Professional Flight Training Awards 2026

Nomination requirements

Best Integrated Student

This award recognises an exceptional cadet who has successfully completed an integrated pilot training programme (between 1 Dec 2024 and 30 June 2026) and demonstrated outstanding readiness for airline placement.

The recipient will have shown a consistently high standard of performance throughout their training, combining strong technical proficiency with the professional behaviours, discipline, and mindset expected of a future airline pilot. Beyond academic and flight test excellence, this award celebrates individuals who embody the highest standards of airmanship, safety awareness, and decision-making under pressure.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- Excellent performance in both theoretical knowledge and practical flight assessments
- Strong situational awareness, sound judgement, and commitment to safety
- Professional attitude, resilience, and adaptability throughout training
- Effective communication and teamwork skills, reflecting airline operational environments
- Positive contribution to peer learning, leadership, and overall training culture
- Exceptional support, encouragement, and positive influence among their peers

This award highlights a cadet who not only meets but exceeds the standards required for licence completion, standing out as a highly capable and well-rounded individual fully prepared to transition into a commercial airline role.

Best Modular ATPL Student

This award recognises an outstanding student who has successfully completed a modular ATPL (Airline Transport Pilot Licence) pathway (between 1 Dec 2024 and 30 June 2026) and demonstrated exceptional readiness for airline opportunities.

The recipient will have excelled across each stage of their training journey, showing determination, self-discipline, and the ability to manage the unique challenges of a modular route. Often balancing training with external commitments, this individual will have demonstrated resilience, strong time management, and a clear commitment to achieving the highest professional standards.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- Consistently high performance in theoretical knowledge and practical flight training
- Strong self-motivation, organisation, and perseverance throughout the modular pathway
- Excellent airmanship, situational awareness, and decision-making skills
- Professional attitude and readiness for airline operational environments
- The ability to overcome challenges while maintaining focus and progression
- Exceptional support, encouragement, and positive influence among their peers

This award celebrates a student who has not only achieved licence completion through a modular route but has done so with distinction—emerging as a capable, confident, and airline-ready pilot prepared to seize future career opportunities.

Best MPL Student

This award recognises an outstanding graduate of a Multi-Crew Pilot Licence (MPL) programme who has successfully transitioned into airline operations (between 1 Dec 2024 and 30 June 2026) and demonstrated exceptional performance within their first 18 months of line flying.

The recipient will have shown a seamless progression from training to a live airline environment, applying core MPL competencies—such as multi-crew cooperation, communication, and workload management—with confidence and professionalism. This award celebrates individuals who not only meet operational standards but distinguish themselves through their attitude, adaptability, and commitment to continuous improvement.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- Strong performance during initial airline training, including type rating and line training
- Effective application of multi-crew cooperation (MCC) principles in real-world operations

- High standards of safety, situational awareness, and decision-making
- Professionalism, reliability, and a positive attitude within the airline environment
- Constructive feedback from training captains, examiners, and operational colleagues
- Demonstrated growth, resilience, and commitment to ongoing development
- Exceptional support, encouragement, and positive influence among their peers

This award highlights an MPL graduate who has made a significant impact early in their airline career, setting a benchmark for excellence in the transition from training to commercial operations.

Best Ground School Instructor

This award recognises an exceptional ground school instructor within an Approved Training Organisation (ATO) who demonstrates outstanding ability in delivering high-quality theoretical knowledge training and inspiring the next generation of pilots.

The recipient will combine deep technical expertise with engaging and effective teaching methods, ensuring students not only achieve strong academic results but also develop a thorough understanding of the principles underpinning safe and professional flight operations. This award celebrates instructors who bring complex subjects to life, foster a positive learning environment, and consistently support student success.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- Excellence in delivering ATPL theoretical knowledge with clarity, accuracy, and engagement
- Innovative and effective teaching techniques that enhance student understanding and retention
- Strong student performance and positive feedback
- Commitment to continuous professional development and up-to-date subject knowledge
- Ability to mentor, motivate, and support students with diverse learning needs
- Contribution to improving training standards, course materials, or academic outcomes within the ATO

This award highlights an instructor who plays a vital role in shaping competent, knowledgeable, and safety-focused pilots, making a lasting impact on both individual students and the wider training organisation.

Best Sim Instructor

This award recognises an exceptional simulator instructor within an Approved Training Organisation (ATO) who demonstrates excellence in delivering high-quality, competency-based flight training in a simulated environment.

The recipient will have shown outstanding skill in bridging theoretical knowledge and practical application, creating realistic, structured, and challenging simulator sessions that prepare students for real-world flight operations. Through effective instruction, coaching, and debriefing, they will consistently enhance student performance, confidence, and safety awareness.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- Excellence in delivering structured, scenario-based simulator training aligned with industry standards
- Strong facilitation of multi-crew cooperation, decision-making, and workload management
- High-quality, constructive debriefing that drives learning and continuous improvement
- Ability to adapt instruction to different student needs, experience levels, and learning styles
- Consistent positive feedback and strong student progression outcomes
- Commitment to maintaining professional standards, regulatory compliance, and instructional best practice

This award celebrates a simulator instructor who plays a critical role in developing competent, resilient, and airline-ready pilots, using advanced training tools to instil the highest standards of safety and professionalism.

Best Flight Instructor

This award recognises an exceptional flight instructor within an Approved Training Organisation (ATO) who demonstrates excellence in delivering in-aircraft training and developing safe, skilled, and confident pilots.

The recipient will have consistently shown outstanding instructional ability, combining technical expertise with strong communication, patience, and professionalism. They will excel in creating a positive and disciplined learning environment, ensuring that each

student progresses effectively while upholding the highest standards of safety and airmanship.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- Excellence in practical flight instruction, with clear, structured, and effective teaching methods
- Strong emphasis on safety, standardisation, and adherence to regulatory requirements
- Ability to develop students' airmanship, decision-making, and situational awareness
- Consistent student progression and strong flight test outcomes
- Professionalism, integrity, and positive role modelling of pilot behaviours
- Dedication to mentoring and supporting students throughout their training journey
- Contribution to instructional standards, safety culture, or continuous improvement within the ATO

This award celebrates a flight instructor who plays a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of pilots, demonstrating passion, commitment, and excellence in every aspect of flight training.

Significant Contribution to Professional Flight Training

This prestigious award honours an individual who has made an exceptional and enduring contribution to professional flight training, significantly shaping the standards, practices, and future of pilot education over the course of their career.

The recipient will have demonstrated a sustained commitment to excellence, influencing the development of pilots, instructors, and training organisations through leadership, innovation, and dedication. Their impact may span decades and include advancements in training methodologies, safety culture, regulatory development; creating employment pathways and job opportunities; or the mentorship of generations of aviation professionals.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- A distinguished career with long-standing contributions to flight training and aviation education

- Measurable impact on training standards, safety, or industry best practices
- Leadership roles within training organisations, regulatory bodies, or industry groups
- Innovation in training techniques, overcoming financial barriers, curriculum design, or use of technology
- Cultivating a broader, more inclusive talent pool for aviation's future.
- Commitment to mentoring and developing others across the aviation community
- Recognition by peers and other industry leaders as a respected and influential figure in the industry

This award celebrates an individual whose legacy has left a lasting mark on professional flight training, inspiring excellence and helping to shape the pilots and standards that define the industry today.

Sustainable Initiative Award

This award recognises an Approved Training Organisation (ATO) that has demonstrated outstanding commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible aviation practices within professional pilot training.

The recipient will be an organisation that has actively implemented innovative initiatives to reduce environmental impact, enhance resource efficiency, and promote sustainability across all aspects of training operations—without compromising safety, quality, or student outcomes.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- Implementation of environmentally responsible practices, such as carbon reduction programmes, sustainable fuels, or energy-efficient simulators and aircraft
- Integration of sustainability into curriculum, student awareness, and operational culture
- Innovative approaches to reducing waste, emissions, and resource consumption
- Long-term commitment to environmental stewardship and measurable results
- Engagement with broader aviation and community initiatives to promote sustainability

This award celebrates a training organisation that is not only producing highly skilled pilots but is also leading the way in shaping a more sustainable, responsible future for aviation.

Achievement Through Adversity

This award recognises a student who has demonstrated exceptional determination, resilience, and perseverance in overcoming significant challenges on their journey through professional flight training to the flight deck.

The recipient will have faced and navigated adversity—whether personal, financial, academic, or operational—while maintaining focus, professionalism, and a commitment to achieving their goal of becoming a pilot. Despite setbacks, they will have shown the ability to adapt, recover, and continue progressing to a high standard.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- Significant challenges or obstacles encountered during training
- Demonstrated resilience, determination, and mental strength in overcoming adversity
- Continued progression and achievement despite setbacks
- Positive attitude, professionalism, and commitment to their training goals
- Ability to inspire others through their journey and example
- Support from instructors or peers highlighting their perseverance and character

This award celebrates a student whose journey reflects the true spirit of aviation—resilient, disciplined, and driven—serving as an inspiration to others pursuing a career on the flight deck.

Rising Industry Star

This award recognises a promising individual who has recently entered the aviation industry (within the past 5 years) and is making a notable impact through innovation, fresh perspectives, and a proactive approach to professional flight training or airline operations.

The recipient will have demonstrated exceptional potential, creativity, and adaptability, contributing new ideas, methods, or solutions that enhance training, safety, operational efficiency, or organisational culture. This award highlights individuals who show

leadership potential and inspire others, setting a benchmark for the next generation of aviation professionals.

In celebration of our rising industry stars who are striving to introduce change and innovation, inspire our future generations and increase opportunities for a wider, more diverse range of pilots.

Judges will look for evidence of:

- Early career achievements that demonstrate initiative, creativity, and high performance
- Introduction of innovative approaches, problem-solving, or new ways of working
- Ideas creation to inspire and engage a wider, more diverse future workforce
- Positive influence on peers, students, or operational teams
- Adaptability, professionalism, and a willingness to embrace challenges
- Potential for long-term impact and leadership within the aviation industry

This award celebrates emerging talent whose fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and commitment are shaping the future of aviation, signalling a bright and influential career ahead.