

## **Becoming a Pilot**

### **Introduction**

Making the decision to become a pilot is an exciting move. With global demand for airline pilots reaching new heights, there has never been a better time to choose a career as a professional pilot. Therefore, your decision to become a professional pilot may be one of the most important decisions you ever make. Most pilots would agree that once having taken the first step towards becoming a professional aviator, it is a decision they never regret!

Going forward the first step should be to shortlist and choose a flight training organization with good credentials and one that is capable of providing flight training to a level of excellence which will give you every opportunity to fulfil your ambitions in your aviation career. The syllabus is standard worldwide with a few minor changes to suit regional and regulatory requirements. Pilot licenses issued by ICAO contracting states worldwide are acceptable in all other ICAO contracting states, including India. The second step is to differentiate the excellent from the average. For instance, an airline like IndiGo would look at the training organisations' quality and track record, it's flight instructors, the syllabus, the equipment and the infrastructure, preferably in that order.

Most surely while making this all-important decision the prospective candidate must take time to introspect and discuss with family and friends, then review your decision again. If you are motivated, inquisitive, talented, a team player who can work alongside a dedicated team and with a passion for aviation, then proceed in reading the information given below.

We hope it will give you an understanding of the world of flight training and the steps that will place you on the path to achieve your ambition.

### **Flight Training Partners**

The ab-initio training establishments contracted by IndiGo are carefully selected. They all have the necessary resources and expertise to meet our high standards. Through many years of training young pilots these establishments know that operating as part of a crew of a modern airline requires a unique set of skills, attributes and attitude that embrace all aspects of flying ability and personal aptitude.

They are very pointedly focused on training excellence and in producing good airline pilots.

### **Selection Process**

Only those who pass a rigorous assessment and selection process are offered a training place as a 'cadet' in one of IndiGo's aviation and airline programs in India or worldwide.

The entire process of selection consists of a Math, Physics & English written, psychometric evaluation, a Group Discussion/Group Task and finally an individual Interview.

This process is designed to discover your potential to become an airline pilot and is, in effect, your first step to the flight deck. Our aim is to discover:

- If a career as a pilot is really for you. Do you have what it takes?
- If you have the Aptitude and Attitude to succeed during your training and beyond.

## Qualitative Requirements

The first step in this direction will be to obtain a Commercial Pilot's license more commonly referred to as the 'CPL', followed by the Airbus 320 Type Rating (A320 TR); combined the CPL+A320 TR are the very foundation of your flying career with IndiGo.

Please review our minimum entry requirements to qualify:

- Aged between 18 and 32 years and of Indian nationality or an OCI card holder.
- Achieved a minimum score of 51% in Physics, Mathematics & English in 10+2 exam (if an applicant has graduated with Physics and Math or Engineering with a mark of 51% or more, the eligibility criterion in 12<sup>th</sup> with 51%, except English, can be overlooked).
- Possess an Indian Class 1 Medical certificate (no limitation)\*
- Be in good physical condition with appropriate weight and height
- Be fluent in English – both written and verbal.
- Have "unique-ID number /registration number (UID) at the time of admission.

\*candidates not possessing an Indian Class 1 medical can apply for the IndiGo program with a Class II medical, however, they must possess an Indian Class 1 medical prior to commencing the program.

## Duration

Considering the vagaries of weather and vastness of the syllabus, the combined CPL + A320 TR will take 19 months to complete, and an extra 2 to 3 months must be added for DGCA CPL and A320 documentation to be received. Cadets who train overseas are required by local law to convert their foreign CPL to an Indian DGCA CPL. The time taken is included in the 22 to 23 months mentioned above.

## Types of Aircraft

The modern day training aircraft are selected for optimum training value. Our cadets do a significant amount of training in "glass cockpit" equipped aircraft to ensure a smooth transition to flying a modern day jet airliner. Some of the names you will come to be familiar with are, **CESSNA, PIPER and DIAMOND** type aircraft. These are all 4 to 6 cylinder reciprocating piston engine aircraft used for initial training for the CPL. After this phase all your training and skill acquisition will be in multi crew jet engine aircraft and simulators.

As mentioned above, pilots who train overseas must convert their foreign CPL to an Indian DGCA CPL. IndiGo and the training provider will assist with this. The process of conversion consists of 2 written tests, referred to as composite-papers, and 10-11 hours flying an Indian registered aircraft (one of the types highlighted above).

## Certification achieved by the end of CPL-MEIR & A320 Type Rating training

- Commercial Pilot License (CPL) with night Flying Rating
- Multi Engine Rating (ME)
- Instrument Rating (IR)
- A320 Type Rating

## **Conclusion**

We are highly selective about our flight training partners because we believe that the organization and its flight and ground instructors, without exception, must be highly motivated and passionate about what they do, committed to helping our cadets realise their potential to become exceptional pilots.

Our strength lies in our people, therefore IndiGo places immense importance on the person and in identifying people with all the attributes inherent in a good human being. We ardently believe that a pilot's attitude can be his or her most valuable asset, or greatest liability; so we first look for good human beings, and then good pilots. Aviation experts agree that often a crash could have been averted if the aircraft had a different pilot with a different attitude. In brief, pilots must realise that most of the tools they need to be a good, exceptionally safe pilot, are within them, right this minute. Descriptors such as conservative, cautious, inquisitive, proactive, pragmatic, professional, decisive and informed would be good indicators of who we are looking for!!

Apply now....wishing you good luck and tailwinds on your journey!