

PHOENIX AERO CLUB

Information Guide



Becoming a Pilot

Becoming a pilot is an exciting experience that teaches you life long skills, introduces you to an amazing community of aviators, and sets you on a path of discovery. Becoming a pilot can put you on an exciting career path, or serve as a unique hobby which you can use to explore the world, quite literally!

As a future Private Pilot Licence (PPL) holder, you have the freedom to pilot an aircraft anywhere in Australia. Initially you will be restricted to flying during day time, and in good weather where you will fly under “Visual Flight Rules”, but your PPL is the stepping stone to achieving a lot more! From there you can learn how to fly at night, how to fly an array of different aircraft, and even learn how to fly based solely on the aircraft’s instruments. You will be able to take your skills anywhere in the world and convert your PPL to the local equivalent under the relevant country’s civil aviation law. If you were ever interested in driving all the way around Australia, imagine the adventure of flying all around Australia! Up in the sky you will have a unique view of the landscape and gain a whole new perspective on your surroundings. You’ll be able to take your friends and family on joy flights and share your passion.

If you wish to pursue a career in aviation as a pilot, then you will need to attain your Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL). This licence trains you to a higher standard and will allow you to fly for reward, i.e. payment. Once you have your CPL, you will be able to find your first job as a pilot! A route that Australian pilots have traditionally taken on their way to the airlines is to find their first job in the outback, doing scenic charter flights, mail runs, or any other type of aerial work. Another way of increasing your experience and thickening your logbook before knocking on the door of the airlines, is to become an instructor! After training for your instructor rating, you will be able to teach aspiring students how to pilot an aircraft, just as you were trained at the beginning. The Australian aviation industry is relatively small and difficult to crack into, but the reward of having a job as pilot, well, many people would tell you that they don’t see it as work, but rather being able to fulfil their passion every single day.

Recreational Pilot Licence (RPL)

The RPL is your first step to an exhilarating career or life-long passion in the aviation industry. The requirements for an RPL are as follows:

- Be at least 16 years old (at the time of sitting your licence test)
- Have a Class 1 or 2 medical certificate, or a recreational aviation medical (conditions apply)
- Have 25 hours flight time (comprising 20 hours dual and 5 hours solo)
- Pass an aeronautical exam with the associated rating
- Pass a flight test

RPL holders are allowed to fly up to 25nm from the aerodrome where the flight began, the designated training area, or a direct route between the two, in day VFR private operations in a single engine aircraft. If the individual already holds a pilot certificate issued by a recreational aviation administration organisation, they will be able to exercise the privileges of a RPL after they have conducted a flight review.

| Flight (PA28/C172) | Hours | Rate | Total |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Dual Training | 20.0 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 7,000.00 |
| Solo Training | 5.0 | \$ 280.00 | \$ 1,400.00 |
| RPL Test | 1.5 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 525.00 |
| | | TOTAL | \$ 8,925.00 |

Private Pilot Licence (PPL)

A Private Pilot Licence allows you to fly anywhere in Australia and gain ratings (including night VFR and Instrument ratings) and endorsements to fly many exciting new aircraft.

- Must be at least 17 years of age
- Minimum of 40 hours flight time including 10 hours solo plus 5 hours solo cross-country and 2 hours instrument time
- All classes of airspace need to be ICAO compliant

| Flight (PA28/C172) | Hours | Rate | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Dual Training | 23.0 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 8,050.00 |
| Solo Training | 10.0 | \$ 280.00 | \$ 2,800.00 |
| Solo Navigation Training | 5.0 | \$ 280.00 | \$ 1,400.00 |
| Dual Instrument Training | 2.0 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 700.00 |
| PPL Test | 3.0 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 1,050.00 |
| | | TOTAL | \$14,000.00 |

Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL)

The CPL allows you to fly for hire or reward, anywhere in Australia and is a stepping-stone to the Air Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL) which is required for employment with airlines.

- Must be 18 years of age
- Pass all 7 theory exams within a two-year period including:
 - Aerodynamics
 - Aircraft General Knowledge
 - Flight Rules & Air Law
 - Human Factors
 - Meteorology
 - Navigation
 - Operations, Performance & Flight Planning
- Minimum of 200 hours flight time.
- A CPL holder cannot be pilot-in-command of an aircraft engaged in multi-crew charter or RPT, a multi-engine aircraft with more than 9 passenger seats in RPT, or a turbojet aircraft with MTOW greater than 3500 kg in RPT.

| Flight (PA28/C172) | Hours | Rate | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Dual Training | 30.0 | \$ 350.00 | \$10,500.00 |
| Solo Training | 80.0 | \$ 280.00 | \$22,400.00 |
| Solo Navigation Training | 20.0 | \$ 280.00 | \$ 5,600.00 |
| Dual Instrument Training | 10.0 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Additional PIC Time | 60.0 | \$ 280.00 | \$16,800.00 |
| CPL Test | 3.0 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 1,050.00 |
| | | TOTAL | \$59,850.00 |

With all of the cost outlines provided, please note:

- Phoenix Aero Club Associate members and enjoy a \$30/h discount on all aircraft hire rates, which has been included in the above calculations.
- Additional training may be needed to reach the required flight test standard. This document should only be used as an indicative guide with reference to minimum hour requirements for each level of licence, at the current aircraft hiring rates.
- Each of the courses listed for the three difference licensing levels have cost and hours estimates based on students starting with zero experience. Those undertaking a PPL course for example whilst already holding an RPL can deduct the required hours and price from the estimates provided.
- Prices quoted DO NOT include tower and movement fees in hiring rates. These are calculated per flight, rather than per flight hour, and can be found on our aircraft hiring schedule.

Phoenix Aero Club

The Phoenix Aero Club endeavours to provide you with excellent instructors, aircraft, and facilities to aid with your training. We are able to cater to students wishing to learn how to fly, as well as licensed pilots looking to hire an aircraft for a weekend joy flight. We have 5 instructors, led by our Head of Operations and Chief Pilot, Ben Holloway. He has extensive knowledge of flight training and teaching, also operating a pilot training private tuition business, Sydney Aviation Theory. Ben was previously the Chief Flying Instructor of the Scouts Association of Australia's Camden based Air Activity Centre until 2016. We are very grateful to have Ben leading the flight training arm of the Phoenix Aero Club.

The club owns and operates 3 aircraft, which are perfect for flight training, as well as cruising around the sky taking in the scenery. We have two Cessna 172's, which are the workhorse of our fleet. This ubiquitous aircraft is popular for learning how to fly, as well as touring with its spacious 4 seat cabin, and doors on both sides of the cabin. Pilots learning to fly on this aircraft will be able to find a Cessna 172 just about anywhere to hire in the future. We also use a Piper Warrior, which is a great low wing aircraft that is popular for our students and members undertaking a navigation flight or trip to another airport. Both our aircraft are able to be used for *ab-initio* training, all the way through to the licensing stage. This, combined with our four instructors means that there is a large flexibility and availability in accomodating your needs.

Besides flight training, the Phoenix Aero Club provides a relaxed, friendly atmosphere for students and licensed pilots to come and enjoy the social benefits of being part of a club. We have large, modern facilities and regularly hold Sunday BBQ's at the clubhouse, which has easily the best view of the airport! We encourage members to socialise and spend time at the clubhouse beyond their flight training, allowing them to meet like-minded pilots, as well as hear fascinating stories over lunch from our deep and varied member base. Our goal is to have a tight-knit community of aviators who can come together to enjoy their collective passion!

Phoenix Aero Club also works to provide social activities for its members to enjoy. These include:

- **Fly-Aways** – We have fly-aways to an airport in a one to two hour range from Camden, or occasionally to further destinations. Fly-aways enable pilots to experience flying outside the Camden circuit and training area, and it is possible for a student to fly in the company of an instructor and experience the opportunity of flying cross-country and landing at different locations. For others, just flying as a passenger helps sharpen navigation skills. Lunch may be arranged at our destination, and then it is time to return to our aircraft, swap seats and set course for Camden.

- **Flying Competitions** – At PAC we also hold flying competitions! The competition itself can vary from many different tasks such as manoeuvring, or even to see who can ‘grease the runway’! These competitions will involve the club instructors judging who performs the best.
- **Trivia Events** – Are you an aviation history buff? Come and test your skills against other PAC members during trivia afternoons held at the club. We are aiming to hold regular trivia events for you to share your knowledge as well. You might even learn something new!
- **Aviation Related Trips** – We want to enhance your fascination with aviation by organising tours! These could include trips down to Wollongong to the HARS aircraft museum, or a visit to the ATC tower at Camden to put a face to the voices you hear in your headset!
- **Social and Networking BBQ’s** – It’s not what you know, but who you know! Come for a delicious BBQ lunch, and get to know other members of the Phoenix Aero Club. It’s a casual get-together, and you’ll be able to chat with like-minded pilots, and share stories of your best flying experiences!

When you first fly with us for your TIF, or begin your lessons towards a licence, there is no obligation for you to formally become a member of the Phoenix Aero Club. However, if you would like to be a part of our club and enjoy the benefits of the club that we can provide for you, then we invite you to become a member. We want our club to be filled with like-minded members who have the club’s best interest at heart. We hope that you share our passion for aviation and help to ensure that our club can continue to exist well into the future.

The Phoenix Aero Club operates different classes of membership to suit different club patrons. To encourage the next generation of pilots, the Phoenix Aero Club is proud to waive the yearly Associate membership contribution for members under 18. These Associate members will still receive the hourly members’ flying discount of \$30/h off aircraft hire rates, and we hope that this encourages our younger students to realise their dreams and obtain their pilots licences. We acknowledge that aviation can be an expensive industry to get started in and with the burden of buying text books and equipment, obtaining a medical check and other associated costs, we hope this encourages you down the path of aviation.

We invite you to come and meet our instructors and inspect our facilities over a cup of tea and coffee. We aim to provide a friendly and relaxed, yet professional environment that you can enjoy, with the purpose of enhancing your aviation experience.

Getting Started

The first step is taking a Trial Instructional Flight. This involves a pre and post flight briefing, and a 30 minute flight, during which you will have the chance to be in control of the aircraft! The vast majority of students who take a TIF with us are hooked instantly! If you have already undertaken some flight training and wish to “move” to the Phoenix Aero Club, contact our instructors and discuss the specifics of your flight experience thus far, to work out the best way to proceed.

NOTE: A TIF is not a pre-requisite to starting your flying training. If you are already committed to obtaining your licence, you can start immediately with the first formal lesson in the syllabus. A TIF is designed to give you that first taste of flying and to leave you wanting more!

Once you decide to take the plunge, the next step is to book in a lesson and start flying! We don't have any packages or prepaid systems for our flying training at the Phoenix Aero Club. It's a simple pay-as-you go system where you only pay for the flying training you do, as you do it!

As you start your aviation journey, there are a few key items that you need to consider:

- Training Theory Material & Logbook
- Pilot Equipment and Maps
- Medical Examination
- Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC)

As we are a Part 141 organisation that provides “non-integrated” training, we do not provide theory tuition in a scheduled, full-time group classroom environment. Instead, students are required to perform self study at home using textbooks and other resources, before coming out and applying their knowledge in the air. This provides a much more relaxed atmosphere, and allows the student to progress at their own pace, be it full-time or part-time, around their own schedule. At a minimum we recommend that you use the Aviation Theory Centre's student pilot kit (RPL & PPL), or CPL level kit for students aiming to achieve their commercial licence. These kits are handy as they also contain a logbook that will be required to record all of your flying activity in the future. Some resources, such as a copy of the Pilot's Operating Handbook for our club aircraft, or specific procedural information related to Camden Airport, will be provided as necessary by your instructor. As always, the internet is also an excellent resource to augment your theory study.

For students aiming to sit exams for the seven theory subjects required for your commercial pilots licence, obtaining the relevant study material is vital. As previously mentioned, the Aviation Theory Centre CPL kit is a great resource to learn from, and many other books exist, such as those from Bob Tait. If you are only planning on achieving a Private Pilots Licence, consider if you might not be interested in enhancing your theory knowledge and studying the seven different CPL subjects, even if it's just for fun!

Pilot Equipment

As a pilot, you will start to gathering equipment that you will need to use to successfully operate the aircraft and perform a flight. When you are in the cockpit of an aircraft, you will need to wear a headset that allows you to communicate with your instructor, as well as receive and transmit instructions with air traffic control. We have headsets that can be used by students, especially when they are starting out their training, however we recommend that they invest in a high quality headset that they can enjoy as their own. Prices typically vary between \$200 and \$500 for a headset, however high end models can cost upwards of \$1000!

As you advance further in your training to the navigation stage, the required equipment you will need will increase. You will need to purchase the relevant maps for the areas you will be flying in, as well as basic equipment to allow you to create a flight plan. Typically you will need:

- Aviation Maps - Used to create flight plans as well as navigate in the air
- A Clipboard/Kneeboard - To fill out your flight log during flight.
- Ruler and Protractor - Allowing you to accurately draw your flight plan on your maps
- Flight Computer - For calculating aircraft performance and various conversions.

As the need arises for you to obtain this equipment to augment your training, your instructor will guide you on the tools you should acquire. At the Phoenix Aero Club we carry a small supply of pilot equipment for sale, otherwise these items can easily be purchased online or at a pilot shop at Bankstown Airport.

Nowadays, lots of pilots choose to carry an iPad with them loaded with an "Electronic Flight Bag (EFB)" package. These systems contain moving maps with GPS positioning layer over the top, as well as holding all the relevant documents ready at your fingertips. While EFBs are incredibly powerful and handy, for your initial training, you will be using the tried and tested method of using a paper map and a watch as your navigation equipment.

Medical Examination

Before you are allowed to fly solo, you will need to have an Aviation Reference Number (ARN) and undergo a medical checkup. Your ARN is your individual ID number that will be used for all your correspondence with CASA. We recommend you apply for an ARN as soon as you start undertaking lessons. Similarly we recommend organising a medical check with a Designated Aviation Medical Examiner (DAME) early as this paperwork could take some time. As you quickly approach your first solo flight, the first milestone in your aviation journey, it would be unfortunate to be held up due to paperwork.

- Class 1 Medical: Required for CPL and ATPL. Valid for 1 year.
- Class 2 Medical: Required for RPL and PPL. Valid for 4 years (applicants under 40, 2 years for applicants over 40).

If you are starting to learn for your Private Pilots Licence, with the potential long term goal of achieving your Commercial Pilots Licence and having a career in aviation in the future, we strongly recommend that you initially obtain a Class 1 Medical - a much more rigorous test than Class 2. Whilst you won't need the Class 1 check initially, this is important as you will immediately know if you will be able to pass the tougher medical examination in the future, allowing you to fly commercially.

Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC)

To gain access to secure areas of a security controlled airport that has Regular Public Transport (RPT) operations, you will need to obtain an ASIC. An ASIC is a bright red photo ID card that is valid for 2 years. Currently, it costs approximately \$250 to obtain or renew an ASIC. Obtaining one involves undergoing a background check, and can take a long time to complete the process. Again, we recommend that as you commit to your training, you apply for your ARN, Medical Check, and ASIC sooner rather than later, because the last thing you want is to be held back because of paperwork!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What do I need to get started with flying lessons ?

There are no prerequisites to start your flying training. As you progress through your training, we will ensure you have everything you need. But to get started you don't need anything.

Q. What is the minimum age I can start flying training ?

A. There is actually no minimum age to commence your training. However, you will need to be 15 before your first solo, so it is not really recommended to do too much training until you are close to your 15th birthday. If you wish to start at a young age this is no problem, but we will have to make sure you are tall enough to reach the rudder pedals and see out the windscreen.

Q. Do I need text books and to do a lot of study to get my licence ?

You don't need a text book right away, but if you are keen to progress, the sooner you get one the better. We recommend either the Bob Tait RPL/PPL series or the Aviation Theory Centre (ATC) BAK book. The amount of study you do depends on the individual. In most cases, students learn by themselves at home from their text book, and in a social group environment at the club before and after their lesson, but we do have a theory school where you can hire an instructor to help you.

Q. Do I need a medical to have flying lessons ?

You do not need a medical to start your flying training. A medical is required to fly solo and this normally happens after 10 – 15 lessons. If you have any doubts about your ability to obtain a medical it could be a good idea to get it first so that you know you can continue. Not all GP's can do a medical, they must be designated by CASA.

Q. How often should I fly ?

Most of our students fly once a week (weather permitting). But flying every fortnight is also very effective. We recommend doing your first 6 – 10 lessons weekly or fortnightly. The important thing is to just have fun and fly whenever you can.

Q. How much does it cost for a flying lesson ?

As we are a not for profit club run by volunteers, we are able to keep our costs to a minimum. A one hour lesson is currently about \$385 for members which includes everything including airport landing fees and control tower fees. Sometimes a lesson may go slightly over or under an hour and you pay accordingly.

Q. What do I need to bring to my first lessons ?

Obviously wear clothing appropriate to the weather on the day. Camden gets very cold on winter mornings and very hot on summer days. You will need enclosed footwear. Joggers/runners etc are perfect but thongs, high heels or bare feet are not.

Q. Can we fly in bad weather ?

Unfortunately flying is an outdoor activity that relies on certain aspects of the weather being suitable. The main thing that will stop us flying is low visibility, which occurs with fog, rain and low cloud. Strong winds can also stop us flying certain lessons or at very least make it uncomfortable and not much fun. And flying, especially at the Phoenix Aero Club is all about having fun !

Q. Is Phoenix Aero Club a licensed training organisation ?

Yes, it has been for well over 40 years! Although we pride ourselves on a fun, friendly and social environment, we are also very proud that our instructors are amongst the most experienced in the industry. Therefore we not only train pilots for recreational and private licences, but we train commercial pilots and instructors too. We hold a CASA CASR Part 141 training organisation certificate.

Q. Do you offer training under RAAus or use Light Sport Aircraft?

No, we do not offer any training under the Recreational Aviation Australia (RAAus) System. We are a CASA Part 141 Training Organisation, and use VH registered, certified aircraft for flight training.

Q. Do you offer financial solutions, such as VET FEE Help ?

No, we don't. Our students pay for each lesson at the completion of that flight. We don't require any up front payments, it is all pay as you go. We do not have any contracts or block flying time pre-payment systems.

Q. Can I join Phoenix Aero Club on an international student visa and nominate you as my Registered Training Organisation (RTO) ?

No, we do not offer this facility. Any Non-Australian residents are most welcome to train with us but we cannot assist with your visa. We always have many students from all over the world training with us who are already in Australia for their employment or study elsewhere.

Q. Do I have to become a member of Phoenix Aero Club to have lessons ?

No, it is your choice as to whether you also join as a member. If you are under 18 you qualify for free membership until your 18th birthday. Most students choose to become a member of the club so they can enjoy the facilities that we offer even more.

Q. How do I get started ?

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit us at the club on a Sunday between 9am and 2pm and see what it is all about. We fly 7 days a week, but Sunday is the best day to come down and speak with us to get started. You can see our wonderful clubhouse, speak with current students, instructors and club members and enjoy the best view of the runway Camden Airport has to offer. We even have a BBQ every Sunday !!

We hope that this information guide has been useful to you and answers any of your immediate questions you might have about learning how to fly, and the process involved.

Flying can unlock a whole world of amazing adventures, new experiences, and lifelong friendships. Whilst this guide covers the logistics of obtaining your pilots licence, we hope that you take the time to chat to our instructors, members, and other students to gain an insight into the passion that drives us all to “commit aviation”. Stay for a cup of tea or coffee and watch from our clubhouse the various planes landing and taking off, and soak in the joy that aviation brings to so many. Be sure to have a look at our online content, especially on Instagram, to gain a further insight into flying, and our club. We hope you fall in love with aviation, as all of our members have, and that it can take you on an exciting and never ending journey.

Contact us:

Hangar 766
Camden Airport
Aerodrome Rd, Camden NSW 2570
Australia

Call: (02) 4655 8780 - Note this line is unattended during the week
Website: www.phoenix.org.au
General Enquiry: info@phoenix.org.au

If you are ready to take your first flight, come out on a Saturday or Sunday to meet our instructors and chat about getting started- if there is space on the day we can fit you in for a flight then and there, otherwise you can book in for the following weekend (or weekday if possible).