

Viya Shah

HCAP Gliding Scholarship 2026

Taking part in a week-long gliding scholarship with the Honourable Company of Air Pilots was an incredible experience that allowed me to spend a full week immersed in aviation. Throughout the scholarship, I flew several times a day, giving me plenty of time in the air and the opportunity to become increasingly comfortable inside a glider.

Each day involved much more than just flying. I took part in preparing the gliders, carrying out pre-flight checks, helping with ground handling and using radio communication. I was able to experience the full process of gliding, from getting the aircraft ready on the ground to launching, flying and returning safely after each flight.



As the week progressed, I was given more involvement in controlling the glider and experienced how different weather and flying conditions affected each flight. I spent a lot of time around the airfield alongside the instructors and other scholars, so even when I wasn't in the air, I was constantly surrounded by aviation. I also became incredibly close with the other scholars, which made sharing the whole experience even more memorable.

Overall, the scholarship was one of the most enjoyable aviation experiences I have had. Being able to spend an entire week flying, working around gliders and experiencing life at an airfield gave me a much more realistic insight into flying than I had previously had. It was an unforgettable week and made me even more excited to continue gaining flying experience in the future.

