



"Creating Opportunity"



Aerobatics Training Scholarship

The British Aerobatics Foundation seeks to select pilots in the 17 - 24 age range, who are holders of a current PPL (A), to receive intensive training for powered aerobatics competition under the aegis of its aerobatic training scholarship scheme. The scheme has one clear objective - to see British pilots amongst the top rankings at European and World aerobatics competition from the year 2010.

Selection for the 2008 intake of one pilot under the scheme will commence in June 2008, with the subsequent flying training programme commencing towards the end of March 2009. Each year thereafter, through to 2010 inclusive, one additional pilot will be selected to join the training programme. For this year's intake, applications must be received by the 31st May 2008.

The initial assessment and nomination will be made by instructors at the applicant's flying club, as specified in paragraph 8 below. The subsequent selection process will take place in two phases. The first phase assessments will be carried out during June through to mid-August inclusive, at the applicant's home airfield (or an alternative as may be agreed) by appropriately experienced flying instructors from specialist aerobatic training centres. The aim will be to produce an overall short-list of six candidates. The cost of assessment flights and associated costs in this phase will need to be borne by the applicant. The second and final phase, to determine the scholarship winner for a particular year, will be carried out over a full day (during September) by specialist instructors at a nominated airfield and will involve further air exercises for the short-listed pilots. Second phase flights will be carried out in two-seater high performance aircraft such as the Pitts and the Extra. For the second phase, the cost of accommodation and travel (where necessary) will need to be borne by the applicant, but the cost of assessment flights in this phase will be funded by the scheme.

The intention is that the scholarship winner will then receive a grant from the British Aerobatics Foundation not exceeding 50 hours free aerobatic flying training for each year of a five-year programme. The aerobatic flying training will be given by the UK's top aerobatics instructors, and by visiting European and world aerobatics masters at organised training camps. Successful candidates will be expected to supplement their training by funding additional aerobatic flying hours from their own resources.

The commencement and continuation of all flying training in any particular year and in each individual case will be dependant upon the initial and ongoing availability of funds. The trustee's of the fund have the right to suspend or otherwise terminate or vary the scheme or terminate an applicant's scholarship for whatever reason or make substitutions from other candidate sources in their absolute discretion. Nothing in the scholarship scheme should be construed as giving rise to contractual terms between successful applicants and the Trustees of the fund or other, or give rise to any expectation of whatever nature.

All successful candidates will be required to be a member of the British Aerobatic Association (BAeA) and to compete in Part 1 of the BAeA National championships (normally held in August or September each year) during their first year of training, having completed a minimum of 20 hours training by that time. BAeA membership fees will be paid from scholarship funds for the duration of the training programme.

Successful candidates, having been nominated by their respective flying training organisations, will have demonstrated above average aircraft handling skills in their flying to date. They must have shown the ability to learn new skills quickly, and to have the self-confidence required to set high standards for themselves. They will also have proven their ability to concentrate on demanding physical tasks while under psychological pressure. A sound grasp of the basics of aerodynamics and some evidence of previous experience of aerobatic flying (such as the AOPA aerobatic certificate) would be major advantages. They must have the desire to prove themselves in competition, but more as a form of self-discovery than as a means of self-aggrandisement. Applications are invited from any qualifying candidate irrespective of ethnicity, gender or disability; provided that the applicant satisfies PPL medical requirements at the time of application and throughout their sponsored flying.

If you feel you can match the above specification, please discuss this with your CFI who, if in agreement, will countersign your application form. This, together with a stamped addressed envelope, should then be sent to the address shown below:

Mr David Cowden, Company Secretary, British Aerobatics Foundation, Mayfield House, Wrens Warren, Chuck Hatch, Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4WW.