

*smartair*



**PILOT INFORMATION KIT**



**So you want to learn to fly?**

Read on to see how Smartair can help get your career or hobby off to a flying start.

## GETTING STARTED

### What age can you start?

There is no minimum age to start flying. However, you do need to be 15 to fly solo and you can hold a Recreational Pilot Licence once you turn 16. You have to be a minimum age of 17 to hold a Private Pilot Licence, and 18 for a Commercial Pilot Licence.

### What do I need before I can fly solo?

- English to IELTS Level 4 and a reasonable grasp of maths
- Completion of pre-solo test
- An aviation medical certificate
- An ASIC security check, permitting you to fly into airports handling regular public transport.

## THE TRAINING PROGRAM

### What is involved in learning to fly?

There are two aspects to learning to fly:

#### **Flying**

Your practical lessons are structured so you confidently progress from the very basics of flying, through to performing more challenging manoeuvres and handling more difficult situations. Depending on the level you are aiming for, there is a structured program of flying lessons to achieve your goals. Please refer to an individual course brochure for more details.

#### **Aviation Theory**

You will study the principles of flying, through a structured program of lessons according to the qualification you are aiming for (see separate course details).

You will need to pass oral and written exams and practical flight tests as you progress through the various stages of your training.

### How long will it all take?

This depends on a range of factors (e.g.. part-time or full-time study). Individual results for part-time study vary depending on the time allocated and funds available. As a general rule of thumb:

- Recreational Private Licence (RPL) - this takes

- approximately 8 months studying part-time
- Private Pilot Licence (PPL) - this takes most people approximately 12 months studying part-time
- Commercial Pilot Licence: This takes approximately 12 months in a full-time, structured program. If you were to study this part-time, a highly motivated student could complete their CPL in 18 months

Obviously your objectives, priorities and budgets influence training time, and occasionally so does the weather.

### How much will I have to study?

Allow about 2-3 hours of study time prior to each flying lesson, so you can put the principles into practice during your flying lesson.

Studying for the RPL course requires around 150 hours. For the PPL course there is a requirement for about 270 hours of study, and alternatively there is around 620 for the CPL.

There is also a theory exam which will require additional preparation. You can follow a 'home study' program or attend classes at our flying school.

### What subjects will I need to study?

These include:

- Aerodynamics
- Aircraft General Knowledge
- Air Law
- Human Factors
- Meteorology
- Navigation
- Performance and Planning
- Radio Telephony

Refer to the course outlines for precise details.

### How long will the lessons be?

Initially, you should allow about 1.5-2 hours each flying lesson. This will reduce as you become accustomed to the training process. Navigation exercises can take up most of the day as both preparation time and actual time is much longer.

### What do the lessons involve?

A briefing, followed by a pre-flight aeroplane check, the actual flight and finally a debriefing.

## How is the classroom component delivered?

Either by attending the classes we schedule to assist students to prepare for the theory exam, or you can self-study in your own time.

## What is my program?

This depends on your objective in learning to fly e.g. for a career or hobby. Your instructor will design a program to suit your needs, Please refer to the course outlines for more details.

## OUTCOMES AND QUALIFICATIONS

### When will I be able to carry passengers?

After you have passed the Recreational Pilots Licence (RPL). To achieve this standard/test, it generally requires about 35 hours of flying time.

### What qualifications can I earn?

There are four licence types:

- Recreational Pilot Licence (RPL)
- Private Pilot Licence (PPL)
- Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL)
- Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL)

There are also various ratings (which are not available with the SPL):

- Night VFR Rating
- Command Instrument Rating
- Instructor Rating
- Aerobatic Rating
- Agricultural Rating

And several licence endorsements:

- Manual pitch propeller
- Retractable undercarriage
- Multi-engine

### Where will I be able to fly?

Initially, you will be able to fly only in the circuit and designated training area. As you progress you will be able to fly within Australia, depending on the endorsement attained.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### What are the employment opportunities for commercially qualified pilots?

Demand for qualified pilots is high. Positions you can go for include:

- Airline Pilot
- Charter Pilot
- Agricultural Pilot
- Instructor Pilot

### Are there any employment opportunities with Smartair?

We are a professional air charter business and flying school, so we also hire pilots. Smartair makes no guarantee of employment whatsoever, neither directly nor implied.

## COST

### How much does it cost?

Please contact us for more appropriate costing relevant to your aviation goal.

### Books and Equipment

Books and equipment vary with the course selected. Costs are included in the figures quoted above. Refer to specific course brochure for details of requirements for that course.

### Do I need any books or equipment?

We can supply all the books and equipment you will need:

- Student Pilot Kit
- PPL theory manual
- Navigational equipment (plotter and navigational computers)

Publications and charts are available from Air-services Australia on a subscription service. These depend on the level of study but include:

- WAC and other charts
- Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP)
- En-route Supplement (ERSA)

A good watch with a clear face and a sweeping second hand is also essential.

# TRAINING WITH SMARTAIR

## Why train with Smartair?

Smartair is a family run training agency. We have local employed flight instructors. We have our own aircraft maintenance facility in Albury as well.

## Where are the lessons held?

We have our training location in Albury where you can learn to fly safely, in an uncluttered airspace.

## What experience does Smartair have in training pilots?

We have been training pilots locally and overseas for over 40 years and now have a reputation for training up to multi-engine command IFR, with a consistently high standard. Our instructors are highly trained professionals, with many years of experience.

## What type of aircraft will I learn in?

Most training flights are in our purpose-built, ergonomically designed Piper PA-38 Tomahawk. We also have access to a wide range of aircraft.

## When can I start?

We have courses running throughout the year. However, with our flexible training model, we can tailor programs to suit your needs.

## Can I start with a trial lesson?

Yes! You can start with a trial instructional flight (TIF) to help you decide if flying is for you.

The TIF is a hands-on lesson where you actually fly our Tomahawk training aircraft, following a one-on-one pre-flight briefing with our instructor.

We have a range of other packages available to help you get started. Our instructors are always more than happy to sit down with you to discuss your aviation goals.



## MORE INFORMATION

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