

Job of the Week – Airline Pilot

Job description:

To fly passengers and cargo to destinations around the world. Also known as Aircraft pilots or co-pilots.

Pathway routes into the industry

You can get into this job through:

- a university course which will include commercial pilot training with an approved flight training organisation and lead to a 'frozen' Air Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL) which allows you to work as a co-pilot and build up the necessary flying hours to become a captain
- applying directly
- a trainee scheme
- specialist courses run by private training organisations

Entry requirements

You will usually need:

- 2-3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

Subjects

Relevant subjects include:

- Maths
- Engineering
- IT

Job of the Week – Airline Pilot

Skills

You will usually need:

- leadership skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- knowledge of maths
- thinking and reasoning skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to operate and control equipment
- observation and recording skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Salary: Starting from £24,000 and rising to £110,000

Day-to-day duties

As an airline pilot, you'll work with a co-pilot to:

- fly the plane and communicate with air traffic control
- work out the best route using weather reports and air traffic control data
- create a flight plan and carry out pre-flight checks
- communicate with cabin crew and passengers
- follow procedures during take-off and landing to reduce noise pollution
- write reports, check data during the flight and adjust the route if necessary