

Criteria and awarding of Difficult Airway Society Fellows 2025

1. General

- 1.1. The award of Difficult Airway Society Fellow (DAS Fellow) aims to recognise the contributions of DAS members to the field of airway management; acknowledge dedication to the Society; and promote continued contribution to DAS, airway management, and anaesthesia.
- 1.2. Fellows may use the designation 'DAS Fellow' as a postnominal.
- 1.3. The award of DAS Fellow is purely honorific, and conferred by acclamation of peers in the specialty. There are no emoluments. There is no implication that recipients should be employed by hospitals, universities or by any other body in any particular post or role by virtue of this award, or on any specific contract of employment.
- 1.4. There is no limit to the number of fellowships conferred annually
- 1.5. The award is open to any full member of the Society, resident in the UK or abroad, who is a member in good standing for >5 successive years before application.
- 1.6. The DAS Committee may choose to nominate any non-full member of the Society for
- 1.7. Current members of DAS Committee are ineligible to apply for the award but may apply any time following the end of their role as DAS Committee Members.

2. Criteria

- 2.1. The award of a Difficult Airway Fellow can be conferred in recognition of a member's national/international standing in the field of airway management as established by:
 - 2.1.1. Involved in educational, teaching or mentoring activities with commitment to advancing the specialty and subspecialty, with evidence of success.
 - 2.1.2. Contribution to innovation related to the specialty and subspecialty
 - 2.1.3. Successfully holding leadership positions related to airway management in their institution or region
 - 2.1.4. Conducted significant research and/or authorship of published works related to airway management (e.g. peer-reviewed publications; book chapters; books)
 - 2.1.5. Contribution to the Difficult Airway Society through Executive or wider Committee involvement

2.1.6. Contribution to a Local Organising Committee of a Difficult Airway Society Annual Scientific Meeting

2.1.7. Other contributions to the Society or the Specialty as deemed appropriate by the DAS Committee

3. Application

3.1. DAS will make a general announcement each year inviting applications, with a specified deadline.

3.2. DAS Committee may encourage individuals to invite an application.

3.3. Applicants will be required to:

- 3.3.1. Submit a letter of recommendation from two active DAS Members in good standing, neither of whom are applying in the same year, but who may or may not be current DAS Committee members, Difficult Airway Society Fellows, DAS Professors, or DAS Faculty of Professors.
- 3.3.2. Submit up-to-date curriculum vitae no longer than four pages in length
- 3.3.3. Submit a maximum 500-word supporting statement demonstrating how they meet the criteria for a Difficult Airway Society Fellow award; and
- 3.3.4. Submit all documentation required by the stated deadline.

4. Nomination

4.1. DAS Members in good standing may nominate other members who fulfil the criteria for Difficult Airway Society Fellow.

4.2. These proposers will be required to:

- 4.2.1. Submit a letter of recommendation from another active DAS Members in good standing, thus totalling two DAS Members supporting the nomination, none of whom are applying in the same year, but who may or may not be current DAS Committee members, Fellows of the Difficult Airway Society, DAS Professors, or DAS Faculty of Professors.
- 4.2.2. Submit a 500-word supporting statement demonstrating how the nominee meets the criteria for the Difficult Airway Society Fellow award; and
- 4.2.3. Submit all documentation required by the stated deadline.

5. Selection

- 5.1. The appointment process will be managed by the DAS Scientific Officer, who will present applications to the DAS Committee.
- 5.2. The DAS Committee will, after considering all the materials, make a recommendation and, if the recommendation is to make an award to the applicant, present this at the DAS Annual Members' Meeting.

6. Process and feedback

- 6.1. All applicants will be assessed by the DAS Committee.
- 6.2. Unsuccessful candidates will receive feedback which should indicate to them, in general terms: either
 - 6.2.1. Their application will likely be successful in future years with some continued effort and achievement; OR
 - 6.2.2. Their application will only be successful with significantly increased effort or achievement in specified domains; OR
 - 6.2.3. Re-application in the near future is unlikely to be successful on an estimate of the evidence provided.
- 6.3. The decision of the DAS Committee (and presented at the Annual Members Meeting or equivalent meeting) is final and there will be no appeals, except on grounds of process (e.g. failure to process an application or fraud).

7. Maintaining and reviewing awards

- 7.1. The title of Difficult Airway Society Fellow is held as long as the recipient maintains their DAS membership status.
- 7.2. If DAS membership lapses for one year or more, the Fellow will need to reapply to receive the designation again.
- 7.3. If the recipient retires from clinical practice (i.e. ceasing to hold a valid revalidation or licence to practice) or substantive academic post (e.g. on reaching the UK State Pension Age) whilst holding a Difficult Airway Society Fellow title, they will become Emeritus Difficult Airway Society Fellow. Thus a person who has already ceased clinical or academic practice defined in this way is ineligible to apply.

7.4. The title may be withdrawn from an individual by decision of the DAS Committee, if the holder brings the society or profession into disrepute. Examples of such actions would be: erasure from the General Medical Council register (or its nursing, ODP, or foreign equivalent); criminal conviction; scientific misconduct; failure to pay the relevant DAS subscription.