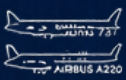
TYPE RATING – FIRST OFFICER

From CPL to Flying for an Airline



A Type Rating is specialised training that qualifies a pilot to fly a specific aircraft type.

Typical first type ratings would be on the Boeing 737 or Airbus A320.



Once recruited, the airline determines which aircraft the pilot will fly. You will complete the relevant type rating before progressing to airline-specific training.

1. **AIRCRAFT GROUND SCHOOL**
   Study aircraft systems, performance, limitations and operating procedures.
   2–4 weeks

2. **FLIGHT SIMULATOR TRAINING**
   Builds essential pilot competencies in manual aircraft control, automation systems, procedural discipline, crisis management, decision making & crew communication.
   3–5 weeks

3. **TYPE RATING SKILL TEST**
   Complete the required assessments to demonstrate competence on the aircraft type.
   As part of the training program

4. **BASE TRAINING (IF REQUIRED)**
   Practise initial take-offs and landings in the actual aircraft, where required by the approved training pathway.
   A few days

5. **AIRLINE CONVERSION TRAINING**
   Learn the airline's procedures, safety requirements and standard operating practices.
   1–3 weeks

6. **SUPERVISED LINE TRAINING**
   Fly scheduled services with a training Captain, gaining experience in real airline operations.
   Several weeks to a few months

7. **FINAL LINE CHECK**
   Demonstrate the required operational competence. Once successfully completed and formally released, begin operating as a line First Officer.
   Check Flight day

TYPICAL OVERALL TIMEFRAME

Approximately 3-6 months

From starting type rating training to release as a line First Officer, depending on the airline and training pathway.

KEY MESSAGE

A Type Rating is the beginning. Airline conversion, supervised line training and successful checks complete the transition to operational airline flying.