

The Foyle Scholarship 2018

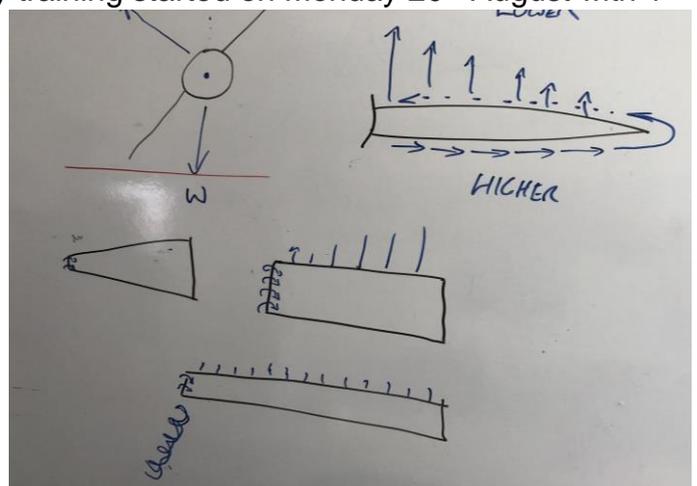
My passion for aviation started at a very young age, and like many, one of my first ever flights was in the Royal Air Force Air Cadets. Once I got the 'bug', there was no looking back.

My motivation for wanting to become an instructor was after completing my Commercial Pilots Licence and hour building out in Phoenix, Arizona back in 2016. After that experience, my next focus was always going to be attempting to obtain my Flight Instructor Rating. Having obtained a 12 hour flying scholarship in 2015 towards my PPL (A) with RAFA, I knew there were organisations out there offering these fantastic opportunities, and I applied for the FI (R) rating in February 2018. In April I was informed I had been short listed and invited to London for an interview on 16th May 2018. This started with a presentation of my choice, then followed by some technical questions and then questions regarding my motivations and future plans by the panel of 3 interviewers. The day after, coincidentally my 22nd birthday, I had found out my application and interview was successful pending the completion of the FIC pre-entry flight test – to which I couldn't have asked for a better birthday present.



After a few weeks with my head in the theory books, it was surprising how much very basic knowledge I had forgotten since completing my PPL, and in late summer 2018, I managed to book 3 consecutive weeks off my full-time job at Stansted Airport, and began the FI course at Andrewsfield Aviation. Choosing Andrewsfield was an easy decision after meeting with Carol Cooper (CFI) and Mike Rowland (Airfield Manager) prior to my interview, and if you are unsure where to go for the

FIC, I couldn't recommend Andrewsfield enough. My training started on Monday 20th August with 1 of 2 of my instructors - Paul Slater – a previous winner of a FI scholarship. We had a long chat about the content of the course and some foundation theory knowledge, and without any hesitation, we started our first lesson together. It began with him showing me the standard preflight brief for the first lesson – Effects of the controls part 1, then we went out and flew it. It was flown with us both taking turns as student and instructor, bringing out the relevant teaching points, whilst giving me practise in actually flying that exercise, something I hadn't done since I completed my PPL. As the course went on, as did the exercises, to a point in



the second week where I would give my first lesson back to my instructor, who was pretending to be a student for the whole duration of the flight. As the course went on, almost all PPL exercises were covered in preparation for the flight test, which could include any of them. I tested on 22nd September after a weather related cancelation the week before, and it contained no surprises at all. I can only say that was purely down to the high level of standardised training from both Carol and Paul.



In general, the course itself was very interesting, informative and enjoyable. Initially, getting used to flying the C-152 was my initial worry, as most of my training beforehand was completed in single and multi-engined Piper aircraft, but after a few flights it became very familiar. The course was fantastic for renewing the basic theoretical knowledge required for PPL students, especially if it has been some time since you had completed your exams. And it also allowed me to do spinning, which was a great experience, especially as I hadn't done it before prior to the course, and now I feel confident in remaining calm and recovering from the manoeuvre.

If you are reading this, considering if you should apply for the scholarship, I couldn't recommend it enough. Not only has it helped me out beyond belief financially, it has developed me as a pilot in ways I didn't think were possible. I would like to thank the Honourable Company in giving me this fantastic opportunity and I look forward to the rewarding role of teaching aviators first few steps in what can only be described as the best industry around the world!

Daniel Dedman
October 2018