

Callan Dos Santos

HCAP Gliding scholarship – London Gliding Club

Firstly I would like to thank both the Honourable Company of Air Pilots as well as London Gliding club for granting me the ability to take part in this amazing opportunity.

The HCAP gliding scholarship is by far one of my greatest achievements yet. This week of exhilarating experiences and building new friendships was phenomenal.



The week started off on a sunny Monday morning where myself as well as the other 7 scholars all arrived in the meeting room for a brief of the week. We all started off as strangers, however this was to change very quickly into unforgettable friendships. Within the first day the instructors were super welcoming and friendly and did not hold back with getting us stuck into the gliding experience.

Within the first hour we were already pulling gliders out of the hanger and learning new skills on how to carry out daily inspections of the gliders and ensure that they are fit to fly for the day on top of getting out all of the necessary equipment we may need. After a short driving lesson on the buggies that would tow the gliders, we were up and away.



Working together with my new friends we quickly were eager to get to know each other as we began to fly. We quickly realised we were all a part of the Air Cadets and had similarities as well as differences.

As the week progressed we were able to improve our flying skills, going from almost no experience to completing virtual solos where we were able to perform the entire flight, from take off to landing! The instructors were incredible in identifying where they could help you progress and ensuring you were learning well.

This experience has further led me to work towards obtaining my SPL with the London Gliding club. It has truly shown me the pathway for young people to get into gliding and understand the industry.

My advice to anyone who is debating on applying for the scholarship is to do it without hesitation! You will not regret it. As daunting as it may be, it will be well worth your time and commitment.

Again, I would really like to thank HCAP for giving me this opportunity and creating my pathway into the aviation world. I would also like to thank the London gliding club for their amazing hospitality and delivering this course

to me. Lastly, I would like to thank my instructors and peers for turning this week into an unforgettable experience.

Thank you very much,

Callan Dos Santos