



Dear Students

It's true that the current state of the economy has given us plenty of reasons not to become a pilot. But if your passion is aviation, don't be too quick to dismiss the idea. There are still many great reasons to get a pilot license. Being a pilot is one of the many professions that allow you to have fun on the job, and it also has plenty of perks you may not be aware of. In this edition you will learn more about this exciting career as well as the requirements to become a Private or Commercial pilot.

- Martina

BECOME A PILOT

More than 500 years ago, the artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci was inspired by birds into conceptualising flying machines. Our guess is that many more before him were also fascinated by these magnificent creatures soaring through the skies, but it was first on December 17th, 1903 that Wilbur and Orville Wright were credited with making the first controlled, sustained flight of a powered aircraft in North Carolina.

Since then there has been major developments in aviation. It is now easier than ever to experience the joy of flying and air travel is something that we perceive as a natural part of our lives. But what is it like to be the one behind the controls? To actually be the pilot of an aircraft and assume all of the responsibilities that comes with it?

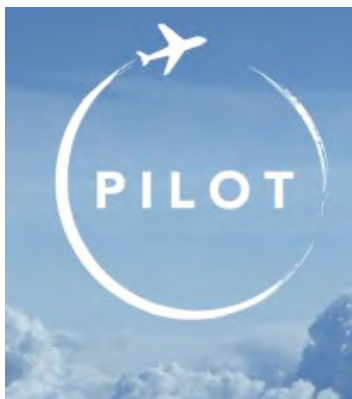
A pilot flies aircraft including planes and helicopters. He or she may work for an airline that transports people and cargo on a fixed schedule or for a company that offers charter flights, rescue operations or aerial photography. The former is known as an airline pilot while the latter is called a commercial pilot.

Two pilots typically make up the cockpit crew, but some older planes require a third. The more experienced crew member—the captain—is in command. His or her co-pilot is also known as the first officer. They share responsibility for flight duties that include steering the plane, communicating with air traffic controllers, and monitoring instruments. A flight engineer is the third person on the cockpit crew, but many of his or her tasks are automated on new airplanes.

Becoming a pilot is not as complicated as becoming an astronaut. But it's not the easiest task you will be faced with either! The great thing about challenges however, is that when you overcome obstacles and gain new skills and knowledge, it comes with an incredible sense of achievement and a boost of confidence.

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PILOT REQUIREMENTS & WORKING CONDITIONS

- ⇒ **A passion for flight** : While this is key to career fulfilment on a personal level, you'll need to balance it with a good amount of the qualities that today's airlines are looking for. Motivation and ambition, self-discipline, technical aptitude, pressure tolerance, maturity for your age, and spatial awareness, all factor as critical attributes of the pilot profile.
- ⇒ **Completed secondary Education:** Completed secondary education (high school), ideally achieving a pass in English, Mathematics and Physics. Certain airline-sponsored or partnered programmes may have additional educational requirements.
- ⇒ **Medical certification:** Before training begins, you'll need an examination to test your hearing, eyesight, coordination, and overall health. Upon successful completion, you will receive a valid Medical Certificate. All pilots are required to have this certificate throughout their entire flying careers. Contact your local aviation authority for more information.
- ⇒ **Age, nationality eligibility and entry requirements:** You may apply from age 17 but can only begin training as of 18 years of age. Depending on your programme of interest, you must be eligible to live in the country your training program takes place in.
- ⇒ **Assessment:** To ensure identifying individuals who are most likely to succeed in pilot training and who are suitable for a career as an airline pilot. This process involves computer-based aptitude testing, personality questionnaires, teamwork exercises, and competency based interviews.

A PILOT'S TASKS INCLUDE:

- Performing pre- and post-flight inspection of the aircraft
- Selecting the safest and most efficient flight routes and airports
- Determining all flight/mission/risk parameters
- Ensuring compliance with record-keeping requirements
- Communicating with all required agencies and personnel
- Providing for the safety and comfort of passengers, the crew, and the aircraft

THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS CAREER

- Airline pilots spend an average of 75 hours each month flying and 150 hours on non-flight duties while commercial pilots fly between 30 and 90 hours per month.
- Both have irregular schedules that involve working for several days in a row and then having several days off.
- They are often away from home for a few days at a time.



REQUIREMENTS

Secondary Education

Possession of a outstanding **IGCSE** Grade 12, or equivalent qualification is required to be enrolled at one of the Aviation Training Academies

Recommended Subjects

Mathematics, Physical Science and English

Training

Namibian Aviation Training Academy (NATA) is offering training courses for: Private Pilot Licence (PPL), Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL), Night Rating (NR), Instrument Rating (IR) and Multi-Engine Rating (MER). The training programmes are approved by the Namibian Directorate of Civil Aviation and comply with the requirements/guidelines of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) as well as the European Joint Aviation Requirements (JAR-FCL). Beside classroom instructions computer assisted training is available to all students. For more information on NATA visit their webpage at : www.namibian-aviation.com

Other flight schools are : Signa Aviation Services—www.signaaviation.com ; Windhoek Flight Training Centre—www.wftc.go.na

Personality

Being a successful pilot requires a combination of skills. It's not all mathematical and technical. You also have to think creatively, act under pressure, and adopt a mentality fitting for a role of such great responsibility. Pilots not only require leadership qualities — they also have to communicate and work well as part of a team.

Work Opportunities

- commercial airlines
- flying schools
- charter organisations
- private airlines

References : www.namibian-aviation.com ;

www.cae.com/civil-aviation/

We're on the web:
www.tucsini.org as well as on
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The Wright Brothers created the single greatest cultural force since the invention of writing. The airplane became the first World Wide Web, bringing people, languages, ideas and values together.

- Bill Gates



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<http://www.tucsini.org/index.php/en/project/documents-for-students/career-prospect>.