

Gavin O Dwyer  
Air Pilots' Flying Club Scholarship 2018

This summer I was lucky enough to have received a Gliding Scholarships from the Honourable Company of Air Pilots at Derbyshire & Lancashire Gliding Club this summer. The scholarship consisted of 5 days flying with full board. I was interested to apply for the scholarship after it was advertised on the Pilot Careers News website. I was delighted to receive the scholarship as I had never had the chance to experience gliding before in Ireland. I always had a passion for aviation since a young age and have started to pursue this passion as a career.



The Scholarship began with my flight from Cork airport, Ireland on a Sunday morning and arriving at Manchester. I boarded the train to Hathersage and was accommodated instantly with a lift to the Gliding Club from a member.

We met our two instructors Peter Gray and Alan Jolly and were shown around the airfield. The next morning,

after breakfast we were briefed on the basics of flight before we set off for our first flight of the week.

We learned about the physics behind flight, the glider and other elements that are vital to the operation of the glider. Once we had mastered the theory it was time to put it into practice. My first winch launch was an experience that is hard to put into words. The acceleration pushes you into your seat as you zip into the sky quicker than anything I have ever experienced before. Throughout the week we improved on our skills and by the end of the week had successfully practised many manoeuvres necessary for glider flight.

I am forever grateful for the opportunity that I received from both The Honourable Company of Air Pilots and the Derbyshire & Lancashire Gliding Club. I have since commenced my College Course of Aviation Management with Pilot Studies in Dublin City University and will forever remember the skills that I learned from the Scholarship.

