

Job of The Week

Airline Pilot

Key Skills

- 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
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- be competent in the use of computers and the main software packages
- observation and recording skills

Salary

£24,000 - £110,000

Working hours

39-41

Evenings/ weekends/ bank
holidays/ shift pattern

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Airline Pilot

Direct Application/ Alternative Route

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.

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.

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

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

Career path 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.

Day to Day tasks:

Generally, working with a co-pilot you'll:

- take turns to fly the plane or communicate with air traffic control
- work out the best route using weather reports and air traffic control data
- create a flight plan including details of fuel needed and the height you'll need to fly
- carry out pre-flight checks of instruments, engines, fuel and safety systems
- brief the cabin crew
- take instructions from air traffic control
- follow procedures during take off and landing to cut down noise pollution
- check data during the flight and adjust the route where necessary
- tell passengers and crew about journey progress
- write reports about in-flight

Working conditions

You could work on an aircraft. Your working environment may be cramped and physically demanding. You will spend nights away from home. You may need to wear a uniform.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.



Air traffic controllers

Weekly Pay £1,730	Annual Pay £89,960
Hours/Week 47h	Hourly Pay £37

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 5%	Replacement 49.8%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 5% over the period to 2027, creating 400 jobs.
In the same period, 49.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 4,400 job openings.

You might find this job in
Warehousing, etc

[More info](#)

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Air transport operatives

Weekly Pay £540	Annual Pay £28,080
Hours/Week 44h	Hourly Pay £12

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 0.5%	Replacement 69.3%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 0.5% over the period to 2027, creating 100 jobs.
In the same period, 69.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 11,300 job openings.

You might find this job in
Warehousing, etc
Air transport
Computer programming, etc

[More info](#)

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Aircraft pilots and flight engineers

Weekly Pay £1,850	Annual Pay £96,200
Hours/Week 40h	Hourly Pay £46

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 5%	Replacement 49.8%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 5% over the period to 2027, creating 1,200 jobs.
In the same period, 49.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 11,800 job openings.

You might find this job in
Air transport
Warehousing, etc
Public admin. & defence
Education

[More info](#)

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Labour Market Information

Air transport operatives

Air transport operatives refuel, load and unload aircraft, direct the movement of aircraft at airports, and position gangways or staircases to allow passengers to board and disembark aircraft.

Common tasks in this job:

- refuels aircraft from mobile tankers;
- directs the ground movement of aircraft at airports;
- loads and unloads conveyor belts to transport luggage between terminal buildings and aircraft, monitors conveyor belts and clears any blockages;
- loads aircraft with luggage, in-flight meals, refreshments and other items;

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Air traffic controllers

Air traffic controllers prepare flight plans, authorise flight departures and arrivals and maintain radio, radar and/or visual contact with aircraft to ensure the safe movement of air traffic.

Common tasks in this job:

- maintains radio and/or radar or visual contact with aircraft and liaises with other air traffic controllers and control centres to direct aircraft in and out of controlled airspace and into holding areas ready for landing;
- directs the movement of aircraft en route to its destination and ensures minimum distances are maintained between planes;
- gives landing instructions to pilot and monitors descent of aircraft;
- directs movement of aircraft and motor vehicles on runways, taxiways and in parking bays;

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Aircraft pilots and flight engineers

Aircraft flight deck officers check, regulate, adjust and test engines and other equipment prior to take-off, navigate and pilot aircraft and give flying lessons.

Common tasks in this job:

- studies flight plan, discusses it with flight deck crew and makes any necessary adjustments;
- directs or undertakes routine checks on engines, instruments, control panels, cargo distribution and fuel supplies;
- directs or undertakes the operation of controls to fly aeroplanes and helicopters, complying with air traffic control and aircraft operating procedures;
- monitors fuel consumption, air pressure, engine performance and other indicators during flight and advises pilot of any factors that affect the navigation or performance of the aircraft;

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