

## Elise Hammond

### Air BP Sterling PPL Scholarship 2022



In April this year, I was incredibly fortunate to be awarded the Air bp Stirling Scholarship by The Honourable Company of Air Pilots. At the time I had no idea just how incredible the summer ahead was going to be!

I already had 12 hours of flying experience from a previous scholarship with the Air Cadets, so the first few hours of training were focused on getting to know the local training area, the Cessna 152 and brushing up on the skills that I already had. After a further few hours in the circuit, I was ready to go solo! Being in sole control of an aircraft for the first time was really exciting but also terrifying at the same time! After some solo consolidation, I began the navigation part of the training, this added an extra layer of complexity to the flying I had already been doing, but I always felt a sense of

achievement when I reached my intended destination. My qualifying cross country was my favourite part of the PPL training, it was a challenging few flights, but it was the best feeling to know that I had successfully made it to two different airfields by myself! My route took me from Blackbushe to Turweston to Lee-On-Solent and then back to Blackbushe – taking in the incredible views of the Chiltern Hills, south coast and South Downs National Park.

The final part of my PPL was the skills test, by this point I had completed over 45 hours of flying time, 9 theory exams and my RT practical exam. I enjoyed the flight and was very relieved when my examiner told me I had passed! It was so rewarding to see all my hard work pay off, and finally achieve my PPL!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Air BP and the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for affording me such an incredible opportunity and helping me to take the first step towards becoming a commercial pilot. I would also like to thank everyone at Blackbushe Aviation for their support and brilliant instruction over the last few months! I still can't believe that I can call myself a qualified private pilot and am really looking forward to building on the skills I have learned this summer and enjoying the many hours of flying ahead!

