



Checklist for selecting a flight school

Choosing the right flight school is the single most important factor in your success during flight training and finding a job. A good flight school makes the difference between dreaming about flying and actually making it happen.

This short “checklist” is to help you ask the right questions when considering a flight school.



Pre-education

- Do I meet the academic and medical qualifications for entry?
- Is there an aptitude test, and how do I prepare for it?



Flight school

- What is the long-term viability of the school (e.g., financial stability, reputation)?
- How long has the flight school been in operation?
- How many students graduate successfully each year?
- What is the flight school's payment policy?
- Does the flight school offer integrated or modular courses?
- Where is the training conducted and how do weather conditions affect training schedules?
- Does the flight school have partnerships with airlines (e.g. preferred supplier agreements)?
- Does the flight school offer career guidance, internships or apprenticeships during or after training?
- Does the flight school have strong alumni networks for mentorship or job opportunities?
- Is there a student feedback system for addressing concerns during the programme?

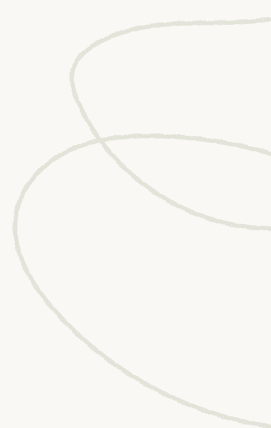


Flight training

- What is the overall success rate for first-time flight tests?
- What were the reasons for any failures?
- Which type of licences are offered (CPL, ATPL, MPL)?
- Is the license EASA approved and in which countries is the licence valid?
- How many instructors are employed, and what is their average experience level?
- What is the student-to-instructor ratio?
- What types of training are included (diverse weather, airspace scenarios, upset recovery, ditching,...)?
- Are advanced ratings or certifications available post-training (e.g., type ratings, instructor courses)?
- What types and ages of aircraft and simulators are used in the training programme?



The cost

- What are the costs for the selection process?
 - What are the total costs of the training?
 - Are costs clearly outlined, including simulator hours, theory classes, flight hours, exam fees, retakes, study materials, uniforms, insurance?
 - Can I fund the cost of living during my flight training?
 - What financing options are available?
 - Is there a guarantee fund for refunds if the training is discontinued? If yes, what are the exact conditions?
 - How long will I have to work before full repayment of the debt?
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Transition to a job

- What assistance does the flight school offer for job placement?
- Does the school provide graduate placement statistics (Number of graduates employed and time to secure employment)?
- Can the school present details on the graduates who did not find a job and why?
- Can you talk personally to graduated students about their experience?
- Are there networking opportunities or career fairs facilitated by the school?
- How does the school help graduates adapt to real-world airline requirements and prepare for job interviews?
- What is the market outlook for new pilots in your target region?

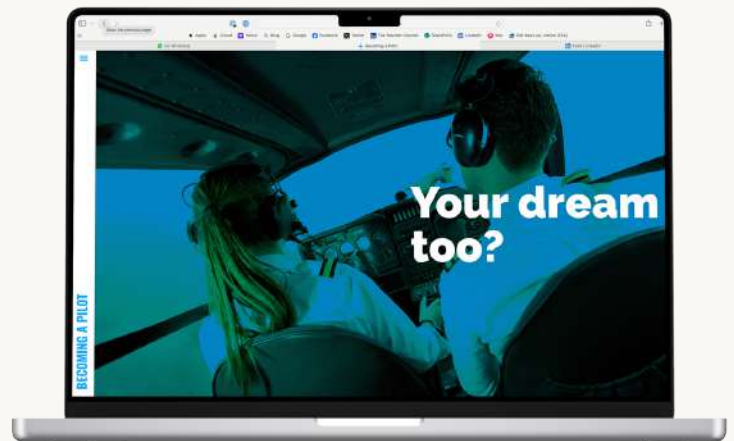
Information & support

Contact the local pilot representative association for unbiased information and support. They can help aspiring pilots with advice, mentoring and career guidance, even before the start of flight training.

www.becomingapilot.eu

is the ultimate resource for aspiring commercial airline pilots, brought to you by European pilots. Our comprehensive guide provides realistic, trustworthy insights to help you make informed decisions about your aviation career.

This initiative is powered by the **European Cockpit Association (ECA)**, the voice of over 40,000 pilots across Europe. ECA is dedicated to the highest aviation safety standards, advocating for pilots' social rights and quality employment.



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