

PILOT FACT SHEET



WHY MORE PILOTS ARE NEEDED:

The aviation industry is buzzing with opportunity, and right now, there's a big need for new pilots! With more people flying and many experienced pilots retiring, airlines around the world are on the lookout for fresh talent.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING PATHWAY

Basic Requirements:

- **Age:** Minimum of 18 years old.
- **Height:** Typically, at least 5ft 2in.
- **Education:** Five GCSEs, including Maths, English, and Science.

Medical Requirements:

- **Class 1 Medical Certificate:** Candidates must pass a physical and mental fitness test to meet aviation health standards.

Flight Training:

- **Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL):** Requires training through an accredited flight school. Trainees usually start with a "frozen" ATPL, which remains inactive until they accrue 1,500 hours of flying experience as a co-pilot or first officer.
- **Training Schemes:** Many UK airlines partner with flight schools to offer sponsored training programmes, which can provide a conditional job offer post-training.
- **Training Duration:** The integrated course takes approximately 18 months, covering both theoretical and practical aspects, including foundational flight training and time in flight simulators.
- **Combined Degrees & Flight Training:** Some UK Universities offer a degree linked to aviation with pilot training, which can be a good insurance call by offering other employment opportunities if a person loses their Class 1 medical certificate, or if the airline industry experiences a downturn.



- **High Demand:** The industry will need over 600,000 new pilots by 2040 to keep up with passenger and cargo flights.
- **Training Opportunities:** Flight schools are busier than ever, but they still can't quite meet the demand for trained pilots.
- **Career Perks:** Because pilots are so in demand, new recruits enjoy excellent job stability, strong starting salaries, and other great perks.

If you're considering a career in aviation, now's a fantastic time to get started and take advantage of these exciting opportunities!

Costs

- Full-time courses range between £100,000 and £125,000.
- **Part-time modular courses** can be less expensive, though they require prior flying experience (such as a private pilot's licence) and tend to be a pay-as-you-go option.

Skills and Attributes

- **Communication and Teamwork:** Pilots work in close quarters, often for long hours, and must maintain effective communication.
- **Resilience and Adaptability:** The aviation industry is highly susceptible to external factors, such as economic downturns or health crises, which can impact job security.
- **Self-assessment:** The ability to gauge one's own wellbeing is increasingly emphasised in training, including regular psychometric evaluations and mental health awareness.

CAREER PROGRESSION AND EARNINGS

- **First Officer/Co-Pilot:** Starting salaries vary but are typically around £45,000 to £60,000 with major airlines.
- **Captain:** Once experienced, pilots can move up to captain roles, with salaries reaching £130,000 on short-haul flights and over £240,000 on long-haul flights.

LIFESTYLE AND CHALLENGES

- **Shift Patterns:** Schedules often include early or late shifts, affecting personal routines and physical health.
- **Isolation and Stress:** Working long hours in the cockpit can be isolating. Pilots are allowed controlled rest periods on long-haul flights to mitigate fatigue.
- **Job Security:** Although pilot jobs are generally well-compensated, the industry is vulnerable to external factors like economic recessions and environmental pressures.



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