

Skyborne Airline Academy launched at Gloucester Airport in 2018 with brand new, state-of-the-art facilities. In April 2019 it launched its inaugural EASA Integrated ARPL course and *Pilot* interviewed one of the cadets on the programme, Alisha Jassar.

**What inspired you to go flying and what drew you into commercial flight training?**

I have been passionate about aviation for as long as I can remember. When I was growing up, I used to really enjoy watching the various light aircraft that would fly over our house. I can remember wanting to experience this for myself and those memories have stayed with me ever since, particularly during flights for family holidays.

When I was sixteen I had a trial flight at Sibson Aerodrome in Peterborough, and I immediately knew that I wanted to embark on a career as an airline pilot, so I began researching training options and institutions.

**How did you select your ATO(s)?**

When I first encountered Skyborne Airline Academy I was immediately impressed and found its values really refreshing. The commitment to delivering excellence in every department, including its brand-new facility at Gloucestershire Airport and innovative training methods, made Skyborne stand out for me compared to other schools.

After my initial research, I attended a Skyborne facility tour and was blown away by the credibility and experience of the instructors and founders. I left feeling really excited and was keen to get my application started.

# Aiming high

**Taking the integrated route is more expensive but you do everything with one training organisation**



ABOVE: Alisha says focussing is a big part of getting the most out of the course

BELOW: phase one of the integrated programme covers ground school modules

**What has the training experience been like – are there particular aspects you would like to highlight?**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my flight training so far. The progressive teaching methods that Skyborne uses have really helped me stay focused and motivated because we get to apply our ground school training to the single engine phase, rather than completing it all in one go.

I've also enjoyed learning about other career possibilities that could be open to me, such as becoming a flight instructor or working in business aviation.

**What parts of the course/training have you found most challenging – and which parts have been easier for you?**

There have been elements of my ground school training that have been difficult and to master them have required me to dig deep, remain focused and to take feedback when I've needed further detail on a skill or training topic.

Another challenge is being the only female cadet in Skyborne's first Integrated ATPL course, but I chose a career as a commercial airline pilot

knowing that I may work in a largely male environment. I'd like to see this change within my time in this career.

**What stage have you reached in your training?**

I started my EASA Integrated ATPL programme with Skyborne in April 2019 and my training lasts for 67 weeks in total. We have very recently completed phase one of the programme at Gloucestershire Airport, which involved ground school modules.

We progressed to phase two in August, moving to Skyborne's new fair-weather training base at Castellón Airport in Spain, where we are now undertaking our core flight training. Unlike most institutions, we start our practical training after sixteen weeks as opposed to the conventional seven months. This was another huge draw in choosing to train with Skyborne, as I get experience in the cockpit much earlier, benefitting my ground school studies.

**What are your aspirations for your career and do you have a particular operator/airline in mind?**

Ultimately, my primary goal is to be a captain, flying the line for a leading international airline, ideally on long-haul routes. It is going to take a lot of focus to get there, but I am determined to achieve my goal.

**What advice would you have for those for considering commercial flight training today?**

If you are passionate about aviation and are driven to succeed, then pilot training is definitely something you should consider. Being an airline pilot was never presented to me as a career choice at school, so I am keen to promote the industry to anyone who doesn't think that flight training is possible for them. It's also commonly thought that you need Maths and Physics A Levels to become a pilot, but this is not the case, so I'd say to do lots of your own research.

