



Commercial Pilot Licence Training Options



Ready for a career at 1000ft?

In order to work and get paid as a helicopter pilot you first need to gain your Commercial Pilot Licence.

So what does that involve?

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) sets the standards for pilot licence training in Australia, and requires student pilots to complete a certain number of flight training hours with a CASA authorised pilot training facility (such as Townsville Helicopters), meet competency levels across a wide variety of skills, prove knowledge of aviation theory and, of course, undertake and pass a flight test.

Townsville Helicopters is Townsville's first helicopter flight school and have been training industry ready pilots since 2010. Our training facility is second to none and our program focuses on training students to the highest industry standard.

Where can a career as a helicopter pilot take me?

In a literal sense - anywhere you want to go! Helicopters are utilised across a wide number of industries for a variety of purposes, all across Australia (and beyond).

You can work in fields such as:

- > Tourism - Joy flights, Scenic Tours, Transfers etc.
- > Airwork - Survey, Lifting/Sling, Remote Area Support etc.
- > Industry support - Maritime, Mining, Oil and Gas, Construction etc.
- > Fire Fighting
- > Emergency Medical Services
- > Search and Rescue
- > Law Enforcement
- > Instructing
- > Corporate Charter
- > Agricultural and Mustering
- > Aerial Photography/ Film and Television

Many helicopter companies offer a range of these services so you may be working a variety of industries within the same role!

Newly qualified Commercial Pilots are what's known as 'low hour pilots' so your first job is likely to involve either general charter and tourism, ferrying aircraft or agricultural work but once you start to build your hours and experience the possibilities are endless.

CPL Course Structure

Townsville Helicopters conducts a non-integrated 'special training' CPL course which can be undertaken full time or part time. There is a restriction on this course type which means that the last 30 hours flight training must be completed within 90 days, which is easily achievable under a full time course.

The CASA training requirements for this non-integrated 'special training course' are as follows:

- 1. A pass in 7 theory exams** (a pass is 70%/ or 80% for Air Law)
The exams cover Human Factors, Aerodynamics, Aircraft General Knowledge, Meteorology, Navigation, Operations & Performance, Air Law
- 2. A minimum of 105 hours flight training including:**
 - > 35 hours as pilot in command (PIC) – i.e. solo flight training
 - > 10 hours cross-country PIC – i.e. solo navigation flights
- 3. A pass in the Commercial Flight Test**

Students must be a minimum of 18 yrs old by the time they sit the CPL flight test.

We include 5 hours of low-level flight training and a low level flight test in the 105 hour course as standard. A low level rating is required for most aerial work and to add other endorsements/ratings such as a Sling or Mustering Rating.

Progression through your flight training is competency based so hours required to reach CPL standards may vary from the minimum 105 hours.



CPL Course Details

T Townsville Helicopters understands that there's more to getting your licence than just ticking off your hours. We offer a comprehensive and intensive CPL course including full theory tuition to give you the best chance of passing your exams while also gaining a better understanding of how the theory translates into practice, making you a more competent and confident pilot when you take your first steps into your career.

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Y Our CPL theory is run as a 12 week intensive course, taking you through all 7 subjects one at a time. At the end of each subject block you will be booked in for your exam. This course gives you a focused, classroom environment and the support & experience of our instructors to help you get the most out of your studies.

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I Flight training lessons are structured and follow a set syllabus – your training is not just about time in the air, there are a number of specific skills and manoeuvres that you will learn beyond the basics including autorotation, taking off and landing in different terrains, navigation, emergency procedures, confined area operations and low level flying, as well as ground work such as flight and navigation planning, aircraft care & maintenance, and developing good habits and routines as a career pilot.

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G Under this course you can train in up to 2 helicopter types, where the first 15 hours must be completed in one type, and at least 20 hours must be completed in the second type. We offer training in R22, R44 and AS350 turbine aircraft. The most popular course option is R22/R44, where 85 hours is completed in an R22 and 20 hours in an R44.



Training Delivery Methods

Full Time

Full time CPL study with Townsville Helicopters:

- > Train directly through Townsville Helicopters
- > All theory conducted onsite in our 12 week theory course
- > Paid as you go, in blocks of 10 hours flight training, in advance
- > Some flexibility in course dates and attendance hours
- > Takes approximately 5-6 months to complete

AVI50322 Diploma of Aviation (Commercial Pilot Licence – Helicopter):

Townsville Helicopters provides training and assessment of this accredited qualification for TAFE Queensland RTO 0275 who will award this qualification upon successful completion.

- > Same course structure as above (classes are combined)
- > 105 hours flight training included in course
- > If training in 2 helicopter types, the flight training hours are split 85/20
- > All theory conducted onsite in our 12 week theory course
- > On successful completion, students receive a Diploma of Aviation (Commercial Pilot Licence) and a CASA Commercial Pilot Licence and Low Level Rating
- > 4 intakes per year - strictly full time, Monday to Friday
- > Course length is 6 months
- > Details on payment options available from TAFE Queensland

Part Time

Part time CPL study with Townsville Helicopters:

Although full time study is recommended as it streamlines the process, we understand that's not always possible. Part time study is unstructured so you can study on a schedule to suit you

- > Theory subjects can be self-studied, or;
- > Students can sit in class for individual subjects (recommended)
- > Only available to students studying directly (i.e. not through TAFE)
- > Paid as you go, in blocks of 10 hours flight training, in advance
- > Regular training recommended for continuity and to minimise chances of going over on flight training hours to reach competencies





Steps to Enrol

1. Choose your delivery method and get in touch

We're here to help so reach out to discuss getting started in a course! Enrolment processes and eligibility requirements vary between Townsville Helicopters and TAFE Queensland so let us know which way you'd prefer to study and we'll send you the appropriate enrolment pack.

2. Chat to an instructor

Before starting your course, we require incoming students to have an informal face-to-face or phone interview with one of our instructors to introduce themselves, clarify details about the course and answer any questions you might have about training.

3. Complete and return your enrolment forms

Return your enrolment forms to secure your place in a course. Once you have decided between direct study through Townsville Helicopters or the Diploma of Aviation through TAFE Queensland, you will be sent a full guide to help you with the enrolment process,

4. Start on your licence prerequisites

Allow for at least 3 months to finalise. Details on the next page

5. Organise your study materials

Townsville Helicopters uses specific textbooks and flight training materials for your course. Book packs can be purchased directly through us and be ready onsite for your course start date. Books need to be ordered and paid for at least 4 weeks out from the course start date.

6. Attend the Induction/Orientation Day

This is held on the first Monday morning of your intake to meet the team, tour the facilities and get you settled in before getting stuck into your classes.

7. Get ready to kickstart your journey towards an exciting career as a Commercial Helicopter Pilot!



Licence Prerequisites

You will need to hold valid copies of the following documents in order to gain your Commercial Pilot Licence, as required by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

We highly recommend finalising these documents before you begin any training – they are mandatory requirements in order to undertake solo flight training, and failing to apply and obtain these beforehand can cause significant delays in your training. If you do not qualify for a Class 1 Medical or ASIC, you will not be eligible to obtain your Commercial Licence. Having these prerequisites finalised ahead of time removes that uncertainty.

1. Aviation Reference Number

The Aviation Reference Number is your ID in the world of Australian Aviation and will accompany your name on all official documents during your training and career.

2. Class 1 Aviation Medical

In order to fly as a pilot in Australia, you require specific aviation medical clearance. For a Commercial Licence, you require a current Class 1 Aviation Medical.

3. Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC)

You will require access to restricted areas of airports as part of your training, and during your career as a pilot. In order to gain your licence and legally access these areas, you are required to hold (and carry) a valid ASIC.

Once you have decided to proceed with flight training, we will provide a full guide on the steps to apply for each of these. We recommend starting these applications around 3 months out from your course start date, if possible.



The whole team at Townsville Helicopters looks forward to assisting you in becoming a Commercial Pilot. Please get in touch to discuss your options further and get started on your application!

townsvillehelicopters.com.au

Contact: **07 4772 4998**

Email: info@tsvheli.com.au

Visit the hangar: **85-121 Old Common Road, Rowes Bay** (please call ahead)

Get Social: [@townsvillehelicopters](https://www.instagram.com/townsvillehelicopters)

