

In 2025, I attended numerous events, applied for work experience opportunities and expanded my network in order to gain more information about scholarships.

In 2026, I received exciting news that I had been awarded The Honourable Company of Air Pilots 2026 Gliding Scholarship. Here's how I tackled such a challenging process:

With the written application process:

- I reached out to previous scholars, listened to their stories, and learnt how to make myself stand out
- I made sure to write in a formal manner
- I explained how this scholarship would allow me to develop both my soft and hard skills

With the interview stage, I made sure that I:

- Prepared in advance using flashcards that I could easily link to any questions the interviewers could ask
- Made sure my evidence and examples followed the STAR technique, while also linking them to the 9 Pilot Core Competencies.
- Smiled and maintained eye contact with the interviewers
- Used hand gestures to communicate effectively

I completed my scholarship at Midlands Gliding Club, where I had Sam as my instructor. I never thought I would be able to land a glider by the end of the week. I'm proud to say that, on my last flight, I got my ghosted solo signed off in my logbook!



I completed my first ghosted solo landing, which took place on the last day of the course. Unfortunately, I don't have a video of my first assisted solo, which I completed on only the second day of the course!



I completed my first assisted winch launch, which also took place on the last day of the course, as the weather conditions were not suitable on the previous days.

Lastly, I successfully completing my first full ghosted solo flight. This involved performing the entire winch launch myself, keeping the wings level, planning my circuit, banking at the correct moments, and landing with one hand on the stick and the other on the air brakes - all without my instructor guiding me on what to do.

I always thought that powered flight was the only part of aviation for me. However, I'm glad to say that I will be continuing my journey in gliding, with the hopes of one day becoming a cross-country glider pilot.

One more important thing that I will cherish is, the people that I have met on this course. They filled the experience with passion, humour, and unforgettable memories.



A massive thank you to The Honourable Company of Air Pilots and Midland Gliding Club Limited for supporting the younger generation and helping us fulfil our dreams. I would also like to thank Virgin Atlantic for sponsoring me.

