

## Rebecca Kwo – Foyle Scholarship

Like most people who subject themselves to the demands of pilot training, I have had a longstanding love and interest in aviation. Moving from being a part of air cadet gliding and flying, through university and into the professional world, I realised that the 'flying bug' — a euphemistic term for the all-consuming call of the cockpit and the sky — is not something that's easily relinquished, and so applied for the PPL scholarship to take my flying ambitions to the next level. It was a great experience to attend the interview and explain my plans to become a pilot, and I was beyond thrilled to be successful.



I trained at Aeros at Gloucester Airport, and had simply one of the best summers of my life. The highlight (just one of many) for me of my PPL training was my first solo landaway to another airfield; Halfpenny Green. Being at an early stage in my navigational experience I was secretly worried I'd never find the airfield; telling the FISO that I was inbound with the field in sight was quite

a relief! A lot of people rate their first solo as their most memorable experience — and mine was a fantastic flight — but for me my first solo landaway was truly profound. Taking an aircraft on my own from one place to another in an exercise using all the skills and knowledge I had learnt felt spectacular; the very essence of aviation. If I'd had any doubts about my 'destiny', they vanished during that flight and I couldn't stop grinning while paying my landing fee. Equally my qualifying cross country flight was a uniquely special day of solo flying.



I also enjoyed the academic aspects of the PPL course, learning about engines, physics, air law and much more besides. I certainly have a new perspective on the weather; not just understanding how air and water work to form the weather, but being subject to its unpredictable nature was a great lesson in flexibility and patience! A memorable moment of my training was being "stranded" at Cardiff during a solo landaway after the student crosswind limit at my home base was exceeded. I was eventually rescued by my instructor who flew back with me, and allowed me to do the landing in a strong crosswind, which was very valuable experience.

I have been fortunate enough to have made great friends and met inspirational people in the world of aviation, and I understand that it is one that relies on passion and people as much as anything else to flourish and advance. I would like to thank the staff at Aeros (Steve R, Kev, Steve W, Matt, Jules, Liv) and the controllers of Gloucester Tower for their hard work, support and friendship throughout my training. I am immensely grateful and would to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support of the Honorable Company of Air Pilots and Christopher Foyle to myself and other pilots beginning their careers. I cannot wait to continue with my training and become a professional pilot, which this scholarship is the first step towards. Having gained my PPL I'm also looking forward to sharing the experience of flight, which means so very much to me, with my friends and family.

### **Video**

A link to my cardiff landaway is here: if you would like a copy I can arrange a download link. <https://vimeo.com/175459266>

