

## Airline Pilot

### What is it?

An airline pilot is a professional who operates aircraft for commercial airlines, transporting passengers and cargo on domestic and international flights. Pilots are responsible for the safety and navigation of the aircraft, ensuring a smooth and efficient flight experience.

### Qualifications/Experience Required:

To become an airline pilot in the UK, you need to obtain an Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL), Complete a recognised flight training program, such as those offered by flight schools or aviation academies. Pass ground school exams covering topics such as navigation, meteorology, and aviation law. Accumulate flight hours through training, typically starting with a Private Pilot License (PPL) and then a Commercial Pilot License (CPL).

### What the Work Involves:

Conducting pre-flight inspections and checks to ensure the aircraft is safe and ready for flight. Planning flight routes, considering weather conditions, air traffic, and fuel requirements. Communicating with air traffic control and following flight plans and instructions. Monitoring aircraft systems and performance during flight and making necessary adjustments. Ensuring the safety and comfort of passengers and crew, including managing any in-flight emergencies or issues.

### Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for airline pilots fluctuates with the health of the aviation industry, which can be influenced by economic conditions, travel trends, and technological advancements. There are opportunities for career progression, such as becoming a captain, training instructor, or moving into airline management.

**Average annual Salary - £25,000 - £140,000**

**Typical weekly hours – variable**

### Type of person who may be suited to this job:

You should have excellent problem-solving skills, strong situational awareness, and the ability to remain calm under pressure. Airline pilots need to have good communication and teamwork skills. They should also be disciplined, detail oriented.

### Money/Wage Guide:

Earnings for airline pilots can vary based on experience, the type of aircraft flown, and the airline. Entry-level co-pilots may earn around £25,000 to £40,000 per year. Experienced pilots and captains can earn between £60,000 to £100,000 or more annually.

### Related Opportunities:

- Flight instructor
- Air traffic controller
- Aircraft maintenance engineer
- Airline operations manager

### Further Information:

British Airline Pilots' Association (BALPA): <https://www.balpa.org/>

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA): <https://www.caa.co.uk/>