

# WHERE TO APPLY

## guide



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# WHERE TO APPLY *guide*

All the courses and opportunities listed in FTN's 2025 Where To Apply Guide (WTAG) offer some form of financial assistance to aspiring pilots or aviation professionals. There are subtle differences between the different types of scholarships, sponsorships and bursaries, some of which are explained in more detail below.

## Scholarships & Sponsorships WHERE TO APPLY QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE 2025

	Fixed Wing Basic	Fixed Wing Advanced	Helicopter	Gliding	Airports	Air Experience	
ACS Flight Training	•						<a href="http://www.acsflighttraining.co.uk/information/acs-scholarship">www.acsflighttraining.co.uk/information/acs-scholarship</a>
Aerobility	•					•	<a href="http://www.aerobility.com/scholarships">www.aerobility.com/scholarships</a>
Air Cadets	•	•	•	•	•	•	<a href="http://www.aircadets.org">www.aircadets.org</a>
Air League	•	•		•			<a href="http://www.airleague.co.uk">www.airleague.co.uk</a>
BGGC				•			<a href="http://www.bggc.co.uk">www.bggc.co.uk</a>
BGA				•			<a href="http://www.members.gliding.co.uk/junior-gliding/junior-events/">www.members.gliding.co.uk/junior-gliding/junior-events/</a>
BMAA					•		<a href="http://www.bmaa.org">www.bmaa.org</a>
BWPA	•	•	•	•	•	•	<a href="http://www.bwpa.co.uk/scholarships/">www.bwpa.co.uk/scholarships/</a>
Fantasy Wings	•	•					<a href="http://www.fantasywings.co.uk">www.fantasywings.co.uk</a>
Fly2Help						•	<a href="http://www.fly2help.org">www.fly2help.org</a>
FSDP	•					•	<a href="http://www.fsdp.co.uk/scholarships/">www.fsdp.co.uk/scholarships/</a>
Girls Venture Corps	•			•		•	<a href="http://www.gvcac.org.uk">www.gvcac.org.uk</a>
Rob Wildeboer	•						<a href="http://www.goodwood.com">www.goodwood.com</a>
Sir Geoffrey de Havilland		•					<a href="http://www.coachmakers.co.uk/sir-geoffrey-de-havilland-flying-scholarship/">www.coachmakers.co.uk/sir-geoffrey-de-havilland-flying-scholarship/</a>
Helicentre Aviation			•				<a href="http://www.flyheli.co.uk">www.flyheli.co.uk</a>
Honourable Company of Air Pilots	•	•		•			<a href="http://www.airpilots.org">www.airpilots.org</a>
Helping Wings Jersey						•	<a href="http://www.helpingwingsjersey.org/">www.helpingwingsjersey.org/</a>
Liz Inwood		•					<a href="http://www.vintageaircraftclub.org.uk">www.vintageaircraftclub.org.uk</a>
Launchpoint				•			<a href="http://www.gliding.co.uk">www.gliding.co.uk</a>
LAA	•	•					<a href="http://www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk">www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk</a>
Royal Aero Club Trust	•	•	•	•	•	•	<a href="http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries">www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries</a>
Royal Aeronautical Society	•						<a href="http://www.aerosociety.com">www.aerosociety.com</a>
RAF Sport Aircraft	•					•	<a href="http://www.rafa.org.uk">www.rafa.org.uk</a>
Royal Navy				•			<a href="http://www.fleetairarm.org/faaoa-gliding-aviation-scholarships">www.fleetairarm.org/faaoa-gliding-aviation-scholarships</a>
The Take Off Scholarship	•						<a href="http://www.take-off.org.uk/scholarships/">www.take-off.org.uk/scholarships/</a>
University Air Squadron	•					•	<a href="http://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/university-air-squadrons/">www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/university-air-squadrons/</a>
YES Flyers						•	<a href="http://www.yesflyers.org.uk/">www.yesflyers.org.uk/</a>
The Take Off Scholarship	•						<a href="http://www.take-off.org.uk/scholarships/">www.take-off.org.uk/scholarships/</a>
University Air Squadron	•						<a href="http://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/university-air-squadrons/">www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/university-air-squadrons/</a>
YES Flyers						•	<a href="http://www.yesflyers.org.uk/">www.yesflyers.org.uk/</a>

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## Scholarships and Sponsorships

Cadet pilots awarded scholarships or sponsorships (or bursaries) aren't employed by the sponsoring individual or organisation while they train but they are financially assisted, with either a part or all their training paid for.

The distinction between the two is often confused – indeed some schemes currently named as scholarships would be more accurately defined as sponsorships, and vice versa. For the purposes of this WTAG, a scholarship is a training grant provided by an individual or organisation (often an educational institution or charity) that has no commercial vested interest, while a sponsorship is more often provided by a person or company that wishes to employ the individual on completion of training or have them join the organisation in some capacity.

## Bursaries

Bursaries can fall into either of the above categories, being granted by either employers or non-commercial enterprises. The key distinction between a bursary and a scholarship / sponsorship

is that bursaries only provide a part of the funding required to complete a training course.

Additionally, bursaries are often awarded to assist a cadet with living costs while they train, rather than covering their direct training costs, and can be used in conjunction with scholarships and sponsorships.

## Basis for Inclusion

Much of the flying or experience opportunities listed in the WTAG are offered on an entirely charitable basis, with no obligation on the part of those receiving an award to repay all or any of the training costs. On this basis, purely commercial arrangements (such as extended loans and other payback schemes) are not detailed in the main listing of the WTAG as they are very different to the awards which are intended mainly to introduce more people to flying, or to aid existing pilots to further their flying skills, knowledge and qualifications. There is a separate section in this guide listing some of the commercial 'sponsorship' arrangements which are available at the time of publication.

In general, the awards listed in the WTAG are offered by organisations whose primary goals are to promote aviation at all levels, increase participation in the flying world, and help those who might otherwise lack the resources to achieve a particular experience or qualification.

## The Small Print

The WTAG is produced by Flight Training News to promote increased participation and social diversity in all levels of aviation. It is based on independent research and no organisation pays to have its details listed in the WTAG.

The information contained in the WTAG is published in good faith. The publishers take no responsibility for the accuracy or veracity of the data in the guide; any potential candidate is strongly advised to make independent enquiries before applying for or accepting any scheme or award. The inclusion of an organisation or scheme in the WTAG does not infer any recommendation or endorsement by FTN or any associated organisation.

## ACS Aviation 2024 Flying Scholarship



Scottish commercial pilot training academy ACS Aviation is continuing its flying scholarship scheme in 2025 and has recently opened applications.

This year, ACS is offering two scholarships to individuals wishing to pursue pilot careers. The scholarships provide eight

hours of training in one of ACS' modern Tecnam P-Mentor aircraft, under a structured training programme, counting towards their PPLs. Scholars will also be given 12 month's membership at ACS and awarded a Bose A30 headset. The combined value of each scholarship is over £4,000.

Commenting on the scholarships, ACS director Louise Ewart said: "We are thrilled to be running the scholarship awards for a 6th consecutive year! These help young men and woman take important steps toward reaching their aviation goals. A special thanks also to our training partners and sponsors for supporting us with Scotland's Pilot Careers and Flight Training Seminar – 2025."

Applicants are asked to submit a written statement to ACS, informing the school in under 300 words why they feel they should be awarded the scholarship.

The deadline for applications is 14 March 2025 and those applying must have the right to live/work in the UK, be at least 17 years old by the application deadline, and be available to undertake training between 01 April and 31 August this year. Applicants must also be able to attend ACS' annual careers seminar, which is being held on 22 March 2025 at the Holiday Inn at Gatwick Airport, where the scholarship winners will be announced.

ACS adds that scholarships will be offered to applicants that can demonstrate a passion for aviation and learning to fly with ACS Aviation, and who manage to attract a large response on social media with their aviation videos or pictures.

[www.acsflighttraining.co.uk/information/acs-scholarship](http://www.acsflighttraining.co.uk/information/acs-scholarship)



## Aerobility



Aerobility is a registered charity founded in 1993 offering disabled people, without exception, the opportunity to fly an aircraft.

Scholarships are Aerobility funded grants that enable anyone with any disability to learn to fly, irrespective of financial means. They are one of the ways the charity removes the financial as well as the physical barriers to accessing aviation.

Scholarships can be awarded to fund an initial five-hour course. With ongoing assessment and reviews, this can be extended to meet individual flying ambitions, potentially all the way to a Private Pilot Licence.

Scholarships are highly sort-after and competitive. The charity says that it does all it can to support as many applications as possible, however, not every submission will be successful.

Aerobility says that anyone with any disability can apply for a scholarship, whilst 30% of those that fly with Aerobility are wounded, injured or sick members of the British Armed Forces community.

An individual's level of experience does not matter, says Aerobility. If you have never flown an aircraft or thought, it was impossible for you to do you can still make an application.

If you have started to learn to fly and have been grounded for a while, have previously received a flying scholarship, or need just a few more hours to finish your licence or additional rating, then you can also apply for a scholarship.

The process starts with the application form which is reviewed by Aerobility. Once this has been assessed, you may be invited complete a self-funded trial flight with an instructor. From this flight, Aerobility will better understand your attitude and aptitude, whilst you will get a better feel for whether you would like to take things further. After this you may be offered a first five-hour scholarship. Once this has been completed and further

reviews undertaken, it is possible that the support can be extended.

All flying is delivered with Aerobility at either Blackbushe Airport in Hampshire, Lydd Airport in Kent, or Tatenhill Airfield in Staffordshire.

[www.aerobility.com/scholarships](http://www.aerobility.com/scholarships)

## Air Cadets



The Air Cadets are a UK-wide cadet force with more than 40,000 members aged between 12 and 20 years.

Sponsored by the Royal Air Force, the Air Cadets can give individuals hands-on experience of activities and courses that will challenge and develop skills. The ACO is made up of two areas:

Air Training Corps - The ATC is the RAF's cadet force, divided into six regions, 34 wings and more than 900 squadrons within communities around the UK.

Combined Cadet Force (RAF) - The CCF (RAF) is our section of the CCF which is made up of cadets from all three services, coming together in approximately 200 independent and state schools across the country.

Cadets from both the Air Training Corps and CCF are offered opportunities to fly in light powered aircraft and gliders, as well as other RAF and civil aircraft.

There are plenty of opportunities open to cadets when flying, from aerobatics in the Grob Tutor to practising stalls in a Grob Viking glider.

Some Cadets who stand out from the rest may also get the opportunity to fly on a civil airliner or go on an overseas flight in an RAF transport aircraft. A few cadets have also had the opportunity to fly in a variety of other aircraft including fast jets and with the Red Arrows.

There are also exciting opportunities for cadets to learn how to fly, with scholarships available for both powered flight and gliding.

In general, every cadet will be given opportunities to fly during their time as an active member of an ATC or CCF squadron.

[www.aircadets.org](http://www.aircadets.org)



## Air League



With over £2m worth of flying scholarships and bursaries allocated over the past decade the Air League Educational Trust is continuing to showcase the aviation sector to the next

generation of enthusiastic young people.

To attract the talent of tomorrow the Air League provides many scholarships and bursaries aimed at encouraging young people to aviation, offering the broadest range of scholarships and bursaries in the UK, with over 120 opportunities being awarded annually, in the fields of fixed-wing flying (including electric), gliding, drone, engineering and ATPL studies.

Working regularly with disadvantaged groups, corporate backing means the Air League can use aviation and aerospace as a gateway to give life-changing experiences and opportunities.

Full PPL scholarship

The Air League has partnered with Anglian Flight Centres to offer a full PPL(A) scholarship in 2024.

Based at Earles Colne airfield in Essex, Anglian Flight Center will provide 45 hours of flight training to a young candidate looking to pursue a career in aviation. The residential course is expected to take place over the summer of 2024 and will include all CAA exams and licence application fees.

The successful candidate will also receive access to the EasyPPL ground school theoretical knowledge training database for 18 months, donated alongside the AFC Scholarship by Easy-PPL.

### FLYING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Air League is offering 3-hour, 5-hour and 12-hour scholarships, providing introductory, intermediate and advanced flying programmes.

#### 3-hour introductory scholarship

An introductory flying course held over a two-day period. It offers an initial powered flying experience combined with ground school theory, with the aim of creating a foundation for a young person's career pathway into aviation and aerospace. This is the perfect Scholarship for those with little to no experience. You may learn how to fuel the aircraft, run through a check-list, and do a basic radio call.

#### 5-hour intermediate scholarship

An intermediate course, ideal for those who have had basic flying experience previously. It is held over a three to four-day period, offering an additional powered flying experience combined with advanced ground school. Lessons could include taking-off, taxiing, turning the air-craft, climbing, and more complex radio introductions.

#### 12-hour advanced scholarship

An advanced award that provides 12 hours of powered flying over 10 days. The aim is to get the top candidates to go solo or give previous scholars, already with experience, the final hours to complete their PPL. The Air League says the 12-hour scholarship is perfect for those who show high levels of passion and dedication, or for previous scholars who are nearing the end of their PPL training.

### GLIDING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Air League is offering three gliding scholarship categories including a Gliding to Solo scholarship, SLMG Conversion scholarship and Pilot Development scholarship.

#### Gliding to Solo scholarship

This scholarship provides an introductory gliding to solo course. The course is held over a two-week period on preselected dates at an Air League approved gliding club and offers an introduction to gliding combined with ground school theory.

#### SLMG Conversion scholarship

The SLMG Conversion scholarship provides an individual who has previous gliding experience with an opportunity to convert to powered flying. These scholarships aim to further a young person's career pathway into aviation and aerospace and is flown at the scholar's pace at their chosen gliding club.

#### Pilot Development scholarship

This gliding scholarship is an intermediate or advanced award that provides an individual with additional support towards going solo, aerobatic, or cross-country training.

### ELECTRIC FLYING SCHOLARSHIP

The Air League's Electric Flying Scholarships include 5 hours flying on the Pipistrel Velis Electro, with additional simulator time, ground school and sustainability-focused discussions. The scholarships will be flown with SaxonAir at Norwich Airport across 3-4 days in Summer 2025. Accommodation will be provided to those that do not live in the local area.

This scholarship can be counted towards a candidate's PPL hours.

### DRONE SCHOLARSHIP

The Air League is awarding up to 10 drone scholarships in 2025 granting winners the A2 Certificate of Competency (A2 C of C) for drone flying. The entry-level drone flying qualification allows an operator to fly their drone in the A2 category (close to people). The one-day course culminates in an examination and gives students the knowledge required by the CAA to operate in the A2 category.

The 2024 drone scholarship will be opening its doors for applications in April.

The Air League also offers several scholarships in the fields of aerospace engineering and drone operations, and provided bursaries for aviation law studies, APS MCC training, and ATPL ground school.

### ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

The Air League is once again offering a two-week work placement which will be provided at Affinity Flying Training Services, which support three fleets of aircraft within the UK Military Flight Training System (MFTS) – the Grob Prefect 120TP, Embraer Phenom 100 and Beechcraft Texan T-6C.

In this placement, scholars will conduct hands-on work on current projects and will shadow Engineering and Maintenance personnel. Applicants should have a strong desire to pursue a career in the Aerospace Engineering Sector. Full board accommodation will be provided for the duration of the work placement.

### ATPL BURSARIES

In partnership with theoretical knowledge training specialists PadPilot, the Air League will be offering 5 ATPL bursaries in 2025.

The bursaries are available to anyone registered with a PadPilot approved ATO. The package includes ATPL(A) theory eBooks (17 in total, comprising of the 13 mandatory subjects as well as Maths and Physics), which bursary winners are granted access to for 36 months from the date of the award.

[www.airleague.co.uk](http://www.airleague.co.uk)

## BGGC Sponsored Cadet Scheme



Bristol & Gloucestershire Gliding Club (BGCC) is offering part-sponsorship to young people who can demonstrate a strong interest in gliding, aviation and learning to fly.

BGGC offers a limited number of places to young pilots which will enable them to become a club member and fly on a part-sponsored basis for up to two years. All instruction is free at the BGGC, with members normally only paying membership, soaring fees, and launch costs (winch or aerotow). However, as a sponsored cadet the BGGC will subsidise these fees enabling individuals to learn to fly at a significantly reduced cost.

BGGC is one of the largest gliding clubs in the UK, founded in 1938 and operated from Lulsgate, now the home of Bristol International airport, until relocating to its current site at Nympsfield, Gloucestershire in 1956.

The club operates from its own 100-acre airfield located on the Cotswold edge overlooking the Severn valley, across to the Black Mountains in Wales and to the Malvern Hills to the north.

The club has approximately 150 pilot members, three two-seat training gliders, three single-seat gliders and a tow aircraft. It is also the base for many privately owned gliders and a smaller number of privately owned powered aircraft.

[www.bggc.co.uk](http://www.bggc.co.uk)

## BGA Competition Training



 Junior Gliding

Each year, as part of the UK's Junior National Gliding Championships, the British Gliding Association (BGA) offers competition training for young pilots who have not yet flown in their first competition.

Pilots are offered the opportunity to fly in a two-seat glider with an experienced competition pilot and learn the tricks of the trade in a real-life environment. The training runs alongside the UK Junior Nationals being held this year at Aston Down from 16-25 August 2025.

10 places are being made available this year.

[www.members.gliding.co.uk/junior-gliding/junior-events/](http://www.members.gliding.co.uk/junior-gliding/junior-events/)

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## BMAA Flexwing Instructor Bursary



The British Microlight Aircraft Association (BMAA) has noticed that in recent years there has been a drop in the number of instructors teaching

on flexwing microlights. To encourage more instructors, the BMAA is offering to part fund a flexwing instructor course. It is then expected the new instructor will progress and use the qualification to teach in flexwing aircraft.

The applicant must have the support of an existing microlight school to offer employment to the graduate of the programme. The school must also be able to provide the necessary supervision that a new instructor needs to develop. It is up to the applicant to put this arrangement in place before we can consider any application.

The BMAA has bursaries up to £1500 available, and it is the applicant's responsibility to fund the remaining course fees. The BMAA Flexwing Instructor Bursary is currently accepting 2025 applicants.

<https://www.bmaa.org/information-library/pilot-licensing/flexwing-instructor-bursary>

## BWPA Scholarships



The British Women Pilots' Association (BWPA) is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

With stats showing that just 5-6% of professional pilots in the UK and worldwide are women, the BWPA says that much of this is due to lack of information and opportunity. With that in mind the BWPA says that one

of its key aims is "to promote the training and employment of women in aviation, and the promotion of practical schemes to assist women to gain air licences."

For this reason, a proportion of the BWPA's membership fees is used to fund scholarships. In addition, the association actively works with partner organisations to extend what it can offer, and to help to raise awareness and aspirations.

Each year, the BWPA makes several awards and scholarships to recognise the achievements of women in aviation and support them in further flying endeavours. Winners are formally congratulated at the BWPA's annual Christmas Lunch and Awards

ceremony in December.

Scholarships vary from year to year, with the BWPA committee working closely with outside organisations and potential sponsors to gain support to assist women to achieve their aviation goals.

Previous scholarship winners include women who have gone on to gain their Private Pilot's Licences, become commercial pilots and gain additional qualifications such as aerobatic and tailwheel endorsements, and the first woman to cross the English Channel by paramotor.

Details for BWPA's 2025 series of scholarships have yet to be announced but are expected to be opening soon. Scholarships are only available to BWPA members, and so aspiring scholarship winners will need to make sure they have joined to be eligible to apply.

[www.bwpa.co.uk/scholarships/](http://www.bwpa.co.uk/scholarships/)

## Cotswold Airport Aviation Scholarships



The Cotswold Airport Aviation Scholarships are designed to give youngsters aged between 15 and 17 an introduction to the world of aviation.

It doesn't matter if you've always wanted to be a pilot, an air traffic controller or an engineer; the scholarship programme is designed to give you an introduction to the incredible spectrum of options offered by the aviation industry.

The programme includes:

- Introductory flying tuition
- Aviation ground school
- Industrial visits
- Guidance from aviation professionals
- Air traffic control
- Aircraft maintenance

Students will receive tuition at the airport's aviation ground school, including flying lessons, experience at first-hand the work of air traffic controllers, flying instructors and engineers, whilst receiving guidance from aviation professionals heading blue chip organisations such as Rolls Royce and Airbus.

The scholarships are open to anyone aged between 15 and 17 in April of the year of the scholarship, who lives within 25 miles of the airport and, most importantly, is passionate about aviation and interested in pursuing a career in the aviation industry.

The deadline for applications is 16 March 2025.

[www.cotswoldairport.com](http://www.cotswoldairport.com)

## Fantasy Wings



Fantasy Wings is a UK organisation that gives Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people and Women a platform to enter and excel in the aviation industry, including entry to an airline pilot career.

On becoming a Fantasy Wings member (£280 per annum including registration fee), members will have access to workshops and mentorship, assisting aspiring pilots in learning about aviation career pathways, and taking advantages of various discounted training packages including the opportunity to win one of 50 trial flights given out each year, or one of three full PPL scholarships awarded annually to members under the age of 25.

[www.fantasywings.co.uk](http://www.fantasywings.co.uk)

## Fly2Help Aim High Scholarship



With behind-the-scenes access to Air Traffic Control and Air Operation's, aviation charity Fly2Help's educational Aim High scholarship also includes visits to the likes of Rolls Royce and Airbus.

Fly2Help's Aim High is a free to join scholarship for young people aged between 14 and 18-years-of-age,

who win their place through an open application and interview process. Here, they learn about the breadth of opportunities in the industry and how to develop an aviation career.

Finishing with a 15-minute flying lesson, other hands-on experience offered by the Aim High scholarship includes marshalling aircraft and learning to read weather reports.

Fly2Help is an aviation charity based at Gloucestershire Airport which delivers the Aim High Scholarship which helps young people learn about the world of aviation whilst gaining confidence and belief in themselves.

The week-long courses, based at Biggin Hill, Gloucester and Oxford airports, can cater for 10 students and finishes with a presentation which is attended by parents.

[www.fly2help.org](http://www.fly2help.org)





## Flying Scholarships for Disabled People



In 1983 Paul Bowen and Tim Prince, on behalf of the Royal International Air Tattoo, inaugurated Flying Scholarships for the Disabled to perpetuate the indomitable spirit of air ace Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader. Sir Douglas was a dedicated supporter of disabled people to whom he set a great example of courage and determination. He personally devoted much time to encouraging countless people to come to terms with their physical disabilities.

Although the primary aim of the scheme is to give disabled people the opportunity to realise their full potential through the pleasure, the thrill and freedom of flying, a few students complete sufficient flying to qualify for a Private Pilot Licence.

More than 400 disabled people have participated in the scholarship scheme, several are paraplegic, and others are disabled as a result, for example, of cerebral palsy, rheumatoid arthritis, MS, ME, spina bifida and poliomyelitis.

The aim of a scholarship is to both challenge and inspire, building up confidence, self-esteem and future aspirations. It is truly a life changing experience that helps people achieve their potential no matter what disadvantages they may face in their lives.

There is no specified target or standard of achievement; what is accomplished will depend on an individual's flying ability and any limitations arising from a particular disability, whether physical, mental or fatigue related.

The number of scholarships, and their type, will vary each year, as they are dependent on the generosity of FSDP's sponsors and donors.

The costs of flying training, ground school, accommodation and food are all covered. However, scholars are responsible for their own travel costs, and it is essential that they have their own vehicle to get to and from the flying school.

Scholarships commence with a scholar's seminar near the end of April, during which scholars are introduced to their instructors and scholar training partner(s).

Flying training is undertaken at flying schools in the UK between May and October. They will be of three or four-weeks duration and will include a maximum of 16 or 20-hours flying tuition and associated ground school in either a PA-28 or a Microlight aircraft.

FSDP scholars currently undertake their flying training in the UK at Bristol Aero Club at Gloucestershire Airport, RAF Halton Microlight Club at RAF Halton, Sherburn Aero Club at Sherburn-in-Elmet Airfield, or Shadow Aviation at Compton Abbas Airfield. In all cases accommodation is provided near to the flying school.

Scholars are presented with a scholarship certificate at a special ceremony at the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) in the July of the year they are awarded their scholarship and will be invited back to RIAT the following year to be awarded their 'pilot's wings'. Both events form part of the scholarship and attendance is compulsory.

The scholarship does not end with learning to fly. Scholars will become part of the FSDP family and will be invited to our family events including the annual Presentation Ceremony.

[www.fsdp.co.uk/scholarships/](http://www.fsdp.co.uk/scholarships/)

## Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets



The Girls Venture Corps was formed in 1964 following a merger between the Girls Training Corps and the Women's Junior Air Corps. Air Cadets was added to the title at the request of the membership in 1987. Today the membership is open to young women between the ages of 11 – 20 and the association offers many opportunities and experiences from camping to crafts and flying to canoeing.

Units meet weekly and operate a structured programme. Activities locally, regionally and nationally include aviation studies and air experience flights.

Scholarships for gliding are available via the Ducat-Amos Gliding Scholarships. These comprised a weekend course at a local gliding club.

[www.gvcac.org.uk](http://www.gvcac.org.uk)

## Goodwood 'Rob Wildeboer' Scholarship



In 2022, Goodwood Flying School launched a series of scholarships in memory of former school manager Rob Wildeboer.

To remember and honour Rob in accordance with the wishes of his family, several scholar-ships are offered annually through Goodwood Flying School, made possible by kind donations from the Goodwood community, which has raised over £27,400 to date.

Three scholarships are available this year, comprising:

Two 10-hour scholarships in a Cessna 172

One 5-hour scholarship in a Piper Cub

In addition to the scholarships, Pooleys Flight Equipment has donated a number of PPL/LAPL Course Training Books to support the successful candidates.

To apply for a Rob Wildeboer Scholarship, email [scholarship@goodwood.com](mailto:scholarship@goodwood.com) explaining in no more than 500 words which scholarship you would like to apply for and why, including brief details of any previous flying experience. For further information, contact the Flying School Operations Manager at [melanie.wright@goodwood.com](mailto:melanie.wright@goodwood.com).

All applicants must be at least 16 years old and hold or be capable of obtaining the appropriate aviation medical. Scholarships are only available for training at Goodwood Flying School in Chichester and training must be carried out during 2025. Any training required beyond that provided by the Scholarship will be at the applicant's own expense.

There are three scholarships available for three individuals.

Applications will only be accepted in writing via email to [scholarship@goodwood.com](mailto:scholarship@goodwood.com) by 28 February 2025. All applicants must agree to abide by the decision of the selection panel.

<https://www.goodwood.com/flying/flying-school/rob-wildeboer-scholarship/>

## Sir Geoffrey de Havilland Flying Scholarship



Run by the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, the Sir Geoffrey de Havilland Flying Scholarship enables a young person to gain a Private Pilot's Licence. Last year was the ninth year of the scholarship, providing funds to train

towards a PPL in the classic and vintage de Havilland DH82A Tiger Moths of the Cambridge Flying Group (CFG) at Old Warden Aerodrome.

The scholarship seeks applicants from those with an affinity for vintage and historic aerospace, either as an ambition or are perhaps already working in a voluntary, full-time or part-time capacity.

Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 35 and resident in the UK and who have not previously been awarded any such bursary (except for the 12-hour Air Cadet Scholarship). As the standard of applications is always high, the judging panel welcomes applications from previously unsuccessful candidates who may wish to try again.

Those applicants who are short-listed for interview will be invited to Cambridge Flying Group and, following the interview, will be given a short flight in a Tiger Moth. Any previous flying experience will be regarded as neither an advantage nor disadvantage; it is enthusiasm, potential and commitment that will count.

The winner of the Scholarship will also be invited to, and expected to attend, the Coachmakers Aerospace Industry Dinner held annually in November at a prestigious location in London. At this event the winner will be presented with a Certificate of Achievement in the presence of several senior executives from the UK and European Aerospace Industries.

This scholarship for £7,000 will normally fund most of the cost of the standard hours' training required for a Private Pilot's Licence with the remainder to be funded by the successful candidate on an hours-flown basis.

Not only does this award offer opportunities and financial assistance in the short term, association with the Coachmakers is potentially long-term and offers exciting networking opportunities. Our website gives more information on how industry and military affiliations have evolved from our historic roots in the coachmaking and coach harness making trades.

Applications for the 2025 award will open on 01 May 2025, and the closing date for applications will be midnight on 15 June 2025. Shortlisted candidates will be advised soon after and interviews for the shortlisted candidates will take place during August at the Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden Aerodrome

[www.coachmakers.co.uk/sir-geoffrey-de-havilland-flying-scholarship/](http://www.coachmakers.co.uk/sir-geoffrey-de-havilland-flying-scholarship/)

## Helicentre Aviation Academy Professional Helicopter Scholarships



Helicentre Aviation, based at Leicester and Oxford airports, has awarded over £1.2m in training scholarships to dozens of trainee helicopter pilots since its programme opened in 2012, providing life-changing career opportunities.

Helicentre says that previous scholarship winners have been extremely successful in their careers, flying in onshore and offshore roles all over the UK; Search and Rescue, Oil and Gas, HEMS, utility, as well as charter, instructing, and examining.

### CPL(H) scholarship programme

Helicentre Aviation is awarding two Commercial Pilot Licence scholarships in 2025.

The £250,000 scholarship fund is being used to assist modular trainee helicopter pilots to fast-track their careers, providing exceptional, qualified professional helicopter pilots to the UK crew supply chain.

The two CPL(H) scholarships, which will be awarded this August, are open to anyone who completes a self-funded PPL(H) training programme with Helicentre at either of their two bases by 31 July 2025.

### Flight Instructor Scholarship

In addition to its CPL(H) scholarships, Helicentre is also providing a flight instructor sponsorship which aim to fast-track the successful applicant into a rewarding full-time career training new pilots.

To apply for the flight instructor sponsorship, applicants must hold a CPL(H) and have an appetite to expand their horizons, gaining valuable experience and flight hours, with a full-time position on completion of training.

Application for the 2025 FI scholarship is opening later this year.

[www.flyheli.co.uk](http://www.flyheli.co.uk)



## The Honourable Company of Air Pilots



**HCAP's flying scholarships provide an opportunity for people who would like to become pilots or to further their qualifications as pilots. The Company says that it tries to avoid school/university examination times, but at the**

**same time need to provide candidates with as many months of potential good weather as they can to complete their flight training.**

Applications forms are typically made available during January and February each year for PPL(A), FIC(A) and the Gliding Scholarships; interviews will usually be at the end of April/early May and are held in London. Applicants should be aware that interviews take place on the arranged date in London (in person) and training must take place at a UK training organisation.

Training in each instance must be completed by the end of September in the year of the award; candidates should be aware that this demands a very high level of commitment during the summer months and if offered a scholarship, the Company will expect the recipient to meet this commitment.

In addition to flying scholarships funded directly by the Company or one of its charitable trusts, each year HCAP receives generous sponsorship from several sources to fund flying scholarships which are administered by the Company.

### PPL Scholarships

These scholarships cover all aspects of training up to licence issue for a candidate who is prepared to dedicate a considerable part of the summer to gaining their PPL. Providing up to 45 hours of flying, these scholarships can take a candidate with little or no experience to completion of their flying licence during the summer; alternatively, they can complete the training of a partially trained pilot. The scholarships are awarded entirely on merit as evidenced on the completed application form and as assessed by a selection committee appointed by the Company. Candidates must be 17 years of age or older.

All candidates should be aware that the scholarships only cover the cost of flying training and licence issue, no provision is made for transport, accommodation, subsistence etc.

### Gliding Scholarships

HCAP provides residential courses during the summer months with several British Gliding Association centres.

Scholarships are residential and are offered to people over the age of 16. Successful candidates have the opportunity to fly on a one-week course at a youth approved British Gliding As-

sociation centre. This course could take a candidate to first solo. Candidates called for inter-view will be informed of the available dates and asked to confirm their preference at that time. Courses will take place during the 2025 School Summer Holidays (July and/or August). Candidates called for interview will be able to discuss their availability, however, successful candidates may have to accept and commit to a course which is not their preferred option.

The aim of the Scholarship is to assist the successful individual, who might otherwise not have the necessary resources to have the chance to experience gliding on a week-long residential course. The Scholarship will cover direct training costs and residential accommodation; travel expenses to and from the training centre will be the responsibility of the Scholarship winner.

- Must be able to satisfy the NPPL medical requirement
- Must be aged at least 16 on 1 July 2025
- Height and Weight restriction: candidates must be under 6' 4" and under 16st 4lb (103.5kg)

Candidates who are short-listed for consideration for the scholarship are required to attend an interview on 22, 23 or 24 April 2025. Zoom interviews may be available at the discretion of the Company on 30 April or 01 May 2025. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the candidate and alternative interview dates cannot be arranged.

Successful candidates will be made a conditional offer which will be subject to confirmation once all prerequisite and contractual details have been acknowledged as satisfied.

### Flight Instructor Scholarships

The Flight Instructor Certificate Scholarship award covers all direct training and examination costs for the successful candidate as they achieve their Fixed Wing Flying Instructor Certificate.

Providing up to 30 hours of flying training and 125 hours of ground school training, the scholar-ship can cover the minimum course requirements plus the direct costs of one Assessment of Competence to allow licence application to be made by the candidate. The selection process has three stages which successful candidates will move through.

Training must be completed during the summer and before 30 September 2025.

All candidates should be aware that, if called to interview, they must make their own arrangements to attend interview in person in London on the 07 May 2025. Alternative dates cannot be arranged. Training must take place at a UK flying school approved by the Company. The scholarship only covers the direct costs of flying training and testing; no provision is made for transport, accommodation, subsistence etc.

The criteria for successful applications include:

- Ability to demonstrate a serious ambition to become a Flying Instructor.
- Ability to provide evidence of the appropriate hours and licence requirements for the completion of the course and licence issue as designated by the UK CAA.
- Availability to undertake and complete the training award during summer 2025 and complete prior to 30 September 2025.
- Must be able to satisfy the relevant UK CAA medical standard to enable the issue of the appropriate licence and any Company pre course entry requirements.

The Company will expect training to be carried out at a UK CAA Approved Training Organisation (based in the UK) which is also approved by the Honourable Company. Arrangements are to be in place by mid-June and training and testing is to be completed by 30 September 2025.

[www.airpilots.org](http://www.airpilots.org)

## Helping Wings Jersey 2025 Flying Award



Channel Islands charity, Helping Wings Jersey, in partnership with Ports of Jersey, is offering a flight training scholarship this year, alongside its over.

The award is for 10 hours of flying training with Skywalker Flight training based at the Jersey Aero Club. The total package, which includes 2025 Jersey Aero Club membership is worth over £3,000.

Applicants (who should be Jersey residents) will need to be over 16 years old and be willing to share their flying experiences on social media to help the charity raise the profile of its flying award.

Whilst no medical examination is required, Helping Wings says that they may seek a medical opinion to ensure that both the successful candidate and the instructors can complete the flying safely. The charity adds that they have been able to welcome students with a variety of disabilities so this should not put individuals off from applying.

[www.helpingwingsjersey.org](http://www.helpingwingsjersey.org)

## Liz Inwood Taildragger Scholarship



The Scholarship, named in memory of the late Tiger Moth pilot and flying instructor Liz Inwood, is funded by donations from the Vintage Aircraft Club (VAC), Light Aircraft Association (LAA) and the Inwood estate.

Liz Inwood was a passionate aviatrix who was both a CAA instructor and examiner, with a particular love of classic aircraft, particularly the de Havilland Tiger Moth and similar types, once making a tour of Europe in a DH Hornet Moth. Liz was an inspiration to many fledgling pilots and was particularly enthusiastic in encouraging younger people to take up the sport. After her untimely death some of her family members decided to give a legacy to the VAC, of which she was a long-time active member, to be used as the Club saw fit.

To this end the Club decided to match the family's generous donation and set up this Scholarship in her memory. The purpose now is to enable a young person to fly the type of aircraft she loved so much.

The Scholarship is targeted at young pilots who wish to convert from typical flying club nose wheel designs to older tailwheel types, potentially opening the door to flying a wider range of vintage and classic types.

The scholarship provides five hours flying to assist in learning classic 'taildragger' handling, which now forms part of the now-required differences training for older aircraft types.

[www.vintageaircraftclub.org.uk](http://www.vintageaircraftclub.org.uk)

## Launchpoint



Launchpoint is a registered charity that supports British gliding and is administered by the British Gliding Association (BGA). Now in its sixth year, it was established

in 2017 and incorporates the activities of the Caroline Trust and the Ted Lys Trust, both of which had been established around 20 years earlier.

The aims of Launchpoint include providing opportunities to experience gliding and facilitating participants at all stages to expand their horizons in the sport. Applications are open to all.

The small team of Launchpoint trustees are all actively involved in gliding and administrate the trust as volunteers. All donations and gifts are allocated to the charity's beneficiaries, apart from minimal administration costs.

Launchpoint's aims are delivered through Caroline Awards and Ted Lys Awards.

### Caroline Awards

To date, Caroline Awards have helped over 400 young people by providing bursaries towards pre-solo or early post-solo flying. Caroline Award bursaries have sparked interest in gliding, resulted in long-term participation in the sport, and led to careers in aviation.

### Ted Lys Awards

Ted Lys Awards are for qualified glider pilots who wish to develop their gliding skills. Applicants can make a proposal to the trustees to support, for example, a particular course, training or coaching programme in any sphere of gliding.

To take advantage of the awards the first step is to become a member of your local gliding club, who will then assist you in making an application for an award once you've tried your hand at gliding and have decided that the sport is something you'd like to pursue. Many of these clubs also offer reduced rates for young members.

Information and application forms for Launchpoint are available on the British Gliding Association's website, which also includes a 'clubfinder' portal detailing the locations of UK gliding clubs.

[www.gliding.co.uk](http://www.gliding.co.uk)

## Light Aircraft Association Armstrong/Isaacs Bursary



The Light Aircraft Association's Armstrong/Isaacs bursary is based on a major donation from David Armstrong, who was a founder member of the original ULAA in 1947,

a lifelong member of the LAA's predecessor the PFA and the latter's chairman from 1960 to 1964.

His legacy, co-named with that of aircraft designer and builder John Isaacs, has since 1998 enabled many young prospective pilots to gain their PPL.

Bursaries are awarded to pilots under 30 years of age who are already in training and offers finance to supplement personal funding in the later stages of the course. Applicants must have reached 'first solo' standard and have completed a minimum of five hours solo training, hold a valid medical and should have passed the necessary ground examinations.

However, due to the fickle nature of the British weather, the LAA recognises that some trainees may not have managed to accrue the required five hours solo and will still give them consideration. In such circumstances written confirmation must be provided by the CFI of the training organisation (DTO or ATO) that the trainee is enrolled with.

Most years, the LAA offers up to five bursaries worth £1,500 each. The bursary can only be used for flying training and cannot be used for ancillary expenses such as travel or accommodation. On award, the LAA will contact the nominated flying school to set up an invoicing system. Details of how the funds have been spent will be required from the DTO.

[www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk](http://www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk)





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## Royal Aero Club Trust



The Royal Aero Club Trust, as part of its Flying for Youth programme administers a Bursary Scheme for young people.

The scheme and the bursaries comprise all types of air sports and aviation-related activities including paragliding, gliding, hang-gliding, parachuting, microlight aircraft, helicopter, light aircraft and the designing, building and flying model aircraft (including drones).

Applicants for these grants must hold British Citizenship and be permanently resident in UK and aged 14-21 years, or 24 years or older for the Advanced Bursary.

There were 45 bursaries offered in 2024, including:

- The Pooleys Flight Equipment Bursary
- The Lord Peter Cruddas Foundation Scholarship
- The Andrew Brownsword Bursary
- The Bramson Bursary
- The George Farha Bursary
- The John Downer Bursary
- The Crocker Family Bursary
- The Lord Graham Kirkham Bursary

Several additional bursaries worth up to £500 each to suitable candidates were also granted. No applications were received in 2024 from balloon pilots who are encouraged to apply for future bursaries.

Bursaries must be used in the calendar year they are granted.

The scheme is divided into four categories of Bursaries:

- Flying Bursaries/Grants for those wishing to advance from one recognised level of air sport to the next higher level and wish to upgrade their existing qualifications.
- Flight Simulator Bursaries/Grants for Computer Flight Simulation enthusiasts wishing to gain practical experience of flying or an air sport.
- Aeromodelling Bursaries to enable flyers upgrade equipment or to gain further qualifications.
- Advanced Bursaries to enable well qualified air sports persons enter international or national competitions or other prestigious events or to advance their existing qualifications to a higher level to the benefit of the sport.

Applications are open for the 2025 round of bursaries with a closing date of 31 March 2025.

[www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries)



## Royal Aeronautical Society Futures Scholarship



The Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) launched its new scholarship programme last year with an impetus to highlight Aerospace, Aviation & Space internships, and their importance within the field.

The Futures scholarship focuses on increasing the probability of employment in the aerospace sector through offering extra opportunities for pre-employment development. This could be a paid internship, work experience opportunity, or an award for teams making an impact to in-spiring the next generation.

Available Futures awards include 'individual' awards, 'team' awards, and 'named' awards for individuals. Typical individual support could be for accommodation and subsistence costs to cover a period away from home for a course or internship, attendance at a training or educational event or course, but consideration will be given to any proposed activity satisfying the intent above.

A team award could be used to support a project of national reach that aim to encourage and increase the number and diversity of young people in the fields of aviation such as aerospace engineering and relevant subjects.

Named awards could be used to support the final undergraduate year of a MSc course.

[www.aerosociety.com](http://www.aerosociety.com)

## Royal Air Force Sport Aircraft



The Royal Air Force Sport Aircraft (RAFSA) was formed on 01 January 2020. The aim of RAFSA is to promote air mindedness throughout the RAF by affording Service personnel, regardless of

rank or trade, the opportunity of learning to fly and compete at the most economical cost.

The Junior Rank Pilot Scholarship Scheme (JRPSS) programme

includes 15 hours flying training on a light aircraft as well as ground study and examinations in core subjects such as Air Law, Meteorology and Navigation. In association with the RAF Flying Clubs' Association (RAFFCA), the RAF Charitable Trust (RAFCT) welcomes applications from serving RAF Regular and Re-serve Junior Ranks (JRs) for the 2025 Junior Rank Pilot Scholarship Scheme (JRPSS).

Other awards include one-hour introductory flight scholarship, and a 15-hour top-up scholarship for applicants that have already flown solo but run out of funds to continue.

The purchase of a Tecnam P2008JC trainer was authorised in 2016 to enhance the delivery of the JRPSS. Training may count towards the award of a Light Aircraft Pilot Licence (LAPL).

Selected RAF Flying Clubs will deliver the flying training on behalf of the RAFCT with training study packs, supporting documentation and apparel being provided to Scholarship winners.

[www.rafsa.co.uk](http://www.rafsa.co.uk)

## Royal Air Squadron Young Instructor Bursaries



The Royal Air Squadron is an association of friends with a common interest in all forms of private light aviation, promoting aviation in the UK and to develop and maintain aviation links around the world.

With a focus on pilots between the ages of 16 and 26 years old and developing individual flying aptitude, knowledge and experience as well as encouraging professional ambition, the Royal Air Squadron is generously offering individual bursaries to support BGA assistant instructor training.

Individuals who meet the criteria to train as a BGA assistant gliding instructor, are aged between 16 and 26 years old, and would benefit from financial support, are encouraged to apply for a bursary. Applications must be supported by the pilot's Chief Flying Instructor and submitted via an online scholarship application.

[www.members.gliding.co.uk/royal-air-squadron-instructor-bursaries/](http://www.members.gliding.co.uk/royal-air-squadron-instructor-bursaries/)





## Royal Navy Gliding Scholarships



The Fleet Air Arm Officers Association (FAAOA) Aviation Scholarship Trust (AST) awards gliding scholarships to young people between ages 16 and 23 who, on application, demonstrate an interest in pursuing a flying career in the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy.

Gliding scholarships are offered for beginners' courses that are scheduled to take place during the summer months. These courses are operated by civilian and Naval gliding clubs that operate under the rules and regulations of the British Gliding Association (BGA).

The courses are staffed by BGA qualified instructors and offer five or seven days of comprehensive ab initio ground and air tuition for selected applicants with no previous gliding or flying experience.

The number of scholarships available in any given year is a function of the previous year's fundraising activity. For 2025, the FAAOA says it is hoping to provide 16 scholarships.

The gliding courses will take place at either Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club (at the Army Aviation Centre, Middle Wallop, in Hampshire) or the Midland Gliding Club (at the Long Mynd, in Shropshire). The training is dependent on weather and the scholarship recipient's aptitude but can occasionally lead to a solo flight for talented students who are blessed with good weather for the full duration of the seven-day course.

In addition to gliding, students are taught teamwork, leadership and what it is like to work in a services environment. An alternative 'bad weather' programme is provided.

Food and accommodation are provided throughout the course, and certificates of achievement are awarded to all students who attend the full course.

[www.fleetairarmoa.com/gliding-scholarships/](http://www.fleetairarmoa.com/gliding-scholarships/)

## The Take Off Scholarship



Charitable trust Take Off works with the Scottish Aero Club (based at Perth Airport) to help administer scholarship awards for young people in the Perth area. Since its foundation in 2013 the trust has collaborated with local schools with over 30 boys and girls completing the course. From time to time, the trust also offers a bursary scheme for students intending to undertake further training toward an NPPL.

The scheme provides 10 hours of dual flight training with a registered CAA approved training provider, with the aim of bringing the student to a standard that could potentially allow one solo flight within those ten hours. Training takes place

usually within the summer school holidays.

The trust has traditionally recruited directly through the four secondary schools in Perth City, and this remains its principal focus.

[www.take-off.org.uk/scholarships/](http://www.take-off.org.uk/scholarships/)

## University Air Squadron



Open to anyone at a British university that is affiliated to a University Air Squadron, individuals receive a high standard of free flying instruction from serving RAF members. While intended to

introduce what life will be like in the RAF, membership of the UAS does not imply commitment towards a career in the RAF.

There are 15 University Air Squadrons around the country, offering undergraduates flying training and a chance to experience RAF life. They are Bristol, Cambridge, East Midlands, East of Scotland, Glasgow & Strathclyde, Liverpool, Manchester & Salford, Northern Ireland, Northumbrian, Oxford, Southampton, University of Birmingham, University of London, Wales, Yorkshire.

[www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/university-air-squadrons/](http://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/university-air-squadrons/)



## Yes Flyers



The Light Aircraft Association's (LAA) Youth & Educational Support (YES) division is inviting all LAA struts, flying schools and clubs, groups, airfields, and individuals to

fly as many young people as possible in 2025.

YES Flyers aim last year was to fly 2,024 young people in the UK, working together with leading industry companies, local education authorities, schools and universities and many others to – educate, encourage and inspire young people to take part in all sorts of activities connected with aviation. Despite the weather last year preventing the ambitious target being reached, the organisation nonetheless managed to get 1,870 youngsters airborne in 2024.

Other YES initiatives include aircraft building projects (YES & other Build-a-Plane projects), training in meteorology, navigation and airmanship, and exhibits and activities for young people at aviation shows.

Additional activities include arranging talks and practical activity sessions for schools and youth groups, arranging aviation activity days for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers, Girl Guides, and others.

<https://yesflyers.org.uk/>




## 2025 SOUTHERN ENGLAND & WALES 1:500,000 VFR CHART

**2025 SOUTHERN ENGLAND & WALES 1:500,000 VFR CHART**

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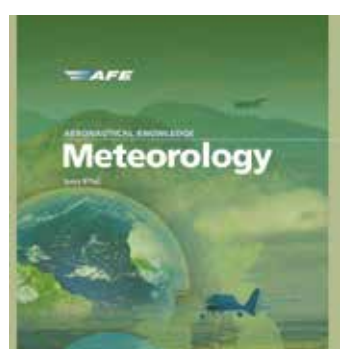
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# Airline sponsored / mentored training programmes

**2025 looks to be another busy year for airline pilot recruitment teams, who are seeking to keep pace with demand as new aircraft are brought online and current pilots retire or move on to positions elsewhere.**

While this year certainly looks to be a good one to be graduating and gaining that first airline job, the 'boom and bust' nature of the airline business, coupled with the amount of time it takes to train, means that those entering training now can't guarantee that recruitment will be as buoyant at the time they graduate in 18-months to two years' time.

The most secure route to becoming an airline pilot is via airline sponsorship, whereby an airline preselects a candidate before they enter training. While 2025 is looking to be a record year for such schemes (see this month's lead article), competition for a place on them is understandably fierce and so only a small proportion of those who apply will end up getting a place but, of course, one has to be 'in it to win it'.

The sponsored programmes provide full or partial funding

assistance, although details vary, and often financial assistance is in the form of loans or loan guarantees rather than free training. In some cases, 'assistance' will be in the form of a conditional job offer to make a bank loan easier to obtain, or reduced training costs for someone who has already started a 'paid-for' training scheme.

Mentored schemes meantime provide a level of involvement and oversight from an airline in the progress of the pilot in training, although frequently without any form of financial assistance.

These approaches have the key ingredient that many cadets are looking for however – a strong probability of employment on graduation, as the cadet should have been preselected by the airline ahead of commencing training and probably given a conditional offer of employment subject to them achieving the required standard during training. The exact details of each scheme vary, and any applicant is strongly advised to check the offer closely and if necessary, take independent legal and

financial advice.

FTN have chosen not to include airline-sponsored / mentored training programmes in the main listing of the WTAG as these schemes tend to be open to applications for only a short period of time and their availability is virtually impossible to forecast. Anyone wishing to enrol on these airline-sponsored / mentored training programmes is highly recommended to monitor the airline's recruitment websites and, of course, the latest developments as reported by Flight Training News.

Below are a couple of ongoing fully sponsored training programmes from TUI and British Airways. There are other airline programmes on offer in the UK, such as easyJet's MPL programme delivered by CAE, but these are not funded. While mentored programmes do not provide funding assistance, what they do provide is a direct entry route to first time airline employment, should individuals have sufficient funds to afford them and manage to achieve the required standard during their training.

## TUI MPL cadet programme



**UK airline TUI launched a fully funded Multi-Crew Pilot Licence (MPL) Cadet Programme at the end of 2022, providing an extremely rare opportunity in the UK for aspiring pilots to have their training paid for by their future employer.**

Since its launch TUI have run successive programmes in 2023 and 2024, and at the time of writing the latest programme application window had just closed at the end January 2025 for a course of cadets due to start training later this year.

Until the launch of TUI MPL programme in 2022 it had been over a decade since a UK airline delivered a fully funded commercial pilot training programme. According to FTN archives, British Airways was the last UK carrier to offer to pay for its future employee's training, under its Future Pilot Pro-gramme, which was delivered by CTC Aviation (now L3Harris), FTEJerez, and Oxford Aviation Academy (now CAE) back in 2011.

TUI's MPL Cadet Programme is a one-stop integrated course delivered over a 19-month period, designed to take individuals with little or no prior flying experience straight to the right hand seat of one of TUI 737s. TUI says that it is looking for committed candidates who are resilient and hard-working, who have excellent communication and leadership skills, who are able to remain calm under pressure, and can demonstrate a resilience to work hard throughout a challenging training course.

While this year's application window has now closed, indications are that it is likely to open again next year and so it's worth taking a look at the eligibility requirements:

- Have at least five GCSEs including Maths, English and a Science at grade C/4 or above

- Be fluent in English (verbal and written) with ICAO Level 4
- Be eligible to live and work indefinitely in the UK without additional approvals
- Hold a valid passport which permits unrestricted worldwide travel
- Be at least 1.58cm (5ft 2in) tall
- Able to swim 25m
- Able to obtain a CAA issued Class 1 medical prior to commencing training
- Before commencing training, complete referencing and pre-employment checks

## British Airways Speedbird Academy

**At the time of writing, British Airways is gearing up to reopen its Speedbird Academy later this month. 2025 looks set to be a record year with the flag carrier aiming to induct up to 200 cadets onto its training programme.**

Judging by prior intakes, competition for a place is no doubt going to continue to be fierce – BA's Speedbird Academy attracted over 24,000 applications for its 2023 intake, with 8,000 hopefuls making it through to the second round of the interview process, before the final 100 applicants were chosen.

The airline believes that removing the high costs associated with pilot training from the applicant, people from across all communities will be encouraged to apply. Successful recruits will also have accommodation and food costs covered during their 16-month training period.

"Our aim is to attract the very best talent out there for our future generation of pilots. Whether someone is just leaving school or embarking on a second career they never thought possible, we're levelling the playing field by removing the initial training cost barrier to make a flying career more accessible to a wider range of people and giving everyone an equal chance," says Sean Doyle, chairman and CEO at British Airways.

Applications for the scheme are first submitted via British Airways' careers website and part of the application process includes choosing which of BA's two selected schools to train at, which are FTEJerez, with training conducted in Spain, or Skyborne, with training conducted in the UK and the USA. In order to prepare individuals to undergo the rigorous application process, BA has produced a suite of preparation material, free to access on the company's careers website. The resource breaks down the initial online application process and explains the modules that applicants will need to pass in order to progress to

the next stage.

The Speedbird Pilot Academy preparation materials include a recommendation that applicants have some form of flying experience, stating: "Whilst previous flying experience is not required to apply, we would recommend at least one 30-minute trial flight, either in a glider or fixed wing aircraft. This is to ensure you enjoy the feeling of flying. There are many scholarships available in the UK, most of which are listed on the Flight Training News website."

Applicants will need:

- 6 GCSE's (or equivalent), Grade A-C or 5-9 (including English, Maths and one of the Sciences)
- To be a minimum height of 5ft 2in
- To be aged between 18 and 55
- To pass a UK CAA Class 1 Medical

While some may be put off in applying due to the size of competition they'll be up against, it's worth noting that the application process in and of itself is a valuable learning exercise, and any experience gained here potentially proving invaluable when it comes to applying to other sponsored/mentored training programmes, as well as future job interviews as they progress their flying careers.

