

Introduction to Flight Training



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INTRODUCTION TO FLIGHT TRAINING

Thank you for your enquiry regarding helicopter training with Garden City Helicopters. Our training school is located beside the Christchurch International Airport, and we have another training base at Trent Drive (beside the airport) in Nelson. We have a fully flexible training programme, which is tailored to suit the individual student's ability, availability and needs.

Company Background

Garden City Helicopters was established in Christchurch in 1983. We also have bases located in Nelson and Greymouth. Garden City Helicopters operates a fleet of 4 x R22's, 1 x R44, 3 x AS350 Squirrel, 1 x AS350B3 Squirrel and 2 x BK117.

All aircraft are maintained to the highest possible safety standards by our own engineering division.

At our Christchurch base our helicopters are used in a wide range of commercial operations including, TV coverage, lifting, surveying, remote repairs, frost protection, transmission line, tourist and general charter work.

For a number of years Garden City Helicopters has been providing helicopter rescue operations out of our three South Island bases, we operate fully dedicated AS350's rescue helicopters out of Greymouth and Nelson and fully dedicated BK117 twin engine rescue helicopters out of Christchurch and Nelson. This network is further supported by our Cessna 421 and 441, fixed wing air ambulances, also based at Christchurch international airport.

With a large variety of helicopter operations and a choice of bases of which to choose to learn to fly out of, Garden City Helicopters is the ideal company at which to start your aviation experience.

Introduction

Aviation is a highly skilled and professional industry. Pilots are required to receive the best possible training, and qualifications to meet the constant challenges they face.

Garden City Helicopters is one of the largest South Island operators. Instructors hold A, B or C category ratings and have proven their abilities to testing and auditing officers of the Civil Aviation Authority and Aviation Services. Our chief pilot is an approved flight testing officer, and is the CAA approved helicopter pilot counsellor for the South Island.

In Canterbury and Nelson in particular the varied weather patterns and terrain provide for some of the most challenging conditions available and this is known by aviation employers the world over.

Learn to fly from an airport where the traffic mix ranges from B747's to small commuter aircraft, which puts our students in a professional environment from day one.

GCH has extensive use of quiet training areas to facilitate all your training requirements including mountainous terrain, all within close proximity.

Training

To become a qualified professional pilot (CPL) with an aim of a career in the helicopter industry there are a number of goals to achieve.

You will need a commercial pilots licence. This licence allows you to fly commercially (for hire or reward) although only under visual flight rules.

The CPL comprises of two learning modules;

Theoretical

This has 7 commercial theory papers which are:

- CPL Human Factors
- CPL Principles of flight
- CPL Meteorology
- CPL Law
- CPL Navigation
- CPL Aircraft Technical knowledge
- Flight Radio Telephone.

Theory can be undertaken in one of two ways

1. Fulltime courses are available at either Nelson Aviation College or at the Canterbury Aero Club – we would be happy to arrange an introduction
2. Alternatively students can undertake private study, or via a correspondence course through an Open Polytechnic.

Practical

The Practical Flying component can be undertaken in either Nelson or Christchurch or both. The course includes approximately 150 hours of flight training, both under instruction (dual) and solo. As most of the flight training is one-to-one, the necessary cockpit management and decision making skills are acquired progressively.

For overseas students the course can be tailored to meet individual needs, and the NZ aviation qualifications have extensive acceptance world wide.

Whilst the course is tailored for the R22 Robinson helicopter, you may discuss further aircraft type ratings with our instructors.

Students should allow approximately twelve months to conclude all theoretical and practical training

Course Entry Requirements

Our courses are designed to take students from no flying experience (ab initio) though to the level required, however a student can start a course having had any amount of previous flying experience, please talk to one of our instructors.

Education

In New Zealand there are no minimum educational requirements to enter aviation training, however with the level of professionalism required in today's modern aviation environment, a good understanding of mathematics, and physics is desirable.

It is recommended that students complete Year 12 (or the international equivalent) as a minimum education level.

Training can be commenced at any age, however minimum age requirements are 16 years to fly solo, 17 years to hold a PPL, and 18 years to hold a CPL under NZCAA regulations.

Medical

To gain a CPL it is necessary to have a NZCAA class 1 medical certificate.

It is essential that prospective students obtain a medical assessment for this certificate before starting any practical flight training.

A list of NZCAA approved medical examiners both national and international can be found on the NZCAA website: www.caa.govt.nz under pilot/medical/getting a medical.

General Information

Student Visa

The NZ Immigration Service (NZIS) requires International Students undertaking courses of study in NZ to hold a current student visa. One of the requirements to obtain a student visa is an offer of placement by a NZ Qualifications Authority (NZQA) approved education provider.

On acceptance of your application you will be sent all the necessary documentation to obtain your student visa. Instructions for applying for a visa can be found on the NZIS website as can the addresses of all NZIS offices worldwide. The address is www.immigration.govt.nz.

Accommodation

A variety of accommodation options are available in Christchurch and assistance is offered to students in finding accommodation.

Often students who wish to improve their English will prefer homestay accommodation because the host family will assist the student with communication in the English language. Shortterm accommodation can be arranged as long as plenty of notice is given. If accommodation is required please advise GCH as early as possible. The airport is in close proximity to the city giving good accommodation options.

Transport

Christchurch has an efficient public transport system however cars and motorbikes are inexpensive and most students have their own transport. This is recommended but sharing transport with other students may be a practical option.

How Do I Get Started?

- 1 Contact Garden City Helicopters Ltd for an Application and Enrollment pack.

Garden City Helicopters Ltd
P O Box 14 147 Christchurch Airport, New Zealand

Telephone +64 3 358 4360

email: training@helicopters.net.nz

- 2 Get your Class 1 medical Certificate-refer to the list of NZCAA approved medical examiners on the website.

Frequently asked Questions

Is it hard to learn to fly a helicopter?

There is quite a bit to learn and it will take some of your time, concentration, coordination and patience. In saying that anybody is capable of obtaining a licence, it may just take more time for some people to obtain the standard required to pass the flight test.

What happens when I get my licence?

Once you obtain your commercial licence you are able to work and get paid as a helicopter pilot within New Zealand, Australia and some other overseas countries. This means that you can be employed to fly a helicopter for a living, doing a job that is challenging, rewarding and above all, a job that you really enjoy.

Job prospects?

The helicopter industry has been difficult to break into over the past few years, but things are changing. Many of the senior pilots who started their careers during the deer recovery boom are reaching retirement age and there are opportunities for new commercial pilots, to get a start in the industry. Many of the aviation publications are now publishing articles about an upcoming “pilot shortage” in both the fixed wing and helicopter industries, so job prospects over the next few years look reasonable.

Is the New Zealand Licence recognised overseas?

The New Zealand CPL is one of the most highly respected pilot licences world wide and “Kiwi” Pilots are in demand. The Licence meets the international Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards. In some cases a licence conversion will simply require passing the local flight rules examination, completing a flight test and obtaining a local medical for the type of licence you hold.

I hold a foreign licence. How can I convert it to a New Zealand Licence?

All licence conversion details are on the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority website. www.caa.govt.nz Pilots/Getting your licence recognised in New Zealand.

Are there any prerequisites for course entry?

Minimum age: You must be 16 years old to fly solo

You must be 17 years old to hold a PPL

You must be 18 years old to hold a CPI

Educational requirements – The NZ CAA has no minimum educational requirements

I wear glasses, will this be a problem?

You will have to meet minimum medical standards, but in most cases this will not be a problem. Many Airline Pilots wear glasses. We recommend you consult an Aviation Medical Examiner.

I have already flown for some hours. Will this affect my training?

Any previous training will be taken into account on a flight check, and this will be assessed on your arrival at Garden City Helicopters Ltd. A reduction of course fees is likely.

Where can I live?

There is plenty of boarding and flatting accommodation available in Christchurch, including the airport area. The approximate cost is NZ\$120-180 per week for full board, or NZ\$75-85 per week for rental accommodation. Meals are not included in the course costs but snacks and lunch are available at a nominal cost.

See the Christchurch website on www.christchurch.org.nz for more information.

Can I work while I am at Garden City Helicopters

Students on a student visa can only work up to 15 hours per week if the course they enrolled in is 2 years in length or more. However, it is most important that a job should not be allowed to interfere with the prime, objective of training. Students should not expect part-time work to pay for their course, but wages can subsidise living expenses.

Is a job guaranteed?

We will provide you with a high standard of training and the accompanying skills required for you to be employed in your chosen sector of aviation. We cannot guarantee you a job. As with any training, your ability to convert learned skills into employment is up to you – how you seek the opportunities and make the most of those presented to you. The demand for well trained and qualified pilots worldwide remains very high.

Can I do an Instructor rating?

A New Zealand instructor Rating can be gained once a pilot has reached 150 hours pilot in command (solo) time and has a current New Zealand Commercial Pilot Licence or Private Pilot Licence.

A New Zealand instructor Rating is only valid in New Zealand

Will you help me get a Student Visa?

Any student who is not a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident or an Australian is required to have a student visa to study at GCH.

All application details and the addresses of the New Zealand immigration Service offices are on the website at www.immigration.co.nz

An offer of placement letter and Confirmation of receipt of payment letter will be sent to you by our flight administrator when all criteria are met.

How safe is my deposit payment?

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority, from whom we have approval, requires that all prepaid student fees are held in a protected trust account until after the withdrawn period of seven days, from the start date of the course has passed. Should a student chose to withdrawn from their training course all prepaid fees will be refunded under the terms and conditions of Garden City Helicopters refund policy.

The Garden City Helicopters refund policy is

- a) The trainee pilot may unilaterally terminate this agreement within 7 days of the commencement of the agreed training course, and in that event shall be entitled to a refund of any monies paid to GCH, however GCH may retain \$500.00 or 10% of the monies so paid whichever shall be lesser, plus the full costs of any flying which the trainee pilot may have undertaken up to the time of such unilateral termination, the cost of any such flying to be assessed at the current rate payable by students.
- b) This agreement may be terminated by mutual consent of the parties and in that event the trainee pilot shall be entitled to a refund of any monies paid less the costs of tuition, administration costs and disbursements and flying time incurred by the trainee pilot up to the time of such termination.

How do I enroll?

For further information and an enrollment pack, please contact :

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