

9th March 2020 – Career of the Week

Airline Pilot

Aircraft pilot, co-pilot, first officer, captain.

Airline pilots fly passengers and cargo to destinations around the world.

National Careers Service

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk



Entry Requirements

You can get into this job through a university course, applying directly, a trainee scheme, specialist courses run by private training organisations

University

You could do a university degree in air transport or aviation, which includes commercial pilot training with an approved flight training organisation.

To start a course, you'll need:

- A levels or equivalent qualifications
- a minimum of a Class 2 medical certificate
- to be over 18

You'll need to apply for the higher level Class 1 medical certificate during your course to get your Commercial Pilot's Licence. If you wish, you can apply for the Class 1 certificate before your course starts.

University courses lead to a 'frozen' Air Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL). This allows you to apply to airlines to work as a co-pilot and build up the necessary flying hours to become an airline captain.

As well as standard university fees, you will need to fund the flight training part of your course. Universities can advise you about this.

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

Direct application

You may be able to apply directly to the Civil Aviation Authority's [Military Accreditation Scheme](#) to become a commercial pilot, if you have flying experience in the armed forces.

Other routes

You can apply for a place on a pilot training programme with a [passenger airline](#).

You can also train with a private flying school to get your Commercial Pilot's Licence. Courses can take at least 18 months of full-time study. Part-time or modular courses will take longer. [The Civil Aviation Authority](#) has details of flight training schools.

What you'll do

- carrying out pre-flight checks of instruments, engines, fuel and safety systems
- working out the best route using weather reports and information from air traffic control
- following instructions from air traffic control
- checking data during the flight and adjusting the route where necessary
- telling passengers and crew about journey progress
- writing reports about in-flight issues

Restrictions and requirements

You'll need to:

- be over 21 years of age
- hold a Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) issued by the [Civil Aviation Authority \(CAA\)](#)
- pass the [Civil Aviation Authority medical](#) before you can take a course - the medical includes tests on your fitness, hearing and vision
- pass [enhanced background checks](#)

Skills Required – You'll need:

- leadership skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- knowledge of maths
- thinking and reasoning skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to operate and control equipment
- observation and recording skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Related Careers

- Helicopter pilot
- Air traffic controller
- RAF non-commissioned aircrew
- RAF officer
- Cabin crew

Salary

These figures are a guide.

Starter: £ 35,000

Experienced: £ 110,000

Working Hours

Typical hours – 39 to 41 hours per week including evenings, weekends & Bank Holidays

Working Environment

You could work on an aircraft.

Your working environment may be cramped, physically demanding and you may spend nights away from home.

You may need to wear a uniform.

Career paths and progression

You'll start by training as a co-pilot. When you've completed at least 1500 flying hours, you can apply for an 'unfrozen' or full Air Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL) and qualify as an airline captain. This will usually take 3 to 5 years after you get your full ATPL.

With experience, you could become a flight training instructor or an operations manager.

Labour Market Information

In **North West England** there are currently 1770 Pilots in employment.

www.icould.com

What is labour market information?

Labour Market Information (LMI) is the name for facts and figures about jobs and employment.

The information is used to give an overall picture of the past, present and future of work.

The **labour market** is the term used to describe the amount of people working and looking for work, and the amount of jobs.