

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please accept this personal statement as an expression of interest in becoming a trustee of the British Dyslexia Association.

I am a BDA Professional member. In my personal life, I have a technology business, and I am married with a young daughter. My own dyslexia was diagnosed relatively late, but it represented a significant breakthrough in my life. This probably accounts for my interest in helping others with specific learning difficulties. Alongside working, I gained a Masters in Specific Learning Difficulties, which enabled me to achieve BDA Professional Membership and to be able to support those with dyslexia. I also have a specialism in Assistive Technology Training to support dyslexic students and those in the workplace. I have worked with the probation service, government bodies, access to work, students, employees and employers to create a better life for those experiencing difficulties in education, work, and life in general.

Having my own business allows me the flexibility to pursue other interests. For example, I have previously volunteered for various projects with BDA, including offering free support during DAWs. I played an active role in supporting the London Adult Dyslexic Entrepreneurial Group and helping individuals to apply for access to Work support. I worked for a considerable time as a BDA Helpliner, offering a wide range of telephone and email support to parents, adults, teachers and other professionals. Separately I provided training sessions for the BDA Helpliners with technology strategies for day-to-day living for children and adults.

I am currently a Trustee of the London Dyslexia Association, and I have served as a Trustee of GroOops (which supports those with mental health and specific learning difficulties). I am also a member of the BDA's New Technology Committee.

I feel that with my knowledge and experience now, I could represent a valuable asset for the BDA Board of Trustees to support the organisation as it moves forward.

Enrico Riva