



# 2026 PROSPECTUS



**Nelson Aviation College**  
Flight And Ground Training Approvals – New Zealand CAA 21787  
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# Contents

About Us	3
Global Reach and Alumni Success	3
Why Choose Nelson Aviation College?	4
Core Values	4
Our Location – Nelson/Tasman Region	6
Our Fleet	7
Our Simulators	8
Accreditation and Programmes	9
2025 Courses and Pricing	10
Information for International Students	18
Pilot Theory	20
Courses Fee	25
Entry Requirements	28
Enrolment and Course Selection Process	33
Find Out More	34
Visit our website	34
Call or email us	34

# Nelson Aviation College 2026 Prospectus

## About Us

Nelson Aviation College (NAC) is a premier flight training institution located in Motueka, New Zealand. Established in 1978, NAC has built a reputation for excellence in aviation training. Our college is led by Giles and Katrina Witney, who serve as the CEO and Finance Manager respectively. They are supported by a dedicated management team comprising:

Together with a three-person administration team, NAC boasts twelve full-time instructors, ensuring comprehensive and personalised training for each student.

Our highly qualified instructors bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the training programmes, contributing to our consistently high pass rates and sterling reputation.



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- Chief Flying Instructor (CFI): Marcus Day
  - Deputy Chief Flying Instructor: Thomas Piercy
  - Training & Development/ Safety Manager: Jackie Day

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#### Our Instructing Team

- A-Category Flight Examiners: 2
- B-Category Instructors: 10
- C-Category Instructors: 6

## Global Reach and Alumni Success

Nelson Aviation College is recognised worldwide for its quality training. We have welcomed pilot trainees from over 24 countries, providing specialised training for overseas airlines, internationally recognised companies, and individual students. Our graduates are employed by various aviation companies and airlines across New Zealand and around the globe, testifying to the calibre of training they receive at NAC.



# Why Choose Nelson Aviation College?

## Core Values



### Proven Track Record

With decades of experience, NAC has consistently high pass rates and a global reputation for excellence.



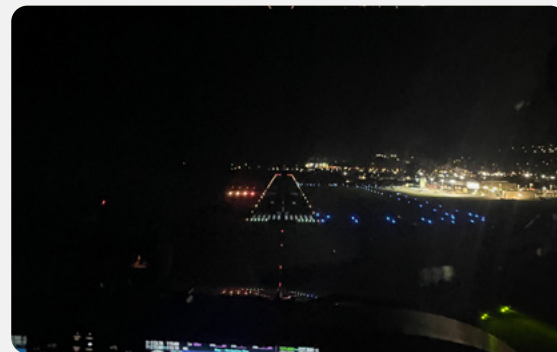
### Personalised Training

We treat students as individuals, not numbers, ensuring a tailored approach to each trainee's education and career goals.



### Experienced Instructors

Our team includes dedicated flight examiners and instructors with diverse backgrounds and expertise.



### Safety Emphasis

Comprehensive training with a strong focus on flight safety, preparing students to become highly skilled, resilient and safety conscious pilots

### Near Enough is Not Good Enough

We strive for excellence in all aspects of training and operations.

### Our Word is Everything

Integrity and honesty are the foundation of our operations.

### Have Fun

We believe that enjoyment and a positive atmosphere enhance the learning experience.

### Students are People, Not Numbers

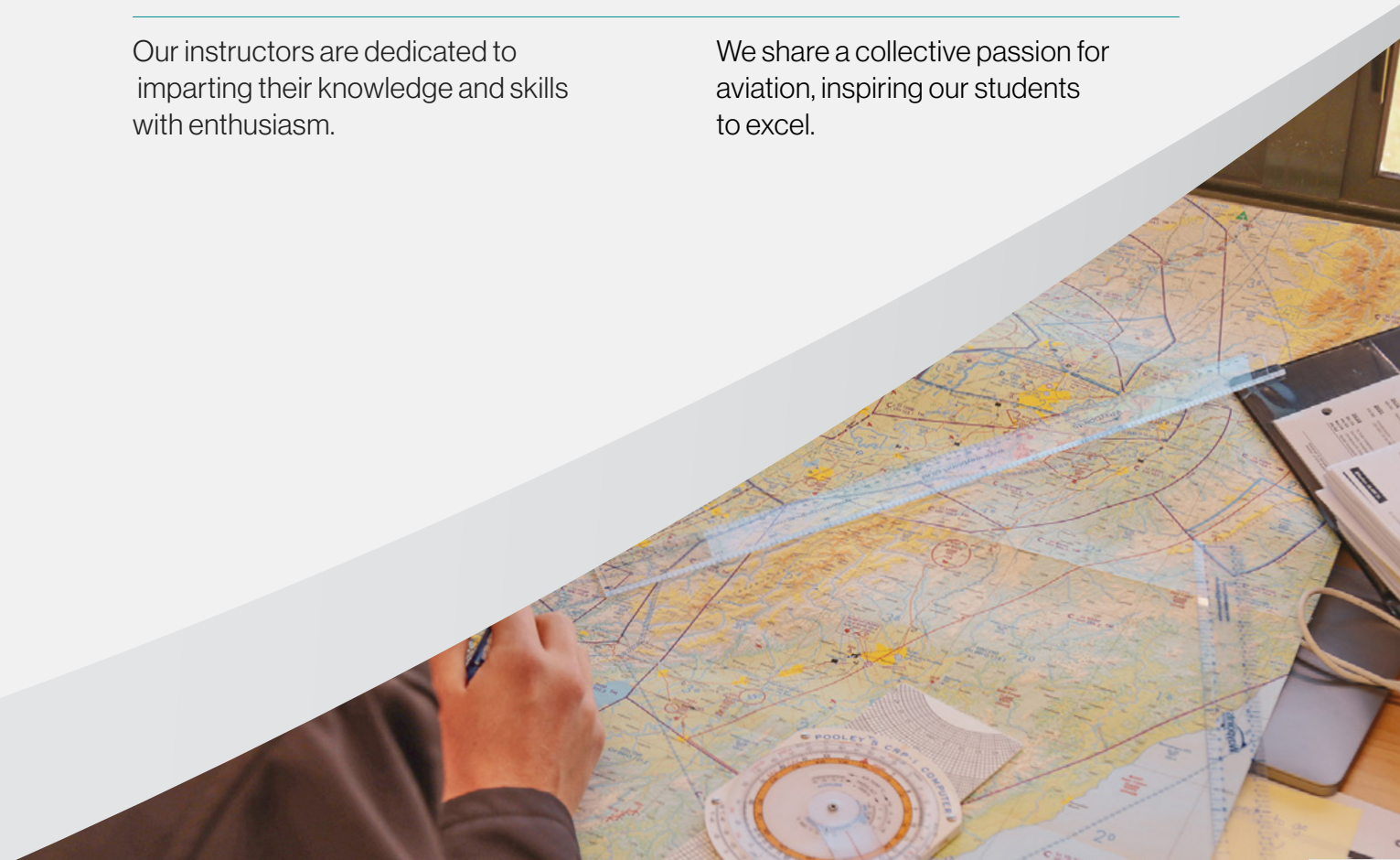
We prioritise individual attention and personalised training.

### Passion for Teaching

Our instructors are dedicated to imparting their knowledge and skills with enthusiasm.

### Zest for Aviation

We share a collective passion for aviation, inspiring our students to excel.



At Nelson Aviation College, we are dedicated to our students' success. Our goal is to see our trainees succeed as professional pilots, equipped with the skills, resilience and professional attitude necessary for the aviation industry.

Our personalised approach ensures that students not only attain high standards of flying skill but also develop a profound awareness of flight safety and a professional demeanour.

**Join us at Nelson Aviation  
College and take the first step  
towards a rewarding career  
in aviation.**





## Our Location – Nelson/Tasman Region

The Nelson/Tasman region in New Zealand is located at the northern tip of the South Island, renowned for its stunning natural beauty and diverse landscapes. This area encompasses the city of Nelson and the surrounding Tasman District. Nelson, often referred to as the sunniest place in New Zealand, boasts a vibrant arts scene, with numerous galleries, artisan shops, and the famous Nelson Market. The Tasman District is known for its scenic national parks, including Abel Tasman National Park, famous for its golden beaches, turquoise waters, and coastal hiking trails.

The region's economy is diverse, featuring industries such as agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fishing, and tourism. Vineyards and orchards are abundant, contributing to its reputation for producing high-quality wines and fresh produce. Outdoor enthusiasts are drawn to the Nelson/Tasman region for activities such as kayaking, sailing, hiking, and mountain biking.

Motueka is the Town of the Abel Tasman National Park and you'll find all the amenities you would expect in a larger town, with supermarkets, an extensive array of shops and services, artisans, amazing cafes and the Motueka i-SITE Visitor Centre offering friendly advice on the local area and attractions. The climate is one of the best in New Zealand with the average summer temperature at 21.5°C and winter at 12.8°C. The area has on average 2,400 hours of sunshine with 970 mm of rainfall. February is the warmest month and July the coldest.



# Our Fleet

Nelson Aviation College utilises the Cessna 152 for ab-initio training, with students then moving into the Cessna 172 for advanced VFR flying. Instrument Rating courses start in a Garmin G1000 equipped C172 before moving into a Piper Seminole with Garmin 500 and G430 avionics for multi-engine training.

The Cessna 152 and Cessna 172 are two of the most popular flight training aircraft in the world, both manufactured by Cessna Aircraft Company. These aircraft are widely used in flight schools due to their reliability, ease of handling, and cost-effectiveness.



## Cessna 152

The Cessna 152 is a two-seat, single-engine, high-wing aircraft designed primarily for flight training and personal use. It is known for its docile handling and forgiving flight characteristics, making it an excellent choice for beginner pilots. Its high wing design provides good visibility and stability, which enhances safety during training.



## Cessna 172S

The Cessna 172, also known as the Skyhawk, is a four-seat, single-engine, high-wing aircraft that has become one of the most produced aircraft in history. Our fleet are fitted with the modern NXi avionics, including GPS, glass cockpit displays, and autopilot.

The Cessna 172's larger cabin and more powerful engine make it suitable for cross-country training and longer flights. Its versatility and reliability have made it a favorite among flight schools and private pilots. The aircraft's stable flight characteristics and ease of control contribute to its popularity as a training aircraft.

Both the Cessna 152 and Cessna 172 are excellent choices for flight training, each offering unique benefits that cater to different stages of a pilot's training journey.



## Piper Seminole PA44

The Piper Seminole PA44 is a twin-engine light aircraft commonly used for multi-engine flight training. Manufactured by Piper Aircraft, the Seminole is a popular choice among flight schools due to its reliability, straightforward handling, and suitability for training pilots in the complexities of multi-engine operations.

The twin-engine setup offers redundancy, which is a crucial learning aspect for handling engine failures and asymmetrical thrust scenarios. The aircraft's retractable landing gear, constant-speed propellers, and more advanced avionics provide students with experience in operating complex systems.

Known for its stable and predictable flight characteristics, the Seminole is a forgiving platform for student pilots learning multi-engine procedures. Training in the Seminole equips pilots with the skills necessary for transitioning to larger, more complex twin-engine aircraft they may fly in their professional careers.

The Piper Seminole PA44 stands out as a reliable and effective multi-engine trainer, offering a blend of performance, safety, and instructional value that makes it a preferred choice for flight schools worldwide.

# Our Simulators



## VR

For ab-initio and refresher training we utilise the True Course Simulations C172 Immersive Training Device (VR – Virtual Reality). This device allows a student pilot to receive more life-like training by using haptics and virtual reality (VR). It is the most immersive and interactive way to learn and is proven to reduce flight time, and therefore cost, toward the issue of your licence.



## Basic IF

This CAANZ approved device is used for loggable Basic IF training toward your (VFR) PPL and CPL licences. The unit is based on a G1000 Cessna 172 and uses MSFS2020 – the same software as used for the PTs and SFT.



## Procedure Trainers (PTs)

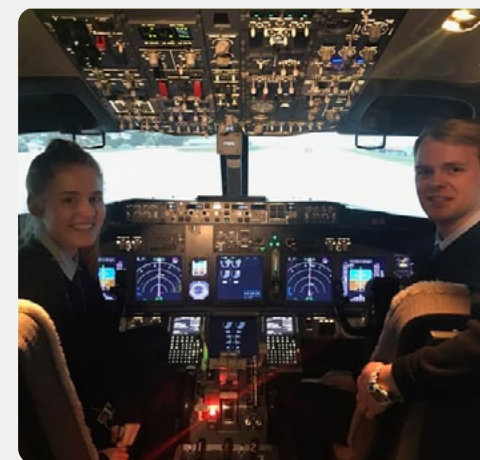
When you are undergoing your Instrument Rating training, to maximise your training efficiency, we use a number of procedure trainers. These desktop devices use the same software as the SFT but with a simplified interface, including touchscreens, so you can concentrate on thoroughly learning the instrument flying procedures before you move into the SFT.



## Simulated Flight Trainer (SFT)

At our IFR base at Nelson Airport, we use a Simutech Synthetic Flight Trainer with G1000NXi avionics.

This simulator is accredited by CAANZ for instrument ground time toward the issue of PPL, CPL and IR.



## B737-800

The Air New Zealand Aviation Institute's Airline Integration Course (AIC), which was designed by Air New Zealand, has been running since 2013, providing trainee pilots with a detailed introduction to the many demands of a multi-crew cockpit and the systems and operations of modern turbine powered aircraft.

The course is run at the Nelson Aviation College training facility at Nelson Airport and utilises a Pacific Simulators PS2.5.



# Accreditation and Programmes

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Nelson Aviation College is approved and accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). Under NZQA guidelines, we have developed robust Diploma in Aviation programmes that offers comprehensive training from ab-initio to Commercial Pilot Licence and Multi Engine Instrument Rating, along with optional Instructor Rating, AIC and ATPL theory.

# 2026 Courses and Pricing

## Private Pilot Licence (Aeroplane) – Training Scheme

A Private Pilot Licence (PPL) is a Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAANZ) Part 61 recreational licence. This licence allows you to fly yourself and your friends and family around New Zealand and enjoy the pleasure of flight. The CAANZ issued PPL is an International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recognised licence, so if you are an International Student, you can convert this licence and continue to use it when you return home, if your country is also ICAO accredited. You cannot receive any payment for your services on a PPL. If you wish to do so, then you need to obtain a Commercial Pilots Licence.

- 34 hours of directed learning per week
- Complete in 16 weeks
- NZQA accredited, level 3 (54 credits)

### Course Content

You will acquire and apply the six PPL theory subjects; Human Factors, Air Law, Meteorology, Flight Radio Telephony, Navigation, General Aircraft Technical Knowledge, including competence in ICAO English Language Proficiency and gain practical flight experience and flight test for PPL including a minimum of 50 hours of flight time covering the CAANZ PPL syllabus. Students must achieve a mark of 70% or better to pass each external Aspeq theory examination.

Our course consists of 60 hours total time including 58 hours of Cessna 152 flight time and 2 hours of Basic IF simulator ground time including the flight test. To supplement your learning, you will also complete a Virtual Reality (VR) simulation PPL training programme. During your flight training component, you will complete the requirements for the issue of a PPL, including Terrain Awareness, Instrument Flying and Cross-Country.

### Course Outline

#### **Introduction:**

Complete the eight-week PPL theory component alongside the VR simulation training programme and introduction to Flight Training phase to first circuits and progress towards your first solo.

#### **Intermediate Phase:**

Complete the practical flight training phase from first solo through to PPL flight test revision, including Basic Instrument Flying, Terrain and Weather Awareness and Cross-Country training to Golden Bay, the West Coast and Marlborough regions.

#### **Advanced Phase:**

Complete your PPL revision and flight test and earn your wings!

Domestic Student Fee \$32,931 NZD

Student Loan funding is not available for this course.

International Student Fee \$41,190 NZD

### Available start dates:

3rd February 2026

7th April 2026

7th August 2026





## Commercial Pilot Licence (Aeroplane) – CAANZ Part 61 Licence

A Commercial Pilots Licence (CPL) is a Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAANZ) Part 61 professional licence. This licence allows you to fly commercially and be employed as a commercial pilot.

- Complete in 36 weeks
- CAANZ approved

### Course Content

You will acquire and apply the six CPL theory subjects; Human Factors, Air Law, Meteorology, Principles of Flight, Navigation, General Aircraft Technical Knowledge and Basic Turbine Knowledge Rating and gain the practical flight experience and flight test for CPL including a minimum of 200 hours flight time covering the CAANZ CPL Syllabus. Students must achieve a mark of 70% or better to pass each external Aspeq theory exam.

The course consists of 140 hours of total time including 69 hours Cessna 152, 3 hours of Basic IF Simulator ground time and 68 hours Cessna 172 including the flight test. During your flight training component, you will complete the requirements for the issue of a CPL, including Basic Mountain Flying, Instrument Flying and Cross Country.

### Prerequisite

A Private Pilot Licence is required to commence this training.

### Available start dates:

3rd February 2026  
7th August 2026

### Course Outline

#### **Introduction:**

Complete the fourteen-week CPL and BGT theory component and Aspeq examinations.

#### **Intermediate Phase:**

Complete the practical flight training phase 1-3, including C172 type rating, basic instrument flying, mountain flying and advanced cross-country training to Wellington, Manawatu, Golden Bay, the West Coast, Marlborough and Canterbury regions.

#### **Advanced Phase:**

Complete your phase 4 CPL revision and flight test and earn your commercial wings!

Domestic Student Fee \$79,484 NZD

Student Loan Funding is not available for this course.



## Instrument Rating – CAANZ Part 61 Rating

An Instrument Rating (IR) is required if you wish to be able to fly the aircraft by instruments only (IFR). This is a requirement for all pilots who wish to fly for an airline as a career. The Instrument Rating can be completed on a PPL or CPL licence.

- Complete in 16 weeks
- CAANZ approved

### Course Content

You will acquire and apply the three IR theory subjects; Air Law, Navigation, Instruments and Navigation Aids and gain practical flight experience and flight test for IR including a minimum of 40 hours of flight time covering the CAANZ IR syllabus.

If you only hold a PPL then you will also need to complete both the CPL Meteorology and CPL Human Factors examinations, if you intend to progress to a CPL. Alternatively, if you wish to exercise the privileges of the IR on the PPL only, you will also need to complete the IR Operational Knowledge theory examination. Students must achieve a mark of 70% or better to pass each external Aspeq theory examination.

A night rating is also required for the issue of an instrument rating to the level of licence held. For a CPL, 10 hours of night is required to gain the night rating.

Our course consists of 50 hours total time including 20 hours of Cessna 172 flight time, 10 hours of IF simulator ground time and 20 hours of Multi Engine flight time including the Instrument Rating flight test. During your flight training component, you will complete the requirements for the issue of a CPL Night Rating and Multi Engine Instrument Rating (MEIR) including VOR & GPS endorsements on an Electronic Flight Instrument System (EFIS). An ILS endorsement is also available as an additional option.

### Course Outline

#### **Introduction:**

Complete the four-week IR theory component and Aspeq examinations.

#### **Intermediate Phase:**

Complete the two-week IR ground course followed by the single engine practical flight training phase and night rating.

#### **Advanced Phase:**

Complete the multi engine type rating, practical IR flight training and flight test and earn your Multi Engine Instrument Rating!

### Prerequisite

A Private or Commercial Pilot Licence is required to commence this training.

Domestic Student Fee \$49,698 NZD

Student Loan funding is not available for this course

### Available start dates:

January 2026

April 2026

July 2026

September 2026







## C Category Instructor Rating (Aeroplane) – CAANZ Part 61 Rating

An Instructor Rating is available for those students that have completed a CPL and wish to complete an instructor rating as part of their pathway to an airline career or to pursue a career in instructing.

- Complete in 12 weeks
- CAANZ approved

### Course Content

This course is designed to encompass the CAANZ Flight Instructor Rating syllabus. Students are required to complete the following elements as part of the instructor rating course:

- Instructional Techniques Theory Course (ITC) (four-day course)
- Instructional Techniques Practical (25 hours dual, 1 hour spinning instruction)
- Aerodynamics
- Preflight Briefings

Our course consists of 76 hours of Cessna 152 flight time including 26 hours dual and 50 hours solo. Students must have a minimum of 150 hours Pilot in Command prior to taking the C Category Flight Test.

### Course Outline

#### **Introduction:**

Complete the introduction to preflight briefings and right-hand seat conversion training.

#### **Intermediate Phase:**

Complete the aerodynamics and preflight briefings delivery, ITC course and practical flight training.

#### **Advanced Phase:**

Complete the preflight briefings, aerodynamics, Air law and practical flight training revision and flight test and earn your C Category Instructor Rating!

On completion of this course students must complete 6 months and 100 hours of direct supervision. Suitable candidates who have demonstrated an above average standard during the Instructor Rating course may be offered a position on our C Category Supervision programme.

### Prerequisite

A Commercial Pilot Licence is required to commence this training.

Domestic Student Fee \$41,549 NZD

Student Loan funding is not available for this course

### Available start dates:

January 2026

July 2026

October 2026

## Aerobatic Rating – CAANZ Part 61 Rating

We have several Cessna 152 Aerobat's available for those students who wish to complete an Aerobatic Rating. This can be completed as part of the CPL course or as an addition. The Aerobatic Rating is a compulsory component of the NZ Diploma in Aviation – General Aviation.

- Complete in 2 weeks
- CAANZ approved

### Course Content

Our Aerobatics course has been designed to cover the CAANZ Aerobatic Flight Rating syllabus. Students need to complete a minimum of 10 hours aerobatic flight and be proficient in all manoeuvres prior to being signed off for the rating. Passengers cannot be carried during aerobatic flight unless the pilot in command holds an Aerobatic Rating.

Our Aerobatic Flight Training course covers the following manoeuvres:

- Spinning
- Loop
- Aileron Roll
- Barrel Roll
- Stall Turns

### Prerequisite

A Private or Commercial Pilot Licence is required to commence this training.

Domestic Student Fee \$4,550 NZD

Student Loan funding is not available for this course

### Available start dates:

Open





## New Zealand Diploma in Aviation - Aeroplane

The New Zealand Diploma in Aviation qualifications are approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and are eligible for Student Loan Funding.

There are three strands of the NZ Diploma in Aviation on offer at Nelson Aviation College; Airline Preparation, Flight Instruction and General Aviation. For domestic students to receive Student Loan funding, students must enrol and complete one of the three strands. These diplomas are also available for International Students.

Students are required to complete a Private Pilot Licence (PPL) in addition to the NZ Diploma in Aviation - Flight Instruction & Airline Preparation (unless already completed).

### Available start dates:

3rd February 2026  
2nd June 2026  
7th August 2026  
30th November 2026

## Airline Preparation Strand

This qualification would ideally suit those students who wish to pursue a career as an Airline pilot.

- 35 hours of directed learning per week
- Complete in 88 weeks
- NZQA accredited, Level 6, 298 credits

### Course Content

The components of this qualification include CPL theory and flight training, IR theory, Single or Multi Engine Instrument Rating with GPS & VOR endorsements, Basic Gas Turbine Theory, as well as ATPL Theory and an Airline Integration Course (MCC).

This qualification consists of 180 hours total time including 59 hours of Cessna 152 flight time, 88 hours of Cessna 172 flight time, 3 hours basic IF simulator ground time, 10 hours of IF simulator ground time and 20 hours of Multi Engine flight time.

### Course Outline

#### **Introduction:**

Complete the fourteen-week CPL and BGT theory component and Aspeq examinations.

#### **Intermediate Phase:**

Complete the practical flight training phase 1-3, including C172 type rating, basic instrument flying, mountain flying and advanced cross-country training to Wellington, Manawatu, Golden Bay, the West Coast, Marlborough and Canterbury regions.

Complete the four-week IR theory component and Aspeq examinations.

Complete the multi engine type rating, practical IR flight training and flight test and earn your Multi Engine Instrument Rating!

#### **Advanced Phase:**

Complete the 10-week ATPL theory course and Aspeq examinations and four-week Airline Integration Course (MCC).

Complete phase 4 CPL revision and flight test and earn your commercial wings!

### Graduate with the NZ Diploma in Aviation – Airline Preparation

Domestic Student Course Fee \$111,453 NZD

International Student Course Fee \$153,408 NZD

## Flight Instructor Strand

This course would ideally suit those students who wish to pursue a career as a Flight Instructor or as a pathway to build hours towards an Airline career.

- 35 hours of directed learning per week
- Complete in 84 weeks
- NZQA accredited, Level 6, 268 credits

### Course Content

The components of this qualification include CPL theory and flight training, IR theory, Single or Multi Engine Instrument Rating with GPS & VOR endorsements, Basic Gas Turbine theory, as well as a C Category Flight Instructor Rating.

This qualification consists of 256 hours total time including 135 hours of Cessna 152 flight time, 88 hours of Cessna 172 flight time, 3 hours basic IF simulator ground time, 10 hours of IF simulator ground time and 20 hours of Multi Engine flight time.



### Course Outline

#### **Introduction:**

Complete the fourteen-week CPL and BGT theory component and Aspeq examinations.

#### **Intermediate Phase:**

Complete the practical flight training phase 1-3, including C172 type rating, basic instrument flying, mountain flying and advanced cross-country training to Wellington, Manawatu, Golden Bay, the West Coast, Marlborough and Canterbury regions.

Complete the four-week IR theory component and Aspeq examinations.

Complete the multi engine type rating, practical IR flight training and flight test and earn your Multi Engine Instrument Rating!

#### **Advanced Phase:**

Complete the 12-week C Category Instructor Rating Course and flight test and earn your C Category Instructor Rating!

### Graduate with the NZ Diploma in Aviation – Flight Instructor

Domestic Student Course Fee \$120,335 NZD

International Student Course Fee \$166,436 NZD



## General Aviation Strand

This course would ideally suit those students who wish to pursue a career in the General Aviation industry or as a pathway to build hours towards an Airline career.

- 35 hours of directed learning per week
- Complete in 76 weeks
- NZQA accredited, Level 5, 241 credit

### Course Content

The components of this qualification include PPL Theory and Flight Training, CPL Theory and Flight Training, IR Theory, Single or Multi Engine Instrument Rating with GPS, VOR and ILS Endorsements, Multi Engine Type Rating, Aerobatics Rating, Basic Gas Turbine Theory, Winter Flying and Dangerous Goods Theory.

This qualification consists of 250 hours total time including 127 hours of Cessna 152 flight time, 88 hours of Cessna 172 flight time, 5 hours basic IF simulator ground time, 10 hours of IF simulator ground time and 20 hours of Multi Engine flight time.

### Course Outline

#### **Introduction:**

Complete the eight-week PPL theory component alongside the VR simulation training programme and practical flight training phase including Basic Instrument Flying, Terrain and Weather Awareness and Cross-Country training to Golden Bay, the West Coast and Marlborough regions.

Complete your PPL revision and flight test and earn your wings!

Complete the fourteen-week CPL and BGT theory component and Aspeq examinations.

#### **Intermediate Phase:**

Complete the practical flight training phase 1-3, including C172 type rating, basic instrument flying, mountain flying, aerobatic rating and advanced cross-country training to Wellington, Manawatu, Golden Bay, the West Coast, Marlborough and Canterbury regions.

Complete the four-week IR theory component and Aspeq examinations.

Complete the dangerous goods and winter flying theory courses and examinations.

#### **Advanced Phase:**

Complete the multi engine type rating, practical IR flight training and flight test and earn your Multi Engine Instrument Rating!

## Graduate with the NZ Diploma in Aviation – General Aviation

Domestic Student Course Fee \$116,783 NZD

International Student Course Fee \$171,160 NZD





# International Students

The Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAANZ) PPL, CPL and IR are International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recognised licences and ratings, so if you are an International Student, you can convert these licences and ratings and continue to use them when you return home, if your country is also ICAO accredited. You will need to contact your National Aviation Authority for specific details and their requirements for conversion, as these can vary from country to country.

The Private Pilot Licence and NZ Diploma qualifications are recognised as approved courses for the issue of a Student Visa.



# International Students Studying in NZ



## Student Visa

If your country is not on the [visa waiver list](#), or you wish to stay longer than three months, you will need to apply for a Fee Paying Student Visa if you intend to study in New Zealand. The fastest and easiest way to apply for a student visa is online. Once you have your documents prepared, it should take less than 15 minutes to complete the online application form. You can apply online for your Fee Paying Student Visa [here](#).

Ensuring you have the appropriate Passports and Visas before leaving home is essential to a trouble-free visit. You must submit a Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ1007) with your application if you intend to be in New Zealand for more than 12 months.

Student visas are endorsements recorded in your passport. A fee-paying student visa allows you to study fulltime in New Zealand, the course and place of study endorsed on your visa.

Full details of immigration requirements, advice on rights to employment in New Zealand while studying, and reporting requirements are available from Immigration New Zealand, and can be viewed on their website at: <http://www.immigration.govt.nz>

## Visa Exemptions

You do not need a visa to study in New Zealand if you are:

- A New Zealand Resident Visa holder
- An Australian citizen travelling on an Australian passport
- An Australian resident with a current Australian resident return visa
- If you are a citizen of a country which has a visa waiver agreement with NZ Visa Waivers (only apply to Visitor's Visa)

## Working while studying in NZ

It is possible to work part-time up to 20 hours a week while studying or full-time in the holidays, depending on your visa conditions. For more information see the Immigration New Zealand website: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/preparing-a-visa-application/education-quals-study/working-on-a-student-visa>

If you do wish to work while you are studying, then it is important you are aware of the minimum wages and labour conditions in New Zealand. Please refer to this link for more information: <https://www.employment.govt.nz/>


## Medical and Travel Insurance

Most international students are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand. If you receive medical treatment during your visit, you may be liable for the full cost of that treatment. Full details on entitlements to publicly funded health services are available through Health New Zealand and can be viewed on their [website](#).

International students (including group students) must have appropriate and current medical and travel insurance while in New Zealand.

Students will not be accepted without medical and travel insurance, and proof of this will be required on arrival. NAC will organise insurance for you, if required. Cover is available through [Southern Cross Insurance](#). If insurance is required, please indicate this on your application form so that travel to the college is covered.

The Accident Compensation Corporation provides accident insurance for all New Zealand citizens, residents and temporary visitors to New Zealand, but you may still be liable for all other medical and related costs. Further information can be viewed on the ACC website at: <http://www.acc.co.nz>.



# Pilot Theory

## Private Pilot Licence Theory

The Private Pilot Licence Theory is offered three times per year and can be completed as an eight-week block course or spread over the three intakes. Two subjects are completed at a time as follows:

- Law & Meteorology (3 weeks)
- Human Factors & Flight Radio Telephony (2 weeks)
- Navigation & General Aircraft Technical Knowledge (3 weeks)

Course One (Feb 2026)		
Monday 9th February	Law & Meteorology	Exams Monday 2nd March
Tuesday 3rd March	Flight Radio Telephony & Human Factors	Exams Monday 16th March
Tuesday 17th March	Navigation & General Aircraft Technical Knowledge	Exams Friday 10th April

Course Two (April 2026)		
Thursday 9th April	Law & Meteorology	Exams Saturday 2nd May
Tuesday 5th May	Flight Radio Telephony & Human Factors	Exams Monday 18th May
Tuesday 19th May	Navigation & General Aircraft Technical Knowledge	Exams Saturday 13th June

Course Three (Aug 2026)		
Tuesday 11th August	Law & Meteorology	Exams Monday 31st August
Tuesday 1st September	Flight Radio Telephony & Human Factors	Exams Monday 14th September
Tuesday 15th September	Navigation & General Aircraft Technical Knowledge	Exams Monday 5th October

### Course Fees:

Domestic Students: \$6,083 NZD  
Student Loan funding is not available for this course.  
Course costs include all tuition, course notes and initial exam fees.  
Textbooks and equipment not included.



# Commercial Pilot Licence Theory

The Commercial Pilot Licence Theory is offered two times per year and can be completed as a thirteen-week block course or spread over the three intakes. Two subjects are completed at a time as follows:

- Law & Human Factors (3 weeks)
- Navigation & Meteorology (5 weeks)
- Principles of Flight & General Aircraft Technical Knowledge (5 weeks)

For those students who need to complete the PPL exams also, this course is tailored to include these exams where required.

Course One (Feb 2026)		
Wednesday 4th February	Human Factors & Law	Exams PPL 23rd February Exams CPL 24th & 25th February
Thursday 26th February	Meteorology & Navigation	Exams PPL 30th March Exams CPL 31st March & 1st April
Tuesday 7th April	Principles of Flight & General Aircraft Technical Knowledge	Exam PPL 7th May Exams CPL 8th & 11th May

Course Two (Aug 2026)		
Monday 10th August	Human Factors & Law	Exam PPL 26th August Exams CPL 27th & 28th August
Monday 31st August	Meteorology & Navigation	Exams PPL 30th September CPL 1st & 2nd October
Monday 5th October	Principles of Flight & General Aircraft Technical Knowledge	Exam PPL 4th November Exams CPL 5th & 6th November

## Course Fees:

Domestic Students: \$12,215 NZD

Student Loan funding is not available for this course.

Course costs include all tuition, course notes and initial exam fees. Textbooks and equipment not included.



# Basic Gas Turbine Knowledge Theory (BTK)

This is a three-day theory course. Your tutor, Mark Woodhouse, Waypoints Aviation is RNZAF trained (Fixed-Wing & Rotary) and is a highly experienced airline pilot and instructor.

The course is professionally designed to prepare those wishing to complete a basic gas turbine rating. It prepares students thoroughly for the Aspeq exam that follows at the end of the week. Those individuals who wish to complete the Aspeq exam later, or at another venue, can do so.

This course is strongly recommended to all rotary and fixed-wing student pilots who aspire to fly gas turbine machines at any stage in their career.

Course Dates 2026	
May	Monday 18th - Wednesday 20th, Exam Friday 22nd May
November	Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th, Exam Friday 20th November

**Note:**

The dates outlined above are subject to change.

**Course Fees:**

Domestic Students: \$944 NZD  
Student Loan funding is not available for this course.  
Course costs include all tuition, course notes and initial exam fees.

# Instrument Rating Theory (IR)

For those students wishing to complete the IR theory, the 2025 intake dates are as follows:

May - June 2026		
Monday 25th May	Law	Exams 17th, 18th & 19th June
	Navigation	
	Instruments and Navigation Aids	

November - December 2026		
Monday 23rd November	Law	Exams 15th, 16th & 17th December
	Navigation	
	Instruments and Navigation Aids	

**Course Fees:**

Domestic Students: \$4,722 NZD  
Student Loan funding is not available for this course.  
Course costs include all tuition, course notes and initial exam fees.  
Textbooks and equipment not included.



# Airline Transport Pilot Licence Theory (ATPL)

Nelson Aviation College in partnership with Waypoints Aviation and Dragonflight Aviation, offer a 10-week ATPL theory ground block course, two times per year. Each subject is taught individually with exams available each week to enable students to attend individual subjects or the entire course.

It is highly recommended that you are current at CPL level prior to attending any or all of the subjects. Each individual subject will start at 10 am on day one to allow for travel time and then 0830 for each subsequent day. The course will end at approximately 1630 each day.

April 2026		
Tuesday 14th April	Instruments & Nav Aids	Exam 20th April
Tuesday 21st April	Human Factors	Exam 28th April
Monday 4th May	Navigation	Exam 12th May
Tuesday 13th May	Meteorology	Exam 25th May
Tuesday 26th May	Systems & Performance	Exam 6th June
Monday 8th June	Flight Planning	Exam 15th June
Tuesday 16th June	Law	Exams 22nd June

October 2026		
Tuesday 15th September	Instruments & Nav Aids	Exam 21st September
Tuesday 22nd September	Human Factors	28th September
Tuesday 6th October	Meteorology	Exam 16th October
Monday 19th October	Systems & Performance	Exam 27th October
Wednesday 28th October	Flight Planning	Exam 7th November
Monday 9th November	Navigation	Exam 16th November
Tuesday 17th November	Law	Exam 23rd November

## Course Fees:

Domestic and International Students: \$11,095 NZD

Student Loan funding is not available for this course.

Course costs include all tuition, course notes, textbooks and initial exam fees. Equipment not included.

## Note:

The dates outlined above are subject to change.

## Instructional Techniques Theory (IT)

This is a compulsory four-day course required by students who wish to complete a Flight Instructor Rating. This course is designed to provide students with the skills required to facilitate teaching and to provide the student with confidence with material delivery. It covers both airborne and ground based Instructional Techniques.

The role of a flight instructor can be expressed simply as “to provide flying training to other pilots”, but in fact the instructors role is much more involved and complicated. There is a huge amount of theory involved in aviation subjects, a need to relate that theory to its application in the air, and a need to become familiar with the extensive supporting documentation in the Civil Aviation Rules and Aeronautical Information Publications.

Consequently, while your role as an instructor is clearly extensive, it might be useful to think of yourself as a ‘training facilitator’ as much as a ‘training provider’. The aim of the instructor is therefore to manage the student's learning experiences, in order to achieve optimum results in minimal time, at a reasonable cost and with the most efficient use of resources.

This course is presented by Giles Witney (CEO) and Jackie Day (Safety Manager) from Nelson Aviation College. These presenters hold either a Diploma in Teaching or a Trained Teachers Certificate.

### Course Fees:

Domestic students: \$1,498 NZD

Student Loan funding is not available for this course.

Course costs include all tuition, course notes and textbooks



# Course Fees

As flying is a skill, your actual course cost may vary and will depend on your abilities, knowledge and effort put towards acquiring the licence/s and rating/s. Any additional hours required to meet the standard over and above the course hours allocated will be charged at the current aircraft rates at the time of training.

Course fees are required for payment on acceptance to the course and must be paid for in advance of the course commencement date. Student accounts must always remain in credit. Any additional costs incurred are required to be paid for at the time.

Student Loan Funding for Domestic Students is available for the NZ Diploma in Aviation qualifications only.

For international students, fees can be paid in full, or for the NZ Diploma in Aviation qualifications by making four payment instalments.

The course fees include:

- Theory Instruction
- Initial PPL, CPL, IR and ATPL Theory Examination Fees
- Flight Training Tutition
- Initial PPL, CPL, IR and C Category Instructor Flight Tests
- Pilot Logbook (PPL Only)
- Airways, Flight Plan and Landing Fees
- CAANZ Licence and Rating Issue Fees
- Fuel\*
- Course Notes
- Textbooks (ATPL Theory only)
- Aviation English Language Proficiency Exam (L6PD) (PPL only)

Course fees include one attempt at each exam and flight test. In the unlikely event of a flight test or exam failure, extra training and flight test or examination costs will be incurred.

\*Any fuel price increases greater than 2% will be on-charged



## Additional Costs all students

The following additional costs are not covered by the course fees:

- CAANZ medical or LTSA DL9 - Medical Class 1 Issue \$1,207 and renewal \$533
- Exam and Flight Test fees other than initial sitting
- Accommodation - \$360 per week including breakfast and dinner weekdays
- Accommodation Bond - \$720
- Headset - \$1649
- Uniform - \$603
- Equipment, Aviation Manuals and Charts - \$477 to \$1594 depending on course
- Inflight Monitoring - \$294 to \$1,235 depending on course
- FlightLogger Student Administration Fee - \$189 to \$1,025 depending on course
- Any increase in external fees i.e. Aspeq examinations or flight tests or CAA licence and rating issue fees that occur during the course



### Additional Costs International students

- Travel/Medical Insurance - \$287 to \$1,360 depending on course
- Travel to and from New Zealand
- Initial Visa costs and renewals
- Agent Fees

The additional course costs are an indication only and are subject to change throughout the year. Confirmation of the actual additional course costs will be provided at the time of enrolment.

## Withdrawals and Refunds

### Student Fee Protection

All course fees will be held in the Nelson Aviation College Milestone Public Trust Account for the duration of the students training in accordance with the Education and Training Act 2020. An automatic draw-down of 20 per cent of the student fee or \$3000, whichever is the lesser, at the end of the statutory withdrawal and refund period will be deducted from the Public Trust Account. Subsequent withdrawals will be drawn down monthly in arrears over the length of the course, including holidays.

### Statutory refund and withdrawal period

Students wanting to withdraw from a course must notify NAC and complete a withdrawal form. Students who withdraw within the statutory refund period are entitled to a fee refund, however Nelson Aviation College is entitled to retain a portion of the fees. The portion of the fees refunded to the student and the portion retained by Nelson Aviation College is dependent on whether a student is international or domestic, and on the length of the course the student is enrolled in.

# Domestic

The statutory refund and withdrawal period for domestic students covers the seven days that follow Day 1 of the course start date (i.e. after 8 calendar days).

# International

The statutory refund and withdrawal period for international students covers the 10 working days from the day the student is first required to attend.

## Course three months or longer:

If a domestic student withdraws within the refund period, Nelson Aviation College is entitled to retain up to 10 per cent of any amount paid or \$500, whichever is the lesser.

## Course less than three months:

If a domestic student withdraws from a course of less than three months, the Education and Training Act specifies two separate refund periods:

## Course less than five weeks:

A student may withdraw up to until the end of the second day and receive a refund of at least 50 per cent of any amount paid.

## Courses greater than five weeks but less than three months:

A student may withdraw up to until the end of the fifth day and receive a refund of at least 75 per cent of any amount paid.

If a student withdraws after the relevant withdrawal period, all unused flight training fees will be reimbursed

## Course three months or longer:

If an international student withdraws within the refund period, Nelson Aviation College is entitled to retain up to 25 per cent of the fees the student pays. These deductions must be justifiable.

## Course less than three months:

If an international student withdraws from a course of less than three months, the Education and Training Act specifies two separate refund periods:

## Course less than five weeks:

A student may withdraw up to until the end of the second day and receive a refund of at least 50 per cent of any amount paid.

## Courses greater than five weeks but less than three months:

A student may withdraw up to until the end of the fifth day and receive a refund of at least 75 per cent of any amount paid.

If a student withdraws after the relevant withdrawal period, all unused flight training fees will be reimbursed.

# Course Closure Event

In the event of a Course Closure students are entitled to a pro-rated refund of any undelivered services provided by Nelson Aviation College. It is recommended that students check the NZQA website periodically for closure information. Public Trust can be contacted on 0800 371 471.

# Entry Requirements

## PPL Training Scheme (Domestic & International Students)



### English Level

English as a second language students must have a minimum overall IELTS score of 5.5, and no subpart below 5.0 to hold a CAANZ PPL licence.

There are no academic entry requirements for the Level 3 Private Pilot Licence Training Scheme

### For Flight Training:

### Appropriate Level of Health

A CAANZ Class 2 or LTSA DL9 Medical Certificate.

### Fit and Proper Person

The Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand requires all prospective licence holders to meet a Fit and Proper Person Assessment prior to licence issue. You are therefore required to provide both criminal conviction and transport offence history (Police Clearance) on application for a New Zealand licence.

This information will need to be obtained from the country or countries which you have spent more than six months in within the last five years.



# Part 61 CPL Licence or Rating (Domestic Students Only)

## English Level

Four years; secondary schooling where instruction and all learning activities have taken place in English, and at least 14 Level 3 credits in an literacy rich subject (English, History, Art, Geography, Chemistry, Economics, Biology, Physics, Classics, Art History, Journalism, Media Studies, Religious Studies, Physical Education), or

An equivalent or higher-level tertiary qualification.

For theory only, the previous level of aviation theory must have been completed i.e. PPL prior to CPL, CPL prior to ATPL.

## Aviation Experience

For flight training, some experience of being around aircraft or provides evidence of self-motivated efforts to educate themselves about aircraft and the profession of being a pilot.

## Cognitive Capacity

NCEA Level 3 Certificate, or equivalent\*, with a least 14 level 3 credits in an literacy rich subject (English, History, Art, Geography, Biology, Physics, Classics, Art History, Journalism, Media Studies, Religious Studies, Physical Education), and at least 14 Level 3 credits in a numeracy rich subject (Maths, Calculus, Statistics, Accounting), or

A Trade Qualification at Level 4, or above, or

A pass in all previous licence level subjects.

\*Cambridge International Exams (CIE) or the International Baccalaureate (IB).

## Appropriate Level of Health

A CAANZ Class 1 Medical Certificate is required prior to commencing flight training.

## Fit and Proper Person

The Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand requires all prospective licence holders to meet a Fit and Proper Person Assessment prior to licence issue. You are therefore required to provide both criminal conviction and transport offence history on application for a New Zealand licence. This information will need to be obtained from the country or countries which you have spent more than six months in within the last five years.

An up-to-date Criminal Conviction Report showing a conviction free period of at least three years prior to the date on which training will commence and no more than one conviction for drunk driving.

An up-to-date Demerit Points and Suspension History Report (Traffic Offence History) showing a maximum of 75 demerit points within the three years immediately prior to the date on which training will commence.

## ADAPT© Pre-screening Assessment

For CPL flight training, students must achieve an Average, Above Average or High result in the online ADAPT© Pre-screening Online Assessment to be considered for enrolment. The cost of this test is NZD\$100 plus GST (\$115.00) and must be completed prior to enrolment. To complete this assessment or for more information go to: [www.nzskillsconnect.co.nz](http://www.nzskillsconnect.co.nz)

NB: The ADAPT© Pre-screening Assessment is not required for theory or advanced rating training.

# NZ Diploma in Aviation (Domestic Students)

## English Level

Four years; secondary schooling where instruction and all learning activities have taken place in English, and at least 14 Level 3 credits in an literacy rich subject (English, History, Art, Geography, Chemistry, Economics, Biology, Physics, Classics, Art History, Journalism, Media Studies, Religious Studies, Physical Education).

## Aviation Experience

Some experience of being around aircraft or provides evidence of self-motivated efforts to educate themselves about aircraft and the profession of being a pilot.

## Appropriate Level of Health

A CAANZ Class 1 Medical Certificate. Applicants who are advised they have successfully completed the selection process must present their Class 1 medical to NAC before they commence training.

## Cognitive Capacity

NCEA Level 3 Certificate, or equivalent\*, with a least 14 level 3 credits in an literacy rich subject (English, History, Art, Geography, Biology, Physics, Classics, Art History, Journalism, Media Studies, Religious Studies, Physical Education), and at least 14 Level 3 credits in a numeracy rich subject (Maths, Calculus, Statistics, Accounting), or

A Trade Qualification at Level 4, or above, or

A pass in all PPL subjects (for the Airline Preparation strand this must be gained over a period of not more than 42 days).

\*Cambridge International Exams (CIE) or the International Baccalaureate (IB).

## Fit and Proper Person

The Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand requires all prospective licence holders to meet a Fit and Proper Person Assessment prior to licence issue. You are therefore required to provide both criminal conviction and transport offence history on application for a New Zealand licence.

This information will need to be obtained from the country or countries which you have spent more than six months in within the last five years.

An up-to-date Criminal Conviction Report showing a conviction free period of at least three years prior to the date on which training will commence and no more than one conviction for drunk driving.

An up-to-date Demerit Points and Suspension History Report (Traffic Offence History) showing a maximum of 75 demerit points within the three years immediately prior to the date on which training will commence.

## ADAPT© Pre-screening Assessment

Students must achieve a Average, Above Average or High result in the online ADAPT© Pre-screening Online Assessment to be considered for enrolment. The cost of this test is NZD\$100 plus GST (\$115.00) and must be completed prior to enrolment. To complete this assessment or for more information go to: [www.nzskillsconnect.co.nz](http://www.nzskillsconnect.co.nz)

# NZ Diploma in Aviation (International Students)

## English Level

Achieved NCEA level 3 and has met New Zealand university entrance requirements; or

Been awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma; or

Cambridge A-level qualification for which the teaching and assessment was conducted in English; or,

Been awarded the Cambridge Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) or the Trinity College London Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CertTESOL); or

Achieved, within the two years preceding the proposed date of enrolment, one of the internationally recognised proficiency test outcomes specified in the [attached table](#), for the level of the programme in which the student is enrolling.

## Cognitive Capacity

For overseas equivalency please see [the attached Academic Entry Requirement Guidelines under Undergraduate Degree](#), or,

A pass in all CAANZ PPL subjects.

## NZ Diploma in Aviation - Airline Preparation Strand (additional requirements for this Diploma only)

NCEA Level 3 Certificate, or equivalent\*, with at least 14 Level 3 credits in an literacy rich subject (English, History, Art, Geography, Biology, Classics, Art History, Journalism, Media Studies, Religious Studies, Physical Education), and at least 14 Level 3 credits in a numbers-orientated subject (Calculus, Statistics, Mathematics, Accounting).

\*Cambridge International Exams (CIE) or the International Baccalaureate (IB).

## Alternative Prior Schooling English Level Equivalence

Prior schooling completed in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu and the United States, taught using English as the language of instruction, may be used as alternative equivalence, provided the completion of one of the following:

All primary education (equivalent of New Zealand primary school years 1 to 8) and at least three years of secondary education (equivalent of New Zealand secondary school years 9 to 13); or,

A minimum of five years of secondary education (equivalent of New Zealand secondary school years 9 to 13); or,

A Bachelor’s degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Bachelor Honours Degree, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, Master’s Degree or Doctoral Degree.

## Aviation Experience

Some experience of being around aircraft or provides evidence of self-motivated efforts to educate themselves about aircraft and the profession of being a pilot.



## Fit and Proper Person

The Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand requires all prospective licence holders to meet a Fit and Proper Person Assessment prior to licence issue. You are therefore required to provide a Police Clearance report on application for a New Zealand licence.

This information will need to be obtained from the country or countries which you have spent more than six months in within the last five years.

1. All applicants must prove competence in spoken and written English. Candidates who are unable to prove an adequate level of English during the selection process will not be successful.
2. In the event the successful applicant does not hold a Class 1 medical by their nominated course commencement date, they may transfer their enrolment to the next available course. Such a transfer of enrolment may occur more than once provided that the student is able to commence training within a period not greater than 180 days from the completion of the selection process. If the period will exceed 180 days, the applicant must re-sit the entire application process.
3. Applicants will be made aware that a conviction for drink driving (or other serious offence or serial offending) while on the course breaches the fit and proper person criteria, and their training will be terminated.

## Appropriate Level of Health

A CAANZ Class 1 Medical Certificate. Applicants who are advised they have successfully completed the selection process must present their Class 1 medical to NAC before they commence training.

## ADAPT© Pre-screening Assessment

Students must achieve an Average, Above Average or High result in the online ADAPT© Pre-screening Online Assessment to be considered for enrolment. The cost of this test is NZD\$100 plus GST (\$115.00) and must be completed prior to enrolment. To complete this assessment or for more information go to: [www.nzskillsconnect.co.nz](http://www.nzskillsconnect.co.nz)



# Enrolment and Course Selection Process

## Enrolment

To apply to train with us you need to complete the online application form and upload copies of the following documentation:

- Adapt test result (CPL flight training courses only)  
<https://www.nzskillsconnect.co.nz/>
- Academic records including secondary and tertiary results
- Curriculum Vitae
- Written character reference (not family members)
- Certified copy of your birth certificate or passport
- Permanent residence (if applicable)
- Proof of your IRD number (domestic students only)
- Driver's Licence (domestic students only)
- Contact details (including email addresses) of two referees (not family members)
- Proof of English level (international students only)
- Criminal and Land Transport histories (Police Clearance).

For domestic students please click on the following links to obtain these –  
<https://www.justice.govt.nz/criminal-records> and <https://www.police.govt.nz/faq/how-can-i-get-copy-my-driving-record>

For international students you are required to provide a police clearance from your country and any country you have lived in for more than six months within the last five years. We suggest that you apply for this now and send it to us once it arrives.

Once we receive your application and documentation you will be contacted by one of our staff members and you may be required to provide further information.

## Selection Process

For students residing outside of New Zealand a Skype interview and aptitude testing is required for all course enrolments. If you are residing in New Zealand and enrolling on a course that has a flight training component, or you require Student Loan Funding, you will be required to attend an onsite interview where you will complete aptitude testing and a panel interview.

Course selection is completed two times per year in **April** and **October**. Applications for the October selection are required to be received by 15th September and for the April selection by 31st March.

If traveling to our college you will need to allow for a minimum of three hours onsite at our training base located at Motueka Aerodrome, either 9am until 12pm or 1pm until 4pm during the scheduled course selection week. Please note that Motueka Aerodrome is a 40-minute car drive from Nelson Airport so you will need to make sure that you book your flights (if required) with adequate travel time.

Please make sure to provide at the interview (online or onsite) photographic proof of your identity and any other proof of flight experience i.e. your logbook if you have completed any previous flight training.

Students will be advised within two weeks after the course selection interviews of their acceptance onto the course.

## Find Out More

### Visit our website



### Call or email us

If you would like to speak with one of our administration team, please call **+64 3 528 8382**.

If you prefer to email our team: **[enquiries@nelsonaviation.nz](mailto:enquiries@nelsonaviation.nz)**

### Please Note

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this prospectus at the time of going to print. However, changes and developments are part of the life of the college and alterations may occur to qualifications, staff and services described in this prospectus. Please refer to our website ([www.nelsonaviation.nz](http://www.nelsonaviation.nz)) for the most up-to-date information.

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