guidelines, medical issues, building projects, staffing). Telephone +44 (0)207 798 1580 or email bsa@boarding.org.uk and one of our experts will help
- **Free media relations** with international placement of boarding stories. Crisis media advice available on request
- **Free online BSA forums** where you can discuss boarding issues with BSA experts and colleagues from around the world
- **Free weekly newsletter** (term time) including guidance on legislation and all the latest news on boarding
- **Free Boarding School magazine**
- **Discounted membership** for membership of our sister organisations
- **Free job board listing on BSA website** for full members (discounted price for affiliate members)
- **Free website listing**
- **Annual boarding awards' ceremony**
- **Free listing in the BSA Guide to Boarding**
- **Online and residential training** one-day and two-day conferences, training days, seminars and webinars covering all topics related to boarding. All offered at discounted rates to members
- **In-house BSA Consultancy services** on a wide range of topics, both online and in person, including best practice, policy reviews, starting a boarding school, developing boarding, marketing and recruitment. All offered at discounted rates to members
- **Bespoke staff training** on a wide range of topics, both online and in person, including safeguarding, essentials of boarding, training for Graduate Assistants, Boarding Staff, Heads of Boarding, Senior Managers
- **Centre for Boarding Education Research (CEBER)** brings together the best research into many different aspects of boarding. Our CEBER website page includes a wide variety of articles and research about boarding throughout the world
- **Publications** including textbooks and guidance documents covering a wide range of in-depth consideration of boarding topics
- **BSA Academy** professional development qualifications provide a clear pathway to ensure the highest standards in the boarding sector. Academy training may be accessed online or in person, at a day seminar, conference or accredited training course, from entry level up to Master's degree level.

For more information on BSA membership, please look at our website boarding.org.uk or email us via bsa@boarding.org.uk.

Membership subscription rates 2026/27 (prices shown in GBP)

Full international member
£1,200 annually

Affiliate international member
£600 annually

*International members are responsible for any bank fees associated with international payments.
Members who are VAT registered are required to declare this when they receive joining invoices from BSA.*

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50 Princes Street
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP1 1RJ
+44 (0)20 7798 1580
bsa@boarding.org.uk

boarding.org.uk