

PHOENIX AERO CLUB

Learn to Fly



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 \$335 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 !!