

Aviation Safety Investigation



The five-day Aviation Safety Investigation course has been created to provide an introduction to the key skills required to undertake investigations within the aviation sector. This Cranfield University course is delivered in Australia in partnership with NTRO.

Calling on Cranfield's almost 50 years of experience in training safety investigators around the world, you will be taught the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required in conducting safety investigations, before you put them into practice when you undertake the key stages in a simulated serious incident investigation.

In teams you will request appropriate evidence, conduct interviews, analyse evidence using a formal model and make safety-based recommendations. The course is designed for those working within the safety function

of airlines, airports, ground handling providers, manufacturers, regulators, air navigation service providers or professional associations/unions.

While for professional investigators we recommend Cranfield's three-week Fundamentals of Accident Investigation course or the six-week Aircraft Accident Investigation course (both offered through the UK campus), this course will also be suitable for support staff of professional investigators.

- Dates** Monday 20 – Friday 24 April 2026
- Duration** 5 days (9am - 5pm)
- Location** National Transport Research Centre
80a Turner St, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207
Special accommodation rates available to course participants.
- Cost** \$5,500 ex GST (\$6,050 with GST).

Where three delegates or more are booking from within one organisation, a discount of 10% will apply to the invoice for the course tuition fee.

“I had the good fortune to attend the five-day Aviation Safety Investigation course at Cranfield University. What a week... it was a real mind-opener. It was fantastic to learn first-hand from the top specialists of different subjects. It wasn't an easy week, but definitely worth it.”

Short course delegate - Quality Engineer, British Airways.

Course structure

This five-day classroom-based course will be delivered by industry experienced Cranfield lecturers. The course will consist of lectures, workshops and practical exercises, including role play interviews.

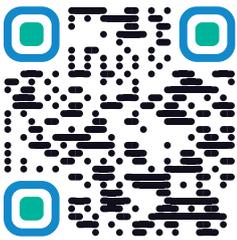
Course accreditation

All participants will receive a certificate of completion from Cranfield University after full attendance of the course.

Course Fees

Fee for this 5-day course is \$5,500 (ex GST). This includes course notes, morning and afternoon tea/coffee and lunches.

Group discount: Where three delegates or more are booking from within one organisation, a discount of 10% will apply to the invoice for the course tuition fee.



SCAN TO APPLY

To apply for this course please use the online registration.

Please Note: places on the course are strictly limited.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this course a student should be able to:

- describe the accident investigation process in the aviation industry;
- identify roles and responsibilities within the accident investigation process;
- critically assess analysis techniques used in accident investigation;
- evaluate common causal factors;
- undertake an investigative interview using the PEACE model;
- collect and analyse human factors evidence;
- make effective recommendations.

Topics covered

- accident investigation approaches and response;
- on-site appraisal, including an overview of hazard and risk management;
- evidence identification and collection;
- human factors in investigations;
- witnesses and interviewing;
- investigation analysis;
- organisational influence on accident causation;
- preparing and managing recommendations;
- writing investigation reports.

Speakers/Lecturers



Craig Cattell MSc MBA CEng MRaES FHEA

Senior Lecturer in Accident Investigation - Safety and Accident Investigation Centre

Craig was previously a multimode investigator with UK Defence Accident Investigation Branch before coming to Cranfield. During his professional career Craig earned Chartered Engineer status for his aircraft engineering roles, concurrently achieving an MBA. As an investigator Craig completed an MSc in Safety and Accident Investigation with Cranfield and is now the course director for this course. An Aircraft engineer by trade Craig joined the UK Defence Accident Investigation Branch carrying out international investigations

on everything from weapons of war to luge sleds. During his time at Cranfield he has utilised his investigative experience in diverse areas to develop a highly successful Foundation in Healthcare Incident Investigation course training over 500 investigators to date. Craig has specific accident investigation expertise in using drones for accident investigation, trauma management, multimode investigations and aviation fire investigations.



Alf Jonas GradDip MDS, GradDip MilAv, BSc
Visiting Fellow - Cranfield University, Safety and Accident Investigation Centre

Alf has spent his 40-plus year aviation career: flying, testing and investigating aircraft, and promoting aviation safety across both the defence and civil aviation sectors. Alf is currently serving with the Defence Flight Safety Bureau as a reservist Wing Commander - Investigations and Safety Policy Specialist. He is also the President of the Australian Society of Air Safety Investigators and a Visiting Fellow with Cranfield University. His previous role was Chief Pilot with Corporate Air (Link Airways) flying the SAAB 340B+. Other civil sector roles include National Leader - Aviation Safety Advisor Team with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Chief Pilot with Airborne Research Australia, and airline pilot with Regional Express. Alf is a graduate of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Academy and flew Lockheed AP-3C Orions operationally, and after graduating from the US Naval

Test Pilot School, was an Experimental Test Pilot with the Australian Defence Force for over 20 years, including four years as Commanding Officer of the RAAF's Aircraft Research and Development Unit (ARDU). He also held several roles with the Directorate of Defence Aviation & Air Force Safety, including Deputy Director and Chief of Staff. He has nearly 11,000 hours in 65 different aircraft (fixed and rotary wing), from an Airship through to the high altitude Grob Egrett 520, F/A-18B Hornet, SAAB340, and C-141 Starlifter. Alf holds several tertiary qualifications, including a Bachelor of Science (Astrophysics), a Graduate Diploma of Military Aviation, a Graduate Diploma of Military and Defence Studies, a Masters in Aviation Management (HF/NTS), and is a graduate of the University of Southern California's Air Safety Investigation course.



Clare Fry CSC BTech(AeroEng) MTech (AvHF) PgCert
Visiting Fellow - Cranfield University, Safety and Accident Investigation Centre

Clare is an experienced accident investigator and aviation safety professional, with nearly 30 years aviation operational experience. Clare is currently a Specialist Research Advisor with the Defence Flight Safety Bureau (DFSB) and a consultant to the Army Land Accident Investigation Bureau. She is the Vice President of the Australian Society of Air Safety Investigators and a Visiting Fellow with Cranfield University. Clare joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in 1997 and has had postings as a Navigator/Communicator and Tactical Coordinator on the P3C and AP3C Orion aircraft, as an instructor at the School of Air Warfare, and as Group Aviation Safety Officer for the Air Force Training Group. From 2015 to 2024, Clare was posted to

DFSB having held the role of Deputy Director Education and Training, and prior to that, Section Head of Human Factors and as an Aviation Safety Investigator, and Executive Officer of the Institute of Aviation Medicine. During this period, she also spent time on secondment to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau as a transport safety investigator. Clare holds a Graduate Certificate of Safety and Accident Investigation (Air Transport) from Cranfield University. She also holds a Masters of Technology (Aviation Human Factors), and a Bachelor of Technology (Aeronautical Engineering). In the Australia Day 2020 Honours, Clare was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) for her achievements to advance Defence Aviation Safety.



Professor Graham Braithwaite FRAeS, FCILT, FISASI
Director of Aerospace and Aviation / Professor of Safety and Accident Investigation Centre. *Online Presenter*

Graham is the leader of the aviation and aerospace activities at Cranfield and an international authority on accident investigation. He joined Cranfield University in 2003 as the Director of the Safety and Accident Investigation Centre where he launched new multimodal accident investigation courses in 2004 and the world's first MSc for aircraft accident investigators in 2005. He became Director of Transport Systems in 2014 where he led the £67M Digital Aviation Research and Technology Centre. In 2024, he was appointed as

Director of Aerospace and Aviation. From 1997 to 2003, he taught Aviation Safety and Human Factors at the University of New South Wales in Australia and was involved in a range of research projects covering ATC, cabin safety, rescue and firefighting and engineering human factors. Graham holds a BSc (Hons) in Transport Management and Planning and a PhD in Aviation Safety Management from Loughborough University. Graham is also an Independent Safety Adviser to the British Airways Board.



Mark Robinson BSc (Hons), MSET, QTLS
Lecturer in Accident Investigation - Safety and Accident Investigation Centre. *Online Presenter*

Mark is a former police officer with 27 years of experience, specialising in investigative interviewing and serving as a tactical advisor and trainer in the field, including work with Serious and Major Crime Units as an interview tactical advisor. Within his police career, Mark spent 15 years as an Investigative Interview Trainer and the Director of the Advanced Interview Course, training police officers at all levels in investigative interviewing skills. Prior to his police carer, he worked as a Marine Technician Engineer and professional

yachtsman. He holds an honours degree in Psychology from the University of Kent, with a focus on forensic interviewing. He has acted as a lead investigator in road death investigations. Mark has been associated with Cranfield University since 2004, contributing to various training programs, and became a full-time lecturer in 2022. His expertise lies in equipping professionals with structured, ethical approaches to interviewing, grounded in both practical experience and academic insight.

About Cranfield University

Cranfield is a world-leading specialist postgraduate university with expertise in science, technology, engineering and management. Working with business, academia, governments and other organisations we deliver applied research that has a real-world impact. In the Research Excellence Framework 2021, 88% of our research was rated as world-leading or internationally excellent.

Cranfield has large-scale facilities and global industry partnerships and is one of the few universities in the world to have its own airport – creating a unique environment for research and teaching.

Cranfield's Safety and Accident Investigation Centre delivers world leading teaching, research and consultancy in safety and accident investigation, safety management and human factors. It has set the standard for aircraft accident investigation training since 1977 and in 2004, added training for rail and marine accident investigators and launched the world's first MSc for professional transport accident investigators.

Cranfield is a six-time winner of the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize, the highest national honour for educational institutions, with one of these awards given in recognition of the work of the Safety and Accident Investigation Centre.

About NTRO

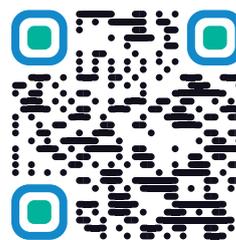
The National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO) is Australia and New Zealand's trusted provider of independent, applied research, professional development and technical consulting for the transport sector.

As a not-for-profit entity, NTRO's focus is on serving the public interest and advancing the transport sector rather than generating profit for shareholders. NTRO reinvests its funds into research and development, operating on a cost-recovery basis for its services. It is supported by its member organisations, which include government bodies responsible for transport in Australia and New Zealand.

Established in 1960 as the Australian Road Research Board, we rebranded to NTRO in 2022 to reflect our expanded role across all modes of transport — roads, rail, ports and airports — and our commitment to supporting the full transport ecosystem.

Today, NTRO is the primary research partner to federal, state and local transport agencies across Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific. Our experts develop the knowledge, standards and technical guidance that shape the way people and freight move across the region. Through evidence-based research and practical innovation, we help prepare transport networks for emerging technologies, from automation to alternative fuels.

Headquartered at Fishermans Bend in Port Melbourne, with offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Launceston, Perth, Sydney and Wellington, NTRO continues to strengthen capability across the sector. We are also proud to be a strategic partner of Cranfield University, collaborating to advance international transport research and education.



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