

Cobham Cadet Pilot Program

Frequently Asked Questions





Q. What is the duration of the program?

A. The course duration is 53 weeks. Please note there are no scheduled breaks during the holiday periods. Cadets will be rostered during day and night and will work weekends.

Q. What are the minimum academic requirements?

A. The course content is mainly mathematics and science based, therefore a strong academic background in Maths, Physics and English at year 12 level will be advantageous.

Q. Do I need to have a university degree to apply for the program?

A. No. You may apply irrespective of your academic background. However, a science based university degree will be well regarded.

Q. Is there an age limit to apply?

A. No. You may apply irrespective of your age.

Q. Do I have to be an Australian citizen to apply?

A. Yes. Due to the nature of the contract, you need to be an Australian citizen to enable an application for Australian Government Security Clearance. For more information, visit the [Home Affairs Website](#) and we encourage you to complete the [Employment Suitability Self-Assessment](#) before applying.

Q. What are the total costs?

A. Costs are as follows:

Selection testing and processing	\$270.00
Training	\$122,580.00
Meals and Accommodation	\$23,416.12

Q. What does the Cobham Cadet Pilot Program include?

- A.** The Cobham Pilot Cadet Program includes all theory and flying required to permit a successful cadet to be selected for a First Officer role with Cobham Special Mission on the Dash 8. This includes the below courses/licences and flying experience:
- a) AVI50215 Diploma of Aviation (CPL-A) - CASA Commercial Pilot Licence (“CPL”);
 - b) AVI50415 Diploma of Aviation (Instrument Rating) - CASA Multi-Engine Command Instrument Rating (“MECIR”);
 - c) AVI 60216 Advanced Diploma in Aviation (Pilot in command) - Airline Transport Pilot Licence (“ATPL”) subjects and Multi Crew Coordination (“MCC”), and
 - d) Upset Prevention and Recovery Training (“UPRT”).

	CPL	ME-CIR	UPRT	ATPL&MCC
Total Training Duration – weeks	33	7	1	12
Ground Theory Training – hours	443	35	0	311
Solo Diamond DA40 Aircraft (single engine) – hours	70	0	0	0
Dual Diamond DA40 Aircraft (single engine) – hours	85	9	0	0
Dual Diamond DA42 Aircraft (twin engine) – hours	0	24	0	0
Diamond DA40 Flight Training Device – hours	10	0	0	0
Diamond DA42 Simulator – hours	0	26	0	0
Dual Mudry CAP 10 Aircraft – hours	0	0	3	0
ATR-500 Flight Training Device	0	0	0	24 (12PF*/12PM*)
Airbus A320 Simulator – hours			8 (4PF*/4PM*)	

*Pilot Flying (“PF”); Pilot Monitoring (“PM”)

Q. How much can be funded by Vet Student Loans (VSL)?

A. 2018 VSL rules state that the maximum funds an eligible candidate can access are \$102,392.

Q. Who funds the difference between the maximum VSL amount I can access and the total training cost?

A. Payment obligations are:

Selection Testing	Student	\$270.00
Federal Government	VSL Loan	\$102,392.00
Residual owing	Cobham	\$20,188.00
Meals and Accommodation	Student	\$23,416.12

Q. Who funds meals and accommodation costs?

A. The cadet will be responsible for the cost of meals and accommodation, which will be invoiced and paid on a monthly basis. Please note that FTA is Centrelink approved and as such you might be eligible for rent assistance.

Q. How do I know if I am eligible for VSL?

A. Information on the VSL eligibility criteria can be accessed from this link: <https://www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans>

Q. Can I elect to self-fund the course rather than use VSL?

A. Yes. As per VSL rules you are not obliged to use the full VSL funds available to you.

Q. Where will I reside during the training program?

A. You will reside at FTA's campus located in Parafield airport. You will be required to live in the campus for the duration of the training program.

Q. Do I need to have CASA Class 1 medical license prior to course start date?

A. Yes, you will be required to have a Class 1 medical prior to course start date, but this is not required during the selection process.

Q. What is a Class 1 medical?

A. Aviation is a highly regulated industry. To ensure aircrew are suitably fit to fly CASA requires a specific medical to be conducted. This involves a number of steps and does take time. More information can be found on the CASA website: <https://www.casa.gov.au/licences-and-certification/aviation-medicine/first-time-medical-certificate-applications>

Q. I already hold previous flying experience. Can I still apply for the program?

A. Yes. However, information relating to the nature of your flying (Dual – with an instructor or Solo – as Pilot In Command) and any licences held, is required.

Q. Where does the selection phase take place?

A. Selection will be conducted at FTA's facilities in Parafield. In the event that your application progresses to the FTA selection stage, you will be required to make your way to FTA's facilities at your own cost. However, if you travel to FTA from interstate or regional SA, FTA will offer accommodation for one night at no cost to you.

Q. Is there a cost associated with selection?

A. Yes. You will be required to pay \$270, which must be paid on the day of testing. This fee can be paid by credit card or cash.

Q. Can my cadetship be terminated once I start the course?

A. Yes. A cadetship may be terminated due to performance or disciplinary issues.

Q. Am I legally bound to Cobham after completion of training?

A. You are not legally bound to Cobham on completion of training however if an offer of employment by Cobham is made and rejected by the candidate, he or she will be expected to return to Cobham the residual training cost of \$20,098.00. Should a cadet withdraw from the course at any stage through the course, this cost will be calculated on a pro rata basis.

Q. Which part of Cobham Aviation Services does this cadetship apply?

A. The cadetship is only available for the Special Mission section of Cobham Aviation Services Australia. It is expected that graduates will be initially assigned to the Dash 8 aircraft in either Broome, Darwin or Cairns.

Q. What type of flying does the Special Mission section within Cobham Aviation Services do?

A. Cadets will initially be assigned to the Dash 8 aircraft flying surveillance missions around the northern coastline of Australia.

Q. What is the expected career path?

A. It is expected that cadets will spend two to three years as First Officers on the Dash 8 before being considered for Command on this aircraft. Special Mission also operates a fleet of Bombardier Challenger 604 aircraft in a Search and Rescue role from Perth, Melbourne and Cairns. It may be possible to develop a career path onto this Special Mission Jet or to aircraft in other Cobham Australian Business Units (presently operating BAE 146 and Boeing 717).

Q. Do I have a guaranteed job if I successfully complete the program?

A. Special Mission will provide a letter of intent but cannot guarantee employment. The letter will state that should a First Officer vacancy exist, successful cadet graduates will have priority. The continuing growth in global aviation and the shortage of well-selected and trained pilots in Australia have increased turnover rates in most aviation flight departments. For this reason Cobham has elected to commence a cadet program and will make every effort to ensure its success. Immediate employment post-graduation is our intent and this is the most likely outcome. We expect that we will make a formal offer of employment 2-3 months prior to your graduation.

Q. Do I receive a wage during the cadet program?

A. No, as you are not guaranteed employment at the commencement of the cadetship, cadets are not provided with a wage. Note all your accommodation and meal requirements are met through the fee structure for 7 days per week/53 weeks. You will be provided with a monthly incidental allowance of approximately \$200 per month.

Q. Can I bring my car to the campus?

A. Yes, there is a student carpark on the campus.

Q. Where do i get more information?

A. Visit the FTA website: <http://www.flyfta.com/pilot-training/cobham>

