

# Cadogan PPL Scholarship 2022

## Zak Wolfson

Looking through an old photo album recently, I stumbled across a picture my parents took of me at three years old watching the planes at Elstree Aerodrome. Since then, I have regularly visited the airfield on a Sunday afternoon, but never for a minute did I ever think I'd end up being one of those pilots that waved back!



I had first applied for an HCAP PPL scholarship in 2020, but the pandemic meant the scholarships were cancelled and I was unsuccessful the following year too. Undeterred, I reapplied this year and I was absolutely delighted to make it through to the interview stage. I was overjoyed to hear in the week after the interview that I'd been selected as one of the scholars for 2022; my dream of a PPL was finally becoming a reality!

After my last university exam for the year, I went to the flight school, Flight Training London based at Elstree Aerodrome, to collect my equipment and I got straight into studying for the 9 theory exams. Having done nearly 3 hours of flying in the 2 years before the scholarship, I was familiar with some of the basics and my first lesson on the course was a refresher of what I'd covered. Being north of London we enjoyed great views south towards the city.



The thought of solo flight seemed initially daunting but before I knew it, I'd got the hang of the radio, the weather was great, and I was sent solo for the first time. Lifting off and seeing the empty seat next to me was a completely unforgettable experience that will stay with me forever!

Thankfully, the weather stayed dry almost the entire summer, meaning that I could fly nearly every day. The navigation part of the course was great fun; flying over Silverstone shortly after the British Grand Prix and over the Thames estuary to Rochester were personal favourites.

After completing all the theory and the radio examinations, I could look forward to really enjoying the solo navigation course. My qualifying cross-country took in Leicester and Duxford, and landing amongst all the historic aircraft there was truly incredible.

After that, all that remained was to get skills-test ready. With one revision flight and a mock test pass under my belt, I felt ready but still felt some nerves! However, after almost two and a half hours in the air, he gave me the news in the debrief that I had passed!



Going forward, I have been working part time to keep the flying going after the scholarship and once I graduate university, I hope to enrol on an airline cadetship to take me onwards and upwards. I owe a huge amount of gratitude to The Honourable Company of Air Pilots and the Cadogan Scholarship for giving me both the summer of a lifetime and the first step in what I hope will be a long and enjoyable career in the world of commercial aviation.