



BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE GLIDING CLUB

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Are you 14-16 years old?
Apply for a flying scholarship with the Bristol &
Gloucestershire Gliding Club Cadet Scheme.

BGGC.CO.UK



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A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

Club History

- The Bristol and Gloucestershire Gliding Club (BGGC) is one of the largest gliding clubs in the UK. It was 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 in the north.
- The club has approximately 150 pilot members, 3 two-seat training gliders, 3 single-seat gliders and a tow aircraft. It is also the base for a large number of privately owned gliders and a smaller number of privately owned powered aircraft.



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Gliding

- Gliders or sailplanes as they are sometimes called, are aeroplanes without engines. Gliders are far more efficient than powered aircraft. A glider's long wings enable them to fly great distances and soar to great heights using only the natural energy of the sky. Glider pilots learn how to use that energy to gain height and stay airborne
- Gliding is an adventure sport and like most things in life, does involve some level of risk. But with proper training and sensible airmanship the risks are very low.
- Gliding is regulated by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the British Gliding Association (BGA). All BGGC flying instructors have to pass a rigorous series of flying assessments to qualify and are subject to regular review to maintain their ratings



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Scholarships

- Gliding is a sport that combines adventure, tenacity, and decision making with elements of science, technology, and engineering. Learning to fly a modern glider helps young people develop flexibility, teamwork, tenacity and decision making skills. The prime objectives of the scheme are to introduce young people to the sport of gliding and train them to solo standard.
- The Bristol and Gloucestershire Gliding Club (BGGC) offer flying bursaries to young people who can demonstrate a strong interest in gliding, aviation and learning to fly. The club will sponsor up to 4 young people for a flying season (March to September).
- Sponsorship will include all training and flying costs until the first solo flight or the end of the training period (September) is reached, whatever comes first.



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Requirements

- The scheme is open to any young person between the ages of 14 and 16. No formal qualifications are required other than enthusiasm, determination and commitment.
- The club is a busy, adult environment. Applicants must be self-assured, outgoing and resilient.
- Applicants are expected to dedicate at least one full day (9:00 - 17:30) each weekend and at least one weekday during school holidays to training and club activities.
- The BGGC understand training can correspond with a busy and important time in the academic year and are flexible. However, failure to attend without notification or good reason could result in termination of the sponsorship.



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Training

- We will train you to a standard required to pilot a glider on your own ('flying solo').
- Initially you will fly with a qualified instructor in a dual-control training aircraft. When you have successfully completed the pre-solo part of the BGA training syllabus and the instructor thinks you are ready, you will be sent solo - your first flight on your own.
- Training will also include presentations and tutorials on subjects such as the theory of flight, meteorology and air law, usually when the weather is unsuitable for flying.
- You will be provided with a pilot's logbook to record your progress. Achievement is dependant on regular attendance, commitment and aptitude. It is not guaranteed.



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Responsibilities

- A senior instructor is responsible for operating the airfield. You will be part of their team, helping to run the gliding operation alongside other cadets and adult members. Your duties will include:
- Retrieving gliders using the club retrieve vehicles (needs explicit parental permission)
- Ensuring the daily flying log is accurately maintained.
- Connecting gliders to the tow aircraft and winch launching system.
- Launching gliders using radio communications and the winch signalling system.
- Helping prepare gliders at the start of flying and packing the hangar at completion.
- Any other aviation related tasks necessary to ensure efficient flying.



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Solo and Beyond

- Your first solo flight is a memorable day and you can continue to fly using your cadet membership, but the learning really starts here.
- Becoming an accomplished pilot is a continuous process and there are many, many more goals to pursue - the BGA bronze badge, the FAI (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale) silver, gold and diamond badges, cross-country flying, racing competitions, aerobatics and much more.
- And once you are 16 or over, you can apply for a European Sailplane Pilot Licence.
- Remember, cadet flying is subsidised and the instruction is free. You will pay for the launch and the flight time. A typical 30-minute training flight from a winch launch costs less than a driving lesson.



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How to Apply

- Complete and return the cadet scheme application form, available from the club's website - <http://bggc.co.uk/learn-to-fly/cadets>.
- Applications must include a short article (max. 500 words) on why they would like to receive the sponsorship. The closing date for receiving completed applications is the last week in January.
- A short list of applicants will be selected and asked to deliver a presentation which demonstrates their interest in aviation and an understanding of gliding in particular.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome by the last week of February.
- Successful applicants will begin their training on the first weekend in March, subject to weather.



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Further Information

- If you would like more information on the cadet scheme, speak to an instructor or visit the club please contact the office - <http://bggc.co.uk> (01453 860342)
- Additional information on junior flying is also available at the Junior Gliding British Gliding Association website - <http://www.juniorgliding.co.uk>