THE AIRLINE CAREER PATHWAY

From Commercial Pilot Licence to Airline Captain and Beyond

1 OBTAIN YOUR CPL

Complete your flight training and obtain your commercial pilot licence, together with the additional qualifications required for your intended career pathway.

2 BUILD FLIGHT EXPERIENCE

Gain flying experience and build flight hours. Develop the skills, experience and qualifications needed to meet airline recruitment requirements.

3 AIRLINE ENTRY

Apply to an airline and successfully complete its recruitment and/or operational process. Requirements vary by aircraft type and will include aptitude assessments, interviews, simulator assessments and medical checks.

4 AIRCRAFT TYPE RATING

- Once accepted, the airline determines which aircraft type you will fly, based on its operational needs and recruitment arrangements.
- Complete the Type Rating training, typically taking around 2-3 months, depending on the aircraft and training program.

5 FIRST OFFICER

Begin flying as a First Officer (co-pilot), working alongside the Captain and gaining experience in airline operations.

6 PROGRESS TO CAPTAIN

Build additional airline experience, demonstrate ability and meet the promotion requirements.

Typical progression to Captain at a major airline:

- Often takes 5-10 years & sometimes longer.
- Usually requires 5,000+ total flight hours,
- Promotion depends on experience, performance, qualifications, vacancies and operational requirements.
- Some people may never progress to Captaincy

7 ADVANCED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Fleet or Aircraft Progression
Move to a different aircraft type, potentially a larger or more complex aircraft

Check and Training Captain
Train, assess and check other pilot's, including First, Officers and Captains.

Fleet Manager
Oversee operational and technical aspects of a particular aircraft fleet within the airline.

Senior Airline Management
Some experienced pilots move into non-flying executive or management positions within airline flight operators, safety, training and airline management.

KEY MESSAGE

A CPL opens the door to a professional flying career. Experience, further training and performance create opportunities.