

The Honorary Graduand: Captain Hermione Jayne Irwin Munns BSc MSc FRAeS

Captain Hermoine Jayne Irwin Munns BSc MSc FRAeS is to be awarded the Honorary Doctor of Engineering.

Marnie Munns has over 30 years of experience in the aviation industry, including 23 years in commercial airline operations. She has flown both the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320 as a Captain and is a highly experienced instructor, holding qualifications as a Type Rating Instructor (TRI) and an EASA/CAA Multi-Crew Cooperation Instructor (MCCI).

Born in Suffolk, she moved to abroad at a very young age and her education began at the European School, first in the Netherlands and later in the UK, where she completed the European Baccalaureate. She then attended the University of Bristol, earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Her final year project explored the design strengths of altimeters, which was later accepted as a conference paper. While there, she trained with the University Air Squadron, marking the start of her flying career. She continued her academic path with a Master of Science in Applied Psychology at Cranfield University, where her research focused on the effectiveness of low-fidelity devices in teaching instrument flying.

In 1999 she secured a highly competitive sponsored pilot training position with Aer Lingus, trained in Spain before beginning her commercial flying career as a First Officer on the Boeing 737. Following the industry downturn after September 2001, she returned to the UK and flew for a charter airline, where as a result of her psychology background she was recruited to train pilots and cabin crew in Crew Resource Management (CRM) and Human Factors. In 2006, she joined easyJet, where she flew the Airbus A320. During this time, she achieved her Captaincy and launched the Amy Johnson Initiative, a pioneering program designed to encourage women and underrepresented groups to pursue careers as pilots.

For her significant contributions to outreach and engagement in aviation, she was awarded a Fellowship from the Royal Aeronautical Society (FRAeS) in 2018.

During the pandemic, recognizing the increasing industry focus on pilot training, she became one of the very few female pilot trainers, qualifying as a Type Rating Instructor. She also co-authored a major research project in collaboration with the Royal Aeronautical Society and the University of the West of England, investigating the barriers faced by women in pilot training.

In 2023 she joined Boeing Global Services as a Pilot Training Specialist. In this role, she contributed to the development of CBTA training scenarios as part of Boeing's digital learning team, working with

Airline Training Organizations (ATOs) to implement regulatory Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes (KSA) training—essential components of the CBTA methodology.

This year she has returned to flying as a Captain for Jet2.com flying the A321 aircraft.

With her strong background in aviation psychology and operational training, she remains passionate about shaping the future of aviation. Her work continues to focus on improving pilot training, fostering diversity in the industry, and inspiring the next generation of commercial aviators.