



STARTING OUT

Once you have your Private Pilots Licence (Helicopters) you can fly solo or you can take your friends, family and business associates with you. The best thing of all is that you will have the freedom to fly yourself to meetings, parties, countryside hotels and sporting events. It can be a real time saver and the thrill is never-ending.

THE EXAMS

First though, you will need to complete both air and ground exercises which will give you the aviation and technical knowledge necessary to pass both examinations to the standard required by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The course requires at least 45 hours flight time , 10 of which – when you are capable – will be solo. During your aviation training you will be learning the following:

1. Familiarisation with the helicopter and emergency procedures
2. Preparation for and action after flight.
3. Air experience
4. Effects of controls
5. Power and attitude changes
6. Straight and level, climbing, descending, turning
7. Basic auto-rotations
8. Hovering
9. Take-off and landing
10. Transitions from hover to climb and approach to hover
11. Circuits
12. First solo
13. Sideways and backwards hovering
14. Spot turns
15. Vortex ring
16. Simulated engine-off landings
17. Advanced auto-rotations
18. Practice forced landings
19. Steep turns
20. Advanced transitions
21. Quick stops
22. Navigation
23. Advanced take-offs, landings, and transitions



- 24. Sloping ground
- 25. Limited power
- 26. Confined areas
- 27. Basic instrument training

There are also seven written or ground exams to complete on the following subjects:

- 1. Human Factors and Performance
- 2. Air Law and Operational Procedures
- 3. Meteorology
- 4. Radio Telephony
- 5. Helicopter Technical
- 6. Navigation
- 7. Flight Planning and Performance

The exams are set by the Civil Aviation Authority and are marked by one of their approved examiners. The written exam – much like a driving test – is comprised of multiple choice questions which are quite straight forward.

At the completion of the Course, the student will take a flying Skill Test conducted by one of our in-house CAA-approved examiners. (NHB - PLEASE CONFIRM)

Despite the brilliance of today's technology, flying lessons are still subject to the weather's impact. If we think it is unsuitable weather we will phone you but that day's lesson can still continue on the ground. Normally though, flying lessons last two hours and are divided into one hour in the helicopter, the other in pre-flight checks, and discussion before and after the flight itself.

OUR INSTRUCTORS WANT TO GIVE YOU A SMOOTH RIDE

The ground instruction and flight training might seem daunting at first, but our trained helicopter instructors are highly experienced at dealing with people of all capabilities and temperaments. They know what it takes to guide you comfortably through the training procedures, all of which are on a one-to-one basis.

We know how important continuity can be when you are learning something new which is why we aim to give you the same instructor every time. We want you to feel confident, and safe, every step of the way: from your first lesson to the first (and every other) time you fly as a qualified helicopter pilot. But again, just like driving, the real learning comes when you have your licence and you are on your own.



A PILOT'S PROGRESS

You can chart your progress, before and after you have qualified, in the logbook we will provide you. It is also a useful record for charging purposes and for reminding you just how far you have come in your mission to become a helicopter pilot.

Once you are a qualified helicopter pilot with your PPL(H), you are required to fly at least two hours per year on the helicopters you are rated on, and do short flight test. Once you have done that you can get back in the helicopter and fly!