



## Getting your Private Pilot's Licence

A Private Pilot Licence (PPL) permits you to act as the *Pilot in Command* of an aircraft – up to a specific maximum weight - for private use.

*A PPL is the first step on the way to a career in commercial aviation.*

### FLIGHT TRAINING

A PPL(A) or [*Private Pilot License, Airplane*], is obtained over a minimum of 45 hours flight training. Of this minimum, at least 25 hours will be flown with an instructor and at least 10 hours of solo flying must be carried out. The 10 hours of solo flying must include 5 hours solo 'cross country' time – and will include a "qualifying cross country flight" of at least 150 nautical miles, during which you are required to land at two aerodromes other than your home airfield. The remaining 10 hours can be a combination of dual and solo flying as the instructor and student prefers.



The License Skill Test (LST) is carried out by a Licensed Flight Examiner in the aircraft you normally fly during your training. This test must take place within 6 months of completing flight instruction and within 2 years of passing the last written exam. You must have at least 5 hours dual instruction or solo flight in the preceding 90 days.

## GROUND TRAINING

Ground training is provided by Sligo Aero Club alongside the flight training. Textbooks, CD's and some items need to be obtained. Topics such as Principles of Flight Navigation, Meteorology, Aircraft Technical Knowledge, Human Factors etc. are studied both in the classroom and at home. There are nine written multiple choice question exams – soon to be Computer based - to be taken in these subject areas which must be passed before applying for the License Skill Test (LST)



## Medical Fitness and English Language Proficiency

Before being sent solo, the student pilot must meet 3 basic criteria:

- i) *Obtain a Class 2 Medical Certificate issued by an Authorised Medical Examiner*

If you have a Pilot Career in mind it is recommended that the necessary Class 1 Medical Certificate be obtained early in the training programme.

- ii) *Have English Language Proficiency (ELP) to the required standard.*

(Sligo Aero Club has an ELP Examiner on staff)

- iii) *Demonstrate to the Chief Flying Instructor that you can fly the aircraft safely and competently on your own.*

## How long does it take & How much does it cost

Typically, training for your PPL(A) License is carried out over a period of about 12 to 15 months - depending on your ability, schedule and financial position. Most people will consider the cost as the most significant factor in obtaining their PPL. Although 45 hours is the minimum required before doing the PPL License Skills Test, students with varying abilities and time schedules can expect to have completed differing amounts of training before obtaining their license. Statistically, students flying regularly (for example once a week) will get their license quicker than those who fly irregularly and /or less frequently. A very general outline of the costs involved is given below:

- Aircraft €200 per hour for our Cessna 172 - The Instructor cost is included
- Ground School €200 for about 40 Hrs of Instructor Workshops & mock exams
- Club Membership €400 per year.
- Materials/Equipment: Initially you will need a log book to start logging flight time. As you progress, you will need text books and/or CD's, flight computer, protractor, ruler, kneeboard, aeronautical chart, etc. Many student pilots will also purchase a headset.
- Licence, Medical & Exam Fees are regulated by the IAA. Click [HERE](#) for current fees

## Course Requirements

- A student must be at least 15 years old to log flight hours towards a license.
- A student must be at least 16 years old before the first solo flight.
- A student must have a valid Medical Certificate before the first solo flight.
- A student must have demonstrated English Language Proficiency before the first solo flight.
- A student must be at least 17 years old before a license will be granted.

A detailed syllabus and other requirements can be viewed at the EASA " Acceptable Means of Compliance " document at the link below.

*Note: The information at the link below is a bit "daunting" to the unfamiliar reader . . . but don't hesitate to give us a call if you need help or have any questions*

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/system/files/dfu/AMC%20and%20GM%20to%20Part-FCL.pdf>

## What do I do now that I have my PPL?

The newly-licensed Private Pilot has many options for further flying. Those who wish to enter a career in commercial aviation or flight instruction can begin hour building towards the Commercial Pilot's License (CPL) here at Sligo Aero Club.

From time to time we offer special hour building packages and night rating courses.

If you want to keep flying as a hobby then there are even more options. For example you can get checked-out on more complex and powerful aircraft, learn to become proficient and safe at small aerodromes with narrow and/or grass runways etc.

## Do I have to renew my PPL?

An EASA PPL is a non-expiring "lifetime" licence. The use of licence privileges is dependent upon the validity of the ratings included in the licence and the validity of the associated medical certificate. Usually, for a first-time PPL, the rating will be for a *Single Engine Piston Land* aircraft (SEPL). The SEPL rating must be renewed every 24 months and requires you to have:

1. Flown 12 hours in the preceding 12 months prior to revalidation, and ...
2. ...flown 6 of these hours as Pilot in Command.
3. Flown at least 1 continuous hour with an instructor within the previous 12 months.
4. Completed 12 take-offs and landings within the previous 12 months.

A pilot may opt to undertake a flight test with an examiner instead of 1, 2, 3 and 4 above.

To carry passengers you must have completed at least 3 take-offs and landings as Pilot in Command in the previous 90 days.

Give us a call if you have any questions (087 293 2884) and if you would like to visit us at Sligo Airport we will be delighted to show you around and talk about training to be a pilot.