

ODHA STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROFILE – HAWI DHUGASSA

SCHOOL: Georgian College



What made you want to become a dental hygienist?

I grew up in a country where access to oral care was limited and oral hygiene education was almost nonexistent. Seeing how much preventable oral health issues affected people's confidence, comfort, and overall health really stayed with me. It inspired me to pursue a profession where I could educate, support, and empower individuals through preventive care - something I wish more people had access to growing up. Becoming a dental hygienist felt like the perfect way to combine compassion, education, and hands-on care.

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

Right now, I'm excited to explore different practice settings by working part-time in a variety of offices. I want to get a feel for different environments, client populations, and team dynamics before deciding where I fit best in the long term. So far, I'm especially drawn to periodontics and orthodontics. I love the idea of working more closely with periodontal health and long-term treatment outcomes, and orthodontics appeals to me because of the blend of precision, transformation, and client confidence-building. I'm looking forward to gaining experience in both specialties as I settle into my career.

How will you celebrate your graduation?

I plan to celebrate with my family and close friends. They've been such a big part of my journey. A nice dinner, vacation, some photos, and just enjoying the moment together feels like the perfect way to mark this milestone.

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

I think students should know that ODHA is more than just a professional association, it's a support system that follows you from school into practice. The membership gives you access to tools and resources that help you feel confident and informed, especially during the transition from student to clinician.

What stands out to me most is how accessible the guidance is. Whether it's navigating insurance, understanding professional requirements, or simply needing direction on next steps, ODHA makes you feel like you're not doing it alone. The ongoing education, advocacy, and readiness to assist students genuinely make a difference, and I think many students don't realize just how much is available to them until they start using it.

For more information on the ODHA student ambassador program, visit

<https://odha.on.ca/students/student-ambassador-program/>
