



# STUDENT PILOT HANDBOOK

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# Student Pilot Handbook

Thank you for your enquiry.

Professional Helicopter Services Pty Ltd (PHS) is one of the most experienced and well-respected helicopter flying schools in Australia. Through our Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) and Private Pilot Licence (PPL) courses, students are moulded into 'thinking pilots'. Our highly experienced instructor team teach students how to operate a helicopter smoothly, effectively, and most importantly, safely.

PHS is extremely proud of the standard of training we provide our students at both Moorabbin Airport and Gold Coast Airport. Our training philosophy is to ensure that students understand the reason for doing things rather than simply being told how you do it. Furthermore, we strive to provide students with the best possible emergency procedure training, ensuring graduating pilots can manage any emergency effectively. Part of this training is conducting simulated engine failures (autorotation's) to the ground. Many other training providers only conduct power recovery autorotation's, which do not provide students the opportunity to experience the final, and one of the most critical, phases of autorotation.

We are also approved to conduct many advanced ratings and endorsements in several aircraft. These include Low Level, Sling and Night ratings. CASA stipulates that these endorsements must be done in addition to the hours required for your licence. Specialist training in Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) and Night Vision Goggles (NVG) is available for experienced pilots looking to advance their qualifications.



# What do I need to do to get my licence?

Firstly, you need to be sure that flying helicopters is something that you really want to do. Aviation is a dynamic and challenging industry, but it is not for everyone! The best way to find out is to simply ***Have a Go!*** A Trial Introductory Flight (TIF) is the best way to try before you buy!

TIF's are non-obligatory, consisting of a pre-flight briefing and introductory flying lesson. In this lesson you will be introduced to each of the helicopter controls, before taking full control under your instructors' guidance. If you continue learning to fly, this flight will count towards your training. **Book a TIF from only \$350.00!** Contact us directly or book through our website ([www.phs.com.au](http://www.phs.com.au)).

Once you have made the decision to get a helicopter licence, you will have to decide whether you want to fly recreationally or professionally. The answer to this question will determine whether you need a Private Pilot Licence (PPL) or a Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL). A PPL allows you to carry passengers for recreational purposes only; in other words, you can't receive any monetary compensation. Gaining a Commercial licence, however, allows you to be employed and compensated as a professional pilot. At the commencement of your flight training, you should have an idea of which licence you are trying to achieve. Remember, if one obtains a PPL, there is nothing stopping them from achieving a CPL in the future! Similarly, if you are studying a CPL and wish to convert to a PPL, you may do so.

To obtain a PPL a minimum of 50 flying hours is required, and the completion of the PPL theory exam, prior to your flight test. A CPL requires a minimum of 105 flying hours, and the completion of all seven CPL exams, prior to your flight test. Please note that these minimum hour requirements are precisely that. Minimums! Many students will require additional time to fulfil the requirements for either a PPL or CPL. No fixed wing (aeroplane) experience is required for either licence, however, holding a PPL(A) or CPL(A) alters the minimum hour requirements for both PPL(H) and CPL(H) candidates.

Prior to your first solo flight you will need to obtain a Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), ASIC security pass. Furthermore, you are required to pass a medical examination with a Designated Aviation Medical Examiner (DAME). If your goal is to obtain a CPL, we recommend that your initial medical be conducted at Commercial standard (Class one (1)). For PPL candidates, a class two (2) medical will be adequate. The [CASA Aviation Medicals and Certificates](http://www.casa.gov.au/aviation-medicals-and-certificates) website can provide you with more information and how to find a medical examiner.

# Our Training Aircraft

Flight training will be conducted in either a Robinson R22 or Schweizer 300Cbi helicopter. These machines are two of the most used piston engine training helicopters, with a proven training and safety record. Students may also choose to conduct some of their licence in a Robinson R44.

Furthermore, we offer advanced training in more complex machines such as the Robinson R44, Eurocopter AS350 (Squirrel), and the Eurocopter AS355 (Twin Squirrel). Each of our helicopters are maintained to the highest possible standard by our in-house engineering team.

The Robinson R22 has demonstrated a strong track record for mechanical reliability, with official figures from the USA National Transportation Safety Board indicating a low rate of mechanical failures compared to many other helicopters, whether piston engine or turbine-powered. The Schweizer 300 (formerly Hughes 300) family of light utility helicopters was originally produced by Hughes Helicopters, as a development of the Hughes 269.

Now manufactured by Schweizer Aircraft, a recent subsidiary of Sikorsky Aircraft, the basic design has been in production for almost 50 years.

The single, three-bladed main rotor and piston-powered Schweizer 300 is mostly used as a cost-effective platform for training and agriculture, as well as aerial photography and sightseeing.

For those seeking a versatile and capable aircraft, there's the Robinson R44.

The R44 offers a combination of performance and affordability, making it a practical choice for a wide range of operations. Its streamlined design and efficient cruising capabilities suit a variety of missions in today's dynamic aviation landscape.



**Robinson R22**



**Schweizer 300Cbi (Moorabbin Only)**



**Robinson R44**

# Theory Requirements

There are seven subjects covered in the theory for both PPL and CPL.

These subjects are:

- Aircraft General Knowledge
- Helicopter Aerodynamics
- Helicopter Performance, Operations and Planning
- Human Performance and Limitations
- Navigation
- Meteorology
- Air Law

PPL students will be required to sit a single three-and-a-half-hour exam covering all the above, the PPL(H). CPL students are required to complete seven separate exams on each of the above topics. These exams must be completed at nominated CASA providers. These exams, historically, have been predominantly multiple choice.

In addition to CASA required exams, the completion of in-house exercises is required to progress through the various stages of training, irrespective of whether you are completing a PPL(H) or CPL(H).

## How do I complete my theory?

There are two ways of completing the theory requirements defined by a PPL(H) or CPL(H):

- Complete a Theory Course
- Self-Study, at your own pace

Choosing the study method most appropriate for your circumstances, is important when starting this journey. Some individuals can study independently of a theory course, to good effect, and some can't.

At Moorabbin Airport, Victoria, Altitude Theory offers classroom-based courses for CPL(H) theory. Each theory subject is run as a four-week course. For more information, contact Kristen at [kristen@altitudetheory.com.au](mailto:kristen@altitudetheory.com.au).

Aviation Flight Theory (AFT) offers high quality programs on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. Any students wishing to conduct an instructor-led theory course through this company must be located in Queensland. AFT offer the same material used in these courses to distance learning students, for those wanting to self-study. All enquires on their products should be directed to AFT directly, located at [www.aft.com.au](http://www.aft.com.au).

Irrespective of how you decide to complete your study, our flying instructors are available to assist you with any theory questions that you may have.



# How long will it take me to complete a PPL or CPL?

There is no definite answer to this question; the time taken to gain your licence depends on how long it takes you to complete your theory and how often you fly. The frequency of which you fly can be tailored to fit in with a student's schedule. Depending on the individual, one may fly anytime from once a fortnight to twice a day, five days a week. This is further influenced by booking availability, weather conditions and student availability.

PHS is one of the busiest schools in Australia, therefore the more notice you can give us of your booking requirements, the more likely you are to get your preferred booking times.

# How much does a licence cost?

This really depends on which licence you require, how you choose to undertake your theory, and which training machines you wish to fly throughout.

To minimise your cost, we offer an incentive for buying training blocks of 10 hours at a time.



# Career prospects post training

Becoming a professional pilot requires careful consideration; a licence isn't much good to you unless it leads to a job. Within aviation, job opportunities are highly competitive. Whilst much depends on your character and proficiency as a pilot, you can enhance your career prospects by completing your licence through the right training provider.

The reputation of the institution you train with, within the helicopter industry, largely determines your job prospects.



'Where did you complete your training' is often one of the first questions posed by most helicopter companies. Having completed your training at PHS, one of Australia's most well respected and renowned training organisations, puts you in a strong position when walking into any interview. Prior to choosing us, however, we urge you to contact as many flight schools as possible. From there you may make an informed decision about your training future.

Often, new CPL(H) pilots will find their first job in tourism. The location of such opportunities may take you to some unique, and beautiful places while you hone your craft. These opportunities can be found all over Australia, however, your ability to relocate and work in remote locations is almost a prerequisite of the industry.

Different companies employ varying philosophies; some may employ you as a professional pilot straight out of training, while others will require a period of service in a ground support role prior to your flying career taking off.



# Why trust PHS with your training?

Professional Helicopter Services Pty Ltd is one of Australia's most well respected and experienced helicopter training schools, boasting an exceptional reputation within the aviation industry at home, and abroad. Since commencing pilot training in 1981, *PHS has trained more local & overseas helicopter pilots than any other company in Australia.*

We adhere to strict standards regarding the pilots and instructors we employ. By only employing pilots, and instructors, we have trained, we aim to ensure the continuation of our high training standards and practices.

Brett Newman is the Chief Pilot at PHS. Having been in the industry for over 40 years, and flown for more than 17,000 hours, Brett is one of the most well respected, and experienced, figureheads of Australian helicopter aviation. Being one of Australia's *Flight Test Examiners (FTE's)*, he is authorised to conduct flight-tests for the issue of Private and Commercial licences, as well as Night VFR (NVFR) and Grade 1 and 2 Instructor Rating issue and renewals.

Roger Puehl is the Head of Specialist Operations & Training and an FTE for CPL, NVFR, Instrument, Flight Reviews and NVIS. Roger has been in the helicopter industry for several decades and spent 25 years as a pilot in the Victorian Police Airwing. Having learnt to fly with PHS, Roger's experience in the Airwing, and 20 years of experience as an instructor, make him one of the most sought-after providers of specialist training within Australia.

*PHS is the only school in Australia with two FTE's.* Many schools do not have an FTE authorised to conduct Commercial licence tests, and therefore must hire a CASA examiner to conduct any testing.

We operate a Helicopter Training School in 2 locations, Moorabbin Airport in Melbourne and Gold Coast Airport in Queensland. In Victoria we operate out of our own modern training and maintenance facility located at Moorabbin Airport.

This location offers you the advantage of training in a radio-controlled environment without any wasted time flying to and from the training area.

Our maintenance facility is treated as part of our overall training package and is always accessible to you, enabling you to learn as much about the maintenance requirements of a helicopter as possible. You are encouraged to participate in the maintenance activities and fill out a CASA "Schedule of Experience" book that can be counter-signed by our Chief Engineer.

# Pricing Structure

Pricing varies by aircraft type and is also determined by which Pilot Licence type you decide on.

For the latest pricing models, please contact us on 03 9580 7433 or email [headoffice@phs.com.au](mailto:headoffice@phs.com.au) and a member of our training team will contact you to discuss.

# Pricing Structure

All rates are inclusive of GST where applicable. Professional Helicopter Services Pty Ltd reserves the right to alter the below rates without notice.

## TRAINING RATES (BASIC TRAINING)

HELICOPTER TYPE	CPL RATE	PPL RATE
Robinson R22 & Hughes 300	\$610.00 /hr (GST exempt*)	\$670.00 /hr (inc GST)
Prepaid 10-hour Block	\$592.00/hr or \$5,920.00 (GST exempt*)	\$650.00 /hr or \$6,500.00 (inc GST)
Robinson R44	\$965.00 /hr (GST exempt*)	\$1,060.00 /hr
Bell 206 Jetranger	\$1,500.00 /hr	

\*The GST exempt price of \$610.00, \$592.00 or \$965.00 /hr only applies to a commercial training course. Note: Purchase of 10-hour block is valid for 12 months and will expire if not used by purchase date.

## PPL & CPL HOUR REQUIREMENTS

HELICOPTER LICENSE	MINIMUM HOURS REQUIRED	PAY AS YOU GO RATE	PREPAID RATE
Private (Inc. GST)	50	\$33,500.00	\$32,500.00
Commercial (GST exempt)	105*	\$64,050.00	\$62,160.00
Commercial (GST exempt)	150	\$91,500.00	\$88,800.00

Note: Rates calculated utilising R22/H300. These totals are approximates based on the minimum hour requirements.

### \* There are several legislative requirements in relation to the 105-hour course.

- The training can take place in no more than 2 helicopter types.
- A minimum of 20 hours must be completed in each type of aircraft (if more than 1 type).
- The final 30 hours of training MUST be undertaken within a 3-month period immediately prior to the flight test.

Alternatively, there is an option for a 150-hour course which does not have the same time or hour restrictions as the 105-hour course. For more information on the 150-hour course please contact us.



The hour requirements for a helicopter licence are reduced if you hold a fixed wing licence at Private or Commercial level.

#### Fixed Wing Licence Type: PRIVATE

LICENSE REQUIRED	MINIMUM HOURS REQUIRED	PAY AS YOU GO RATE	PREPAID RATE
Private (Inc. GST)	38	\$25,460.00	\$24,700.00
Commercial (GST exempt)	80	\$48,800.00	\$47,360.00

#### Fixed Wing Licence Type: COMMERCIAL

LICENSE REQUIRED	MINIMUM HOURS REQUIRED	PAY AS YOU GO RATE	PREPAID RATE
Private (Inc. GST)	38	\$25,460.00	\$24,700.00
Commercial (GST exempt)	70	\$42,700.00	\$41,440.00

*Note: Rates calculated utilising R22/H300. These totals are approximates based on the minimum hour requirements.*

The above-mentioned hours are the legislated minimum hours. A student will still have to meet the required competency. This may take candidates more than the legislated minimum hour requirement.

At the completion of your training, you must pass a flight test with a Flight-Testing Examiner, consisting of an oral exam and a flight test of approximately 2.5 hours. This flight test will incur a fee.

#### **Advanced Training:**

- Endorsements and Advanced Training is subject to availability. Contact us for more information on pricing for aircraft endorsements and specialist ratings.

#### **Refund Policy:**

- Refunds are available for any unused payments on written request within 12 months of purchase. Please note that the amount to be refunded will be adjusted to the hourly rate applicable to the hours used.