

Train to become a Commercial Pilot from £67,500

A modular pilot's training route for a frozen ATPL

Stages of Training	Duration	Country	Example Training Costs
Private Pilots Licence			
• 30 hours of dual flight training • 10 hours solo flying • 9 Theory exams • Radio Telephony licence	From 2 months	UK	£9,600
ATPL (A) Theory Ground School			
• 650 hours of theory study • Option to study full-time in class or via distance learning	From 6 months	UK	Flexible Distance Learning - £2,933
	From 6 months	UK	Full-Time in Class - £7,250
Hour Building			
• 90 hours minimum of solo flying - To include 50 hours of cross-country flying hours - 300nm solo qualifying cross-country exercise	During ATPL theory	UK	£14,104
Night Rating			
• 4 hours of flight training in a twin-engine • 1-hour solo flight - includes 5 full-stop take-offs and landings	From 3 days	UK	£1,375
Upset Prevention Recovery Training (UPRT)			
• 5 hours of ground school • 3 hours of dual flight training in an aerobatic aircraft	1 day	UK	£1,465
Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL) and Multi-Engine Instrument Rating (ME-IR)			
• CPL - 15 hours of dual flight training in a complex aircraft • ME-IR - On average, 45 hours of dual IR training, 30 hours in an FNPT II Simulator, 15 hours minimum in a twin-engine aircraft	3 months full-time or 6 months part-time	UK	£32,204
Airline Pilot Standards Multi-Crew Cooperation (APS MCC)			
• 20 hours of multi-crew simulator training as a pilot flying • 20 hours of multi-crew simulator training as a pilot monitoring • 30 hours of theoretical training in class	14 days - full time	UK/Ireland	£5,750

Additional costs to consider in flight training

When planning your budget, be aware that flight training involves more than just hourly flying rates. Additional expenses often not included in advertised prices may include: examination fees, medical assessments, licensing charges payable to aviation authorities.

UK CAA vs EASA Pilot Licence explained

An EASA licence allows you to fly for European airlines, while a UK CAA licence is required for UK-based operators. You can gain both licences by training with a dual-approved flight school or by converting your licence later. Licence conversion typically adds around £10,000–£15,000 to your training costs.

To reduce costs, some training can be completed in Europe, where a PPL may start from £7,000 and hour-building from around £75 per hour. Remember to factor in travel and accommodation.

For dual licensing, to keep costs and timeframes to a minimum, we recommend completing your ATPL exams, MEP, MEIR, CPL, UPRT and APS MCC with a dual-approved provider rather than following a licence conversion.

Contact us for advice on the best dual-licence training route for you.

Class 1 Medical Certificate

• UK CAA Class 1 Medical	£957
• EASA Class 1 Medical	£957
• Combined CAA/EASA Medical	£1,377
• Revalidations/ Renewal	From £270

Note: Additional fees may apply for referrals or specialist consultations.

Skill Tests & Examiner Fees

• Private Pilot's Licence	£210 - £300
• Multi-Engine Piston	£140 - £300
• Multi-Engine IR	UK CAA Examiner Fee £1,104. + £500 for EASA*
• Commercial Pilot's Licence	UK CAA Examiner Fee £1,104. + £500 for EASA*

Please note for Skills Tests you will also need to budget for aircraft hire. The prices above depend on the school you train with.

Licence Application Fees

• Private Pilot's Licence (PPL)	From £250
• Radio Telephony Licence	From £ 95
• Multi-Engine Piston (MEP) Rating	From £162
• Instrument Rating (IR)	From £162
• Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL)	From £326

Theory Exam Fees

PPL Exam Fees: Approx £40 each x 9 exams = **£350**

ATPL Exam Fees: UK CAA exams: £97 per exam x 13 exams = **£1,210**

Airport Fees

Typical landing fees:

- Small airfields (outside controlled airspace): **£10–£20**
- Larger international airports (with ATC): **£40–£100+**

Instrument Approach Fees: Between **£40 to £110** per instrument approach, depending on the airport.

Though often modest individually, these fees can add up significantly over the course of your training. Always ask your flight school for a breakdown of any potential airport charges.

Additional Costs

Extra Training: Contact your flight school for hourly training rates if you require additional lessons.

Accommodation: If needed, ask your chosen school about on-site accommodation or recommended local options.