



Australian Government  
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

# **BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS**

**CAREERS IN AVIATION**



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The aviation industry in Australia offers a wide array of career opportunities, extending far beyond the role of a pilot. As a dynamic and essential sector, aviation contributes significantly to Australia's economy, transportation network and global connectivity.

Australia, one of the world's largest island nations, relies heavily on aviation to connect people domestically and across the globe. The demand for skilled workers in aviation is strong. Whether it's in aircraft maintenance, air traffic control, ground services or logistics, the options are endless. And with the industry's predicted expansion fuelled by increasing travel, trade and new technologies, long term career stability is on offer.

With numerous benefits and career options, pursuing a career in aviation can offer both personal and professional growth.

So, what are you waiting for?

Whether you're a people person, interested in safety, systems, emerging technology, emergency management, commercial aviation, becoming a drone operator or just simply love being around aircraft, there's a job for you.

Broaden your horizons! Consider a job in the aviation industry.





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## ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY (AAM)

Advanced air mobility is an exciting and rapidly developing form of aviation that will see new services to transport people and goods.

Using innovative technologies to enable safe, efficient and sustainable transportation, AAM consists of a wide range of aircraft types including electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, urban air mobility vehicles, regional air mobility and autonomous aircraft.

These technologies aim to change the landscape by providing alternatives to traditional road and air travel – reducing congestion, improving access to remote areas and minimising environmental impacts.

As an emerging sector, there are many career opportunities with ongoing advancement and progress in hybrid and electric propulsion systems, energy storage, alternative fuels and digitalisation.

## AIRLINE INTERNAL OPERATIONS

Airline internal operations teams are responsible for the planning, coordination and implementation of each flight. These teams have a strong focus on:

- › proactively planning each aircraft's schedule to limit downtime
- › ensuring disruption procedures are in place and implemented as required
- › actively managing the dispatch of aircraft on a day-to-day, minute-by-minute basis
- › planning crew hours and scheduling.

## AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING

Do you love the idea of working with state-of-the-art technology? Do you like to know how things work? Do you enjoy finding practical solutions to problems? If so, aircraft maintenance engineering could be for you!

Aircraft maintenance engineers get to work on some of the newest and most powerful flying machines on earth. As an aircraft maintenance engineer, you'll always be at the centre of things in aviation as no aircraft takes off without being checked and signed off by an engineer.

Engineering careers in the aviation industry take many forms, including:

- › aircraft maintenance engineer
- › avionics
- › design engineer
- › licensed aircraft maintenance engineer
- › software engineer
- › store person
- › systems engineer
- › trade assistant
- › weight and balance.

**For more information, check out our Engineer career and Engineer student guides on the CASA website.**



image: Ella Watson



image: Airservices Australia

## AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Air traffic control is a critical role in the aviation industry, ensuring the safety of aircraft in the skies and on the ground.

Air traffic controllers manage the safe and efficient flow of air traffic at airports and across airspace sectors, coordinating with pilots, ground crews and other aviation personnel to prevent accidents and delays. It's a role that requires focus, quick decision-making and excellent communication skills, offering a high level of responsibility and job satisfaction.

Australia's extensive airspace and numerous airports mean that air traffic control offers diverse career opportunities across the country. Controllers can specialise in different areas such as en-route control, approach and departure control or aerodrome control, providing a range of career pathways depending on individual interests and skills.

The demanding nature of the job means that those who succeed in this profession are highly valued, with opportunities for further training and promotion.

If you enjoy working under pressure, solving complex problems, and playing an active role in aviation safety, a career in air traffic control offers an exciting, challenging and rewarding experience.





image: Tyler Olson | stock.adobe.com

## AIRPORT AND AERODROME OPERATIONS

Aerodrome personnel work in a dynamic environment, with responsibilities ranging from air traffic coordination to overseeing aerodrome maintenance, passenger services and logistics.

In Australia, where airports are spread across vast regions and serve both domestic and international flights, aerodrome roles offer a diverse range of tasks.

People in this field gain experience in many aspects of airport operations, from terminal management to baggage handling.

**Airport security officers** ensure that everyone entering the secure side of the terminal is not carrying any dangerous or harmful goods. They possess a wealth of knowledge relating to dangerous goods and the machinery required to identify it.

**Aerodrome reporting officers** are the gatekeepers to thousands of runways across Australia. They are responsible for inspecting critical areas of the airfield to ensure facilities such as runways, taxiways, aprons and other infrastructure is safe for aircraft use.



**Works safety officers** ensure projects conducted within the movement area of an aerodrome don't compromise the safety of workers and aerodrome users.

**Customer service officers** ensure the smooth transition of passengers within the terminal. They have in-depth knowledge of their airport, providing the public with personalised information and assistance as required. They also help passengers who require special services – such as people with disabilities – to get around the airport safely.

**Building compliance engineers/surveyors** maintain the safe and effective functioning of the airport terminal. Baggage belts, airport information boards and PA System all need to function properly for passengers to get where they need to go. If these things fall apart, building engineers/surveyors are the ones to call.

**Airport and airline IT staff** keep the computers going. When the airline computers go down, there is disruption. These specialised IT staff are a big part of keeping aviation going.

With smooth operations at airports and aerodromes a key to providing a good customer experience, there's a wide array of other opportunities on offer such as aerodrome reporting officers, airport management, airside operations, work safety officers and aviation security screeners.

## AIRLINE RESERVATIONS

Airlines wouldn't have many passengers if they didn't have the help of their reservations team! Dedicated reservations staff work hard to assist people with their bookings, queries and issues to ensure their travel experience is as pleasant as possible.

Working in a reservations team requires problem solving, quick thinking and people skills. Roles and responsibilities often include:

- › creating, amending and cancelling bookings
- › managing disruptions due to delayed or cancelled flights
- › handling complaints
- › service requests including flight planning and special requirements.

## AIRSPACE

Airspace specialists are responsible for managing and optimising the use of airspace, ensuring the safe, efficient flow of air traffic.

Instrument flight procedure designers must be well-versed in air traffic control systems, flight operations and regulatory frameworks to ensure safe flight paths in Australian airspace.

This role also requires collaboration with other aviation sectors including airlines, airports and military authorities.

Airspace specialists often work in a regulatory or operational capacity, providing expertise on airspace design and ensuring that air traffic is controlled effectively.

## AVIATION MEDICINE

Professionals in the aeromedical field – including doctors, paramedics and nurses – are trained to operate in the unique environment of an aircraft, where they provide life-saving care to patients in transit.

Working in aviation medicine in Australia offers the chance to be part of critical missions, ensuring people receive the medical attention they need during transport to healthcare facilities. Teams provide services for patients in regional areas or during disasters, flying to locations that are difficult to reach by land.

For those in the medical profession who want to experience the thrill of aviation while making a significant impact on people's lives, a career in aviation medicine offers unique and rewarding challenges.

Whether in civilian air ambulances or military missions, the impact of aviation medicine teams is felt across the nation.



image: Airservices Australia

## AVIATION RESCUE FIREFIGHTING

Aviation rescue firefighting is a dynamic and highly specialised career where safety is paramount.

Firefighters are trained to respond to emergencies at airports and in-flight situations, dealing with a variety of potential incidents from toxic fumes to aircraft crashes and fuel fires.

Australia's many airports and regional airstrips require trained professionals who are prepared to handle these critical situations quickly and effectively. Aviation firefighters not only provide an immediate response, but also play a role in airport safety planning and emergency response training.

The role of an aviation firefighter in Australia demands physical fitness, excellent teamwork and the ability to handle high-stress situations.

Firefighters work closely with air traffic controllers, ground staff and emergency services to coordinate responses in the event of an emergency. Trained in using advanced fire suppression systems, aviation firefighters are always prepared for any challenge that may arise.

Intense training programs are complemented by continuous professional development to keep skills sharp and knowledge up to date.

## CABIN CREW

If you're interested in providing exceptional customer service while travelling the country – or the world – a cabin crew role could be just right for you.

Cabin crew are responsible for ensuring the safety, comfort and wellbeing of passengers during flights.

Often working as part of a close-knit team (or, depending on the aircraft, working solo), cabin crew members develop strong interpersonal and leadership skills and each day brings new challenges and experiences.

Cabin crew are highly trained individuals. They undergo rigorous training programs that cover a wide range of emergency procedures. This training includes evacuation protocols, first aid and the use of safety equipment.

In addition to handling emergencies, cabin crew also play a vital role in maintaining security. They're trained to identify and manage potential threats, including unruly passengers and suspicious activities.

If you love meeting new people, exploring new places and want to contribute to a positive flying experience, joining an airline's cabin crew provides excellent opportunities for travel, personal growth and career progression.

## CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

Customs and immigration professionals play an important role in maintaining the security and integrity of Australia's borders. This includes pilots conducting aerial surveillance to detect illegal activity and safeguard the country's vast coastline, and customs officers who ensure that people, goods and aircraft comply with Australian laws and regulations.

Customs officers inspect luggage, manage passenger declarations, enforce quarantine laws and prevent the smuggling of illegal substances or items. As international travel continues to grow, so does the need for skilled customs and immigration officers at Australian airports.

The role of customs and immigration officers is fast-paced and requires excellent attention to detail, communication skills and the ability to make quick, informed decisions. These professionals work closely with airlines, border security and law enforcement agencies to prevent threats and ensure safe and lawful travel.



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## DRONE OPERATIONS

As the use of drones continues to grow, the demand for skilled drone operators has skyrocketed.

Drones are now used across a vast range of industries including construction, emergency services and film production. In Australia, drones are used in areas such as infrastructure inspection, search and rescue and environmental monitoring.

Across the diverse Australian landscape, drone operations offer an exciting opportunity to explore cutting-edge technology and make a tangible impact on different sectors including:

- › photography
- › surveillance
- › law enforcement
- › search and rescue
- › agriculture.

## FIXED BASED OPERATORS

Fixed base operators provide services to private and charter aircraft. This can include aircraft as small as a Metro 23 with 6 passengers on board, through to an Antonov An-225, the world's largest jet.

Fixed based operators bridge the gap that is not filled by Defence and commercial services and can provide further support including:

- › chauffeur/private transport
- › personalised catering
- › hotel accommodations/booking
- › lounge accommodations
- › aircraft maintenance services, such as refuelling.

Some fixed based operators also provide services including aerial surveys, search and rescue equipment, medical evacuation assistance and help with mining contacts and personnel.

## GROUND OPERATIONS

From coordinating aircraft arrival and departure processes to managing baggage handling, refuelling and aircraft towing, ground handling staff keep airport operations running on time.

The ground-handling sector offers a wide range of opportunities for those interested in working behind the scenes to ensure the safety and efficiency of air travel.

**Ramp operations** involve baggage handling, physical aircraft movement control and coordination, de-icing duties, aircraft load control, aircraft marshalling, use of machinery including tugs and lifts and other responsibilities that require up close and personal time with aircraft.

**Customer service/check-in staff** are responsible for check-in procedures, aircraft boarding and arrival, operating aerobridges, and engaging with a wide range of people including those travelling under special circumstances such as unaccompanied minors and people in lawful custody. They respond to mishandled luggage incidents in the first instance including lost, damaged and delayed luggage.

**Airport movement coordinators/load controllers** are the main point of efficient and clear communications between airline ground staff and airline crew from before an aircraft lands to after it departs. Other responsibilities include ensuring multiple aircraft bays and gates are planned effectively, important timings have been communicated, gate staff are ready and prepped for aircraft turnarounds and any logistical requests such as fuel, catering and cleaning are completed.

**Catering services staff** provide a variety of aircraft with meals, snacks and treats. The role requires operating specialised vehicles to ensure the delivery of catering is efficient and smooth during aircraft turnarounds.

**Dangerous goods handlers** work in a specialised field within the aviation industry that involves the safe transportation of hazardous materials. Dangerous goods can range from chemicals and explosives to radioactive substances and medical supplies. People in this field are responsible for ensuring these materials are properly classified, packed, labelled, and transported in compliance with international safety regulations.

With aviation being a constantly changing and expanding industry, the ground-handling sector provides opportunities for growth in different areas including teaching and training, writing policies and procedures, airline marketing and management.



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## PILOT OPPORTUNITIES

Becoming a pilot in Australia offers an exciting and rewarding career with a broad range of options. Pilots are in high demand across commercial airlines, private charters, and even remote mining and agriculture services. Whether you're flying domestic flights between major cities or navigating through the outback, each day offers new challenges and experiences across a variety of disciplines.

Pilot roles include:

- › aerial firefighting
- › aerial photography
- › commercial/air transport pilot
- › display and aerobatic pilot
- › flight instructor
- › glider towing
- › mustering pilot
- › parachute jump pilot
- › search and rescue
- › test pilot
- › and more!

**For more information, check out our Pilot career and Student pilot guides on the CASA website.**

## REGULATORY SERVICES

A career in aviation regulatory services is an opportunity to ensure the safety, efficiency and integrity of the aviation industry.

Regulatory professionals work behind the scenes to develop and enforce policies and guidelines that govern entry control, flight operations, aircraft maintenance and air traffic control.

At CASA, we manage aviation regulations in Australia, offering people the chance to work on a wide variety of issues – from licensing pilots to approving new technologies in aviation – and play a key role in shaping the future of the aviation sector.

We have passionate aviation experts specialising in a wide range of areas, including:

- › aerodromes
- › airspace
- › air traffic control
- › airworthiness
- › communications
- › customer service
- › dangerous goods
- › drug and alcohol management
- › emerging technologies
- › finance
- › flight operations
- › ground operations
- › international affairs
- › legal
- › licensing
- › medicine
- › remotely piloted aircraft systems
- › safety education
- › safety systems.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search and rescue professionals are at the forefront of life-saving operations in the aviation industry, helping to locate and assist people in distress.

In Australia, search and rescue teams are deployed to remote areas, including vast coastal regions, the outback and mountainous terrain, where they use advanced aviation technology to locate people in need of rescue.

These operations often require high levels of coordination between helicopters, planes, ground crews and emergency response teams.

A career in search and rescue is both challenging and rewarding, offering individuals the chance to work in high-pressure situations where every second counts. Search and rescue is not limited to pilots and crew but requires skilled operators to coordinate search areas and air and ground resources.

Search and rescue professionals need to be highly skilled in navigating difficult terrain, using specialised equipment and making life-saving decisions under stressful conditions. The work is physically demanding and requires excellent teamwork, but it is incredibly fulfilling to know that you are part of a team that directly saves lives.

## SECURITY

Agencies such as the Australian Federal Police work closely with aviation authorities and the Department of Home Affairs to provide security at airports, conduct investigations and prevent criminal activities such as terrorism, trafficking and smuggling.

Aviation security roles can take many forms across many different organisations – from intelligence gathering and investigative roles to operational and surveillance positions – to ensure the protection of passengers, crew and aviation infrastructure, as well as coordinate responses to security threats.



## THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

When thinking of a career in the aviation industry, many people immediately turn their mind to pilots and engineering but the truth is, so many other roles play an important part in supporting the aviation industry.

For example, did you know coloured paint has different weights that impact the aerodynamics of an aircraft? Aircraft graphic designers do!

What about the need for records officers, auditors, quality managers, maintenance controllers, operations managers or aviation lawyers? They're all critical roles too.

Or if you're interested in human health and safety, positions such as medical testers and drug and alcohol testers are essential in maintaining a safe and compliant aviation environment. Additionally, the aviation industry offers opportunities in military aviation, space exploration, accident investigation, safety education and more.

Choosing a career in aviation beyond the typical roles means you can contribute to the broader industry, shaping its future while enjoying the rewards of working in an exciting, fast-paced, environment with international options.

Whether improving safety protocols, advancing human space exploration, or promoting health, safety and compliance, aviation offers diverse and impactful career pathways in professional environments.

Think outside the box – the sky's the limit!



**casa.gov.au**



## INDUSTRY LINKS

Civil Aviation Safety Authority: [www.casa.gov.au](http://www.casa.gov.au)

Australian Transport Safety Bureau: [www.atsb.gov.au](http://www.atsb.gov.au)

Airservices Australia: [www.airservicesaustralia.com](http://www.airservicesaustralia.com)

Australian Defence Force: [www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)

Australian Federal Police: [www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au)

