

*Jacqui Passmore, this year's ABST President rounds up the latest news and forthcoming opportunities coming up for bakery students. News includes the appointment of Dawn Foods' latest Student Ambassadors as well as information about forthcoming competitions and, of course, a look forward to the ABST annual conference in June.*

“This year is very special for ABST, as it's our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! A lot has changed for trainee bakers in 100 years but what has not changed is ABST's commitment to supporting you, whether you are a student or apprentice, taking the first steps to an exciting career in modern bakery.

“From competitions, awards, job opportunities, training and networking, there is something for everyone, so give it a go. You never know where things will lead.

“Time seems to go by quickly and we are already into competition season. The ABST Burger competition judging will take place at UCB on 15<sup>th</sup> February. Sponsored by C.H. Guenther and Son Ltd, it's a chance for students to get creative with burger recipe ideas (a staple of every student's diet perhaps!) with the chance to win cash prizes. There's still chance to enter!

“Students should also consider applying for the Worshipful Company of Bakers short summer course taking place at The Akademie of German Bakers in Weinheim, the central educational institution of the German Bakers Guild and the German Craft Bakers Association which is recognised as the premier School for Master Bakers in Germany. The course, for which bursaries are available, is open to students who have completed their course and have at least one year of work experience/work placement at a commercial bakery, or trainees who have the equivalent level of a workplace-based training course or apprenticeship, in the UK and Ireland only. The closing date for applications is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. For more information [Summer Short Course 2025 - Bakers Company](#)

“Three bakery students who have seized new opportunities are Dawn Foods' new Student Ambassadors. Dawn was delighted with the calibre of students who applied to the programme this year. Following submission of a presentation, the students were chosen for their commitment to the craft of baking, understanding of current trends and challenges in the industry, along with exciting ideas for new products and recipes.

“The Student Ambassadors 2025 are ABST member Jordan Young who is studying BSc Food Science at Nottingham Trent University, food science postgraduate Soraya Akbari, a bakery apprentice at Cardiff Metropolitan University's ZERO2FIVE Food Industry Centre and Sarah Farrow, also an ABST member and a final year BSc Bakery and Patisserie Technology student at University College Birmingham.

“Applications for 2026 will be open towards the end of the year and students are encouraged to enter as it is a terrific way to gain exposure in the wider bakery market as well as learning more about the bakery business.

“The 2024 ABST conference, held in June last year was a great success with 250 young bakery students and trainees attending for a fun-filled weekend of education and networking. As always, I am grateful to the many companies who supported the conference and ask that they do so again in 2025. Our centenary conference already promises to be a fantastic event and we are keen to hear from companies who would like to sponsor the event.

“Please do get in touch with me by email [jacqui.passmore@dawnfoods.com](mailto:jacqui.passmore@dawnfoods.com) if your company can support the ABST conference and showcase the opportunities in bakery to ABST members.

“Here’s to a fantastic 2025 for all ABST members and supporting organisations!

Best wishes

Jacqui Passmore