How Long Does It Take to Become a Pilot?

Pilot training is usually measured in flying hours, but students also want to know how long it will take.

The time required varies greatly between students depending on how often they train, their progress, weather, aircraft availability, and whether they study full-time or part-time.

Remember: as well as the flying there is theory study and CASA exams to undertake as well as internal school tests

Typical full-time training timeframe
Approximate guide only — individual training times vary.

TRAINING HOURS	APPROXIMATE FULL-TIME TIMEFRAME

1 RECREATIONAL PILOT LICENCE (RPL)

Minimum: 25 flight hours Typical student: approxiimately 40 flight hours	Full-time timeframe: approximately 2-3 months

Your first formal pilot licence.

2 PRIVATE PILOT LICENCE (PPL)

Minimum from start (including RPL): 35 flight hours (integrated) or 40 hours non integrated Typical student: ~ 60 flight hours	PPL Navigation Stage Full-time: approximately 2 months

Develops the skills needed to fly icross-country & independently .

3 COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENCE (CPL)

Minimum: 150 hours in an approved integrated course 200 hours for non-integrated course Typical student: ~170 hours on integrated course	From zero to CPL: Approximately 12 months full-time

The licence that allows you to begin a professional flying career.

4 MULTI-ENGINE ENDORSEMENT

Approximately 8 hours flying	Full-time: approximately 2 weeks

Develops the skills required to operate multi engine aircraft.

5 INSTRUMENT RATING

Approximately 22 hours simulator Approximately 22 hours aircraft flying	Full-time: approximately 3 months

Develops the ability to fly using instruments under IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) in a wider range of meteorological conditions.

How long will YOUR training take?

There is no single answer.

Training frequency How often you fly makes a major difference.	Full-time vs part-time Full-time students generally progress much faster.	Weather Poor weather can delay flight training.	Aircraft availability Maintenance and scheduling can affect progress.	Your learning progress Students don't all reach the required standard at the same pace.

The timeframes shown above are a guide for students training regularly on a full-time basis. They are not guaranteed completion times.

Minimum hours are regulatory requirements. Typical hours and training time are indicative only and vary between students.