

## ODHA STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROFILE – ADAM ABUELGASSIM

**SCHOOL:** Fanshawe College



### **What made you want to become a dental hygienist?**

My path to dental hygiene wasn't something I always had planned - it developed through my interest in health and working with people. Ever since I was younger, I was really interested in prevention and how small, consistent habits can impact long term health. Dental hygiene stood out because it's one of the few professions where you get to see that impact regularly, whether it's helping someone manage disease, reduce pain, or simply feel more confident in their smile. What really confirmed it for me was the human side of the profession, being able to connect with people, build trust, and play a role in their overall well-being, not just their oral health.

### **What type of practice setting do you hope to work in?**

As I start my career, I'm excited to work in a general practice setting where I can continue developing my clinical skills and confidence. Throughout my training, I've had the opportunity to work with a wide range of clients from children in primary schools to older adults in long term care and that experience really shaped how I approach care. I've become especially interested in working with populations who face barriers to accessing care, as well as exploring opportunities in orthodontic settings. Long term, I could see myself stepping into an educational or mentorship role within the dental hygiene field, helping support future students as they go through the same journey.

### **How will you celebrate your graduation?**

I'm planning to celebrate with the people who supported me throughout the program: my family, friends, and classmates. It's been a demanding few years, so I'm really looking forward to taking a step back, enjoying the moment, and reflecting on everything it took to get here. Celebrating alongside my classmates will be especially meaningful, since we've all gone through the same challenges and growth together.

### **What do you think dental hygiene students should know about their free student membership?**

I think a lot of students don't realize how valuable their ODHA membership actually is until they're about to graduate. It's not just something you sign up for, it's a support system as you transition into practice. From professional liability insurance to career resources and advocacy, ODHA plays a big role in helping new graduates feel more prepared and supported. Getting involved early, even in small ways, can make a big difference in feeling connected to the profession and confident moving forward.

For more information on the ODHA student ambassador program, visit  
<https://odha.on.ca/students/student-ambassador-program/>

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