

# Train to become a Commercial Pilot from £59,775

A modular pilot's training route for a UK CAA and EASA licence

| Stages of Training                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Duration            | Country    | Example Training Costs              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Private Pilot's Licence (PPL)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | From 2 months       |            |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 hours of dual flight training</li> <li>10 hours solo flying</li> <li>9 Theoretical knowledge examinations</li> <li>Radio Telephony licence</li> </ul>                                                                                                    |                     | UK         | £9,000                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     | Europe     | £6,470                              |
| <b>ATPL (A) Theory Ground School</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | From 6 months       |            |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>650 hours of theoretical knowledge studying</li> <li>Option to study full-time in class or via distance learning.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                |                     | UK         | Flexible Distance Learning - £3,000 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     | UK         | Full-Time in Class - £6,500         |
| <b>Hour Building</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | With ATPL theory    |            |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90 hours minimum of solo flying</li> <li>To include 50 hours of cross-country flying hours</li> <li>300nm solo qualifying cross-country exercise</li> </ul>                                                                                                 |                     | UK         | £12,814                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     | Europe     | £10,020                             |
| <b>Night Rating</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | From 3 days         |            |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 hours of flight training in a twin-engine</li> <li>1-hour solo flight - includes 5 full-stop take-offs and landings</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            |                     | UK         | £1,500                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     | Europe     | £1,030                              |
| <b>Upset Prevention Recovery Training (UPRT)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | From 1-3 days       |            |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 hours of ground school</li> <li>3 hours of dual flight training in an aerobatic aircraft</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                       |                     | UK         | £1,465                              |
| <b>Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL) and Multi-Engine Instrument Rating (ME-IR)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | From 3 months       |            |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPL - 15 hours of dual flight training in a complex aircraft</li> <li>MEP - 6 hours dual flight training</li> <li>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</li> </ul> |                     | UK         | £26,000                             |
| <b>Airline Pilot Standards Multi-Crew Cooperation (APS MCC)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 14 days - full time |            |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 hours of multi-crew simulator training as a pilot flying</li> <li>20 hours of multi-crew simulator training as a pilot monitoring</li> <li>30 hours of theoretical training in class</li> </ul>                                                          |                     | UK/Ireland | £5,995                              |

## Example Total Cost

| Training Path                                                                                        | UK CAA Licence Cost |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Training in the UK towards a UK CAA & EASA licence                                                   | £59,775             |
| Complete your PPL training & hour building in Europe, finishing in the UK at a dual-approved school. | £53,980             |

## UK CAA vs EASA Pilot Licence

An EASA licence issued allows you to fly for European airlines, including Ryanair. A UK CAA licence is required to fly for UK-based airlines. It is possible to hold both licences by training at a dual-approved flight school or by converting one licence to the other. If you train in Europe and later convert to a UK CAA licence, you should typically allow £10,000–£15,000 for the conversion.

## 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

### Class 1 Medical Certificate

To become a commercial pilot, you must obtain and regularly renew a **Class 1 medical certificate**. It is a requirement to have this before starting the Commercial Pilot's Licence part of the training.

The licence will need to be renewed every **6–12 months**, depending on your age.

### Estimated Cost

| Medical Assessment Type   | Cost      |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 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. These start from £105, plus any further charges as needed.*

### Skill Tests & Examiner Fees

Skill tests for pilot licences involve separate **examiner fees** and **aircraft hire costs**. Skill Tests apply to the licence types listed in the table below.

If you're pursuing **dual licensing**, you'll need to pay **separate examiner fees** for each authority:

- **ME-IR & CPL:** One fee for a UK CAA examiner and one for an EASA examiner.
- **Aircraft Hire:** You must also cover the self-fly hire rate for the test aircraft.

| Licence type                     | Examiner Fee                       |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Private Pilot's Licence (PPL)    | £210 - £300                        |
| Multi-Engine Piston (MEP)        | £140 - £300                        |
| Instrument Rating (IR) & ME-IR   | £1,095 (£1,295 for a dual licence) |
| Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL) | £1,095 (£1,295 for a dual licence) |

### Licence Application Fees

When applying for each pilot licence or rating—including the PPL, Night Rating, MEP, CPL, and MEIR—you will need to pay an application fee to your chosen aviation authority. These vary by authority.

Estimated 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

### ATPL Theory Study Equipment and Examination Fees

In addition to the cost of your theory course, you should budget for ATPL examination fees and study materials. If you plan to obtain both a UK CAA and an EASA licence, you will need to complete and pay for two sets of exams.

ATPL Exam Fees:

|                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| UK CAA ATPL exam fees:              | £93 per exam × 13 exams = £1,210 |
| Austro Control exam (taken at BGS): | £90 per exam × 13 exams = £1,170 |

**Study kit:** You will need the following items: a CRP-5 Flight Computer, a Jeppesen GSPRM Route Manual, an approved exam calculator, Civil Aviation Publication Manuals, a geometry kit / drawing set, and a navigation protractor.

Estimated total cost: £230–£280 (depending on supplier).

### Airport Fees

Airports charge for services such as landing and instrument approach fees. Many training providers include these in course prices, but additional charges may apply, particularly for instrument approaches or when operating at alternative airfields.

Typical fees:

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

While individual charges may be modest, they can accumulate over the course of training. Always confirm with your flight school which airport fees are included and which may be charged separately.

### Additional Costs

- **Extra Training:** If you require additional lessons, contact your flight school for hourly training rates
- **Accommodation:** If you require accommodation, ask your chosen school about on-site accommodation or recommended local options.

Sources:

Heathrow Medical, Euro Flight Training -UK, Stapleford Flight Centre - UK, Fly EPT - Spain