

Ishaq Mullazada - Gliding Scholarship 2016 report

During my gap year after finishing my A-levels, all I wanted was an opportunity to fly and gain more experience in aviation. I first heard about the gliding scholarship through my brother who has always supported my passion of flying.

Having looked at scholarship deadline date I knew I had exactly two days to send my application. After I applied for the Scholarship I impatiently waited for the outcome. On 31st March I received an email to confirm my place for an interview at the Headquarter of The Honourable Company Of Air Pilots. The interview itself was a completely different challenge; a few weeks later I learnt of the



exciting news that I had succeeded in my scholarship application. At this moment I could see myself a step closer to flying.



I was informed that my Gliding Scholarship would be in Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club. I was so excited to fly in a place with a landscape as beautiful as Portsmouth. To capture my experience I decided to buy a GoPro set, to record all of my flights and so that I could look back, take on board instructors' feedback and improve each flight.

During my time in PNGC, I had the opportunity to meet incredible pilots and instructors. This was a great time for our team of four who were selected for the scholarship to learn more about the aviation world. One of those pilots was Phil Shaw, whom I was grateful to meet. I had the chance to fly with Phil in a Tiger Moth and received great advice for my future career plan in the aviation industry.



Throughout the course I have learnt a lot from pre-flight checks including positive checks to maneuvering the glider, stalling, trimming the glider for certain speeds and circuit for landing. By the end of the week, I had gained the ability to take control of the whole flight including staying behind the tow-plane while keeping the same angle of bank, releasing the rope, carrying smooth turns, starting the circuit by looking at the reference point and landing.

In conclusion, the experiences I have gained during a week in Portsmouth have been undeniably unforgettable and invaluable. This unique opportunity, has given me a platform to start my aviation journey. I would like to thank the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for giving me this once in a lifetime opportunity. I am grateful for the Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club and the volunteers who have guided our team through the week.

