

# AVIATION INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES



There has never been a better time to consider a career in aviation. A 2018 report highlighted critical pilot and engineer shortages in Australia, a situation that has become even more severe since COVID-19 disrupted training programs. This shortage is projected to continue for at least the next five years.

The aviation industry offers diverse career pathways across multiple sectors:

**COMMERCIAL AVIATION:** Airlines provide career progression from regional aircraft through to international wide-body operations. Our RPL programme serves as the first qualification towards an Airline Transport Pilot Licence.

**DEFENCE AVIATION:** The Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Navy offer both fixed-wing and rotary opportunities, including positions as pilots, aerospace engineers, and air traffic controllers.

**GENERAL AVIATION:** Career options include charter operations, aerial survey, emergency services, and flight instruction.

**AVIATION ENGINEERING:** Maintenance, design, and certification roles are available in both civil and military sectors. Notably, each F35 pilot requires support from seven maintenance staff.

**AVIATION OPERATIONS:** Essential roles include dispatch, ground operations, and air traffic control positions.

These pathways accommodate various academic backgrounds, skills, and interests - from hands-on technical work to operational management.

## Professional Progression

Before committing to professional pilot training - which requires a significant investment of approximately \$180,000 plus potential HECS debt - it's worth gaining firsthand experience through either a Trial Introductory Flight or by pursuing a **Recreational Pilot Licence (RPL)**. Our RPL course, costs between \$15,000-\$18,000 and offers an accessible first step towards an aviation qualification.

For in depth advice and an insider's guide to the real cost of becoming a pilot in Australia, [read this informative article by our Head of Operations, Peter Edwards.](#)



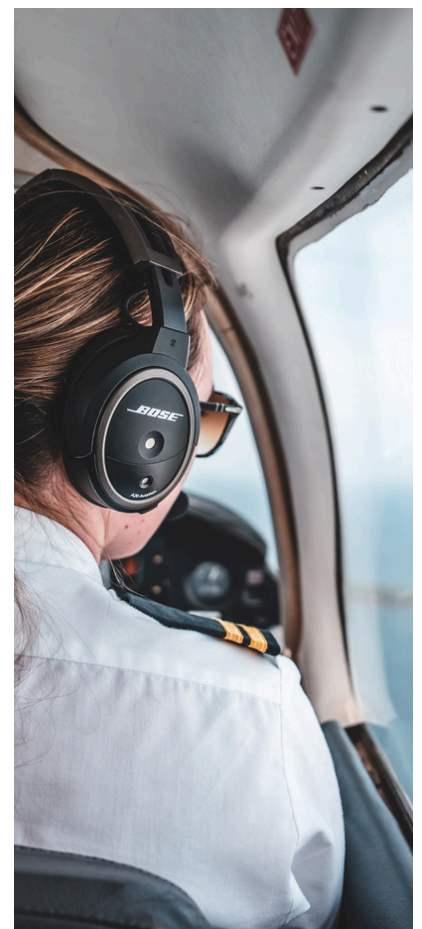
## RPL Training Pathway

Students inspired to pursue pilot training can begin their Recreational Pilot Licence course whilst still completing high-school studies. The RPL qualification requires:

- 35 hours flight training
- 40-60 hours theory instruction
- Aeronautical Radio Operator Certificate
- Theory and practical examinations

The RPL serves as a nationally recognised qualification, creditable towards further aviation qualifications through any CASA-accredited flight training organisation.

Sydney Flight Training provides the practical flying training as well as support for the theory component which includes Aeronautical Radio Operator Certificate, pre first solo exam, pre first area exam and the RPL theory exam.



## Next Steps

Take the first step into aviation by joining our **Sydney Flight Training Aviation Career Experience Day**. Led by our professional Flight Instructors, this immersive program offers hands-on experience and valuable insights into the aviation industry. We can customise the experience to complement your school's curriculum and student interests. [Contact us](#) to learn more about this exciting opportunity.