International Cheese & Dairy Awards and the Society of Dairy Technology announce:

The Dairy Industry Student of the Year Award

This award recognises the efforts of students carrying out a dairy related project, promoting their talent to a wide audience. The work of the winning individual will be communicated to a global audience, showcasing their achievement. The award will be presented at the prestigious trade lunch on the first day of the International Cheese & Dairy Awards.

The award is open to any student studying a food science and technology course in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. Courses may be vocational qualifications, diploma, degree and so on. There is **no age restriction** to applicants; however the student must be undertaking a dairy project or be employed within the dairy industry.

How to register for the award:
Complete the application form attached to register your entry and email it to execdirector@sdt.org **Registration must be received by April 10th 2026.**
The full submission (as detailed below) does not need to be received until May 22nd 2026.

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Requirements for judging (required May 22nd):

1. **A confidential, comprehensive report** of either a dairy related project or work placement experience should be submitted for judging. This should be no more than 2000 words.
2. In addition to the detailed report submit a **summary**, of no more than 300 words, of the study or work undertaken. The summary could be in the form of a poster or a written summary.
3. Include a brief **biography** of yourself, your course of study and your experience within the industry.

Judging criteria

	% of mark
Potential impact to the dairy company (if student employed in the industry) and the dairy industry. Clearly defined in report to ensure this requirement is covered.	20
Clearly stated return on investment (financial) to the individual dairy company and/or the dairy industry. Where ROI is not clearly established there must be clear reference to the commercial benefits to the site/industry.	20
Scientific content and method of study demonstrating evaluation of research. It is important to show analysis of data.	40
Background of the individual showing professional journey, including education and experience to date. It is important to demonstrate ownership of project.	20

ALL submissions must be electronically submitted in both PDF and Word formats and NOT as a hard copy. It should be emailed to execdirector@sdt.org by May 22nd and judging will take place in late May/early June.

Judging will be undertaken by a panel of 4 industry experts, 2 from the Society of Dairy Technology and 2 from the International Cheese & Dairy Awards Committee. The winner (& guest) will be invited to attend the SDT

Annual Dinner on 24th June 2026 where the award will be made. A prize of £100 (John Lewis voucher), a Tetra Pak Dairy Handbook and a trophy will be awarded to the winner.

Further Notes

The Report should be of similar layout to a final year dissertation (or similar) with an Introduction, Literature review, Method, Results, Discussion and Conclusion. References should be included after the conclusion (typical reference styles: Harvard, APA setc) and any appendices to support the document at the end. Text in the References , Appendices and Tables will not be included in the word count. As a summary is to be submitted separately this is not required to be included at the beginning of the report.

Application form

Name:	Email:
Company:	
Address:	
Course of study:	Institution of study:

Brief description of experience in the dairy industry and your professional journey (This constitutes 10% marks)

Brief outline of the project undertaken (max 100 words)

Signature:	Date:
Signature of supervisor/mentor:	Date:

Please email this application form to: execdirector@sdt.org