

HCAP/RAFCT Gliding Scholarship Report

Paa Kwesi Boateng | August 2025

In 2023, I experienced my first ever glider flight with the RAF Air Cadets - and instantly knew it was something I would like to explore further in the future. In May this year, I was grateful to hear that I had been awarded a place on the Honourable Company of Air Pilots' Gliding Scholarship, following their thorough application process.



For months leading up to the course, I was eagerly looking forward to it. Finally, during August, I had the pleasure of spending a week with the Portsmouth Naval Gliding Centre. The course started off on a Sunday afternoon, where we engaged in some icebreakers, talks, and had dinner as a group for the first time.



From Monday morning onwards, it was straight to business. We made our way to Middle Wallop airfield, and I had my first few flights in the Schleicher ASK 21. As the day progressed, my instructor introduced me to the fundamental principles of glider flight. I did a lot of learning on Monday, and this only got more and more as the week progressed. We explored different concepts such as adverse yaw, speed control, stalls, circuit planning and lots more. My instructors were really keen on maximising the amount of flights I was able to get, which made the experience as useful as it could be. With each flight, I could feel myself growing in confidence as I handled the glider!

I was also lucky enough to experience a flight in the Grob G 109 (below), which was a relaxing experience with lots of great views!



Unfortunately, as all things do, this week came to an end after what felt like a quick, yet packed, few days. It was impressive to see how a group of 15 individuals could bond so quickly (and so well!), sharing so much fun together. Once again, I would like to extend my gratitude to the HCAP and RAFCT for making this all possible, and to PNGC and their wonderful instructors, who were super kind, patient and fun to work with. Under their instruction, this week was beyond enjoyable and I was able to create so many invaluable memories. To anyone reading, I would certainly recommend putting an application through, regardless of the career path you are interested in!