



Night Flying at the Canterbury Aero Club/ International Aviation Academy of New Zealand

The Canterbury Aero Club Est. 1928 has been operating in our city for 86 years. Over this time we have produced thousands of private and commercial pilots from New Zealand and all over the world. Many of our graduates have gone on to fly for airlines all over the world, including Air New Zealand, which has sourced a large percentage of its pilots from the Canterbury Aero Club and our professional division, the International Aviation Academy. The training our pilots receive here in Christchurch equips them to compete for airline jobs in New Zealand and worldwide.

Around 50 % of our pilot trainees are international students and we are proud to have them in our city supporting Christchurch. These prospective airline pilots spend about 12 to 15 months with us.

Night flying forms part of the NZ Civil Aviation Authority's (CAANZ) requirements for professional licences and is a vital part of our training programme.

Most students complete their night flying training in about seven flights. Three of these are dual (flying with an Instructor) and four of these are solo (student flying alone). To understand what these pilots are required to do, we will break down the training below.

The first lesson is an introduction to night flying for the student. During this lesson the students generally depart towards Selwyn (Lake Ellesmere) or occasionally New Brighton. They learn to manoeuvre their aircraft in an environment very different to the daytime flying they're used to.

On completion of this, we complete a quick lap over the city to ensure the students are orientated with the reporting points Air Traffic Controllers will use in directing them around the airspace. After they have demonstrated competency, they return to the circuit at Christchurch Airport and complete three or four circuits (take off and landings). These are completed to the west of the airfield, to keep noise to a minimum. Once the circuits are completed, the aircraft will return to the Canterbury Aero Club and the student will be complete for the night.

The second lesson is an orientation out to the west (Darfield to Oxford) then return back to Christchurch Airport to continue training in take-off and landing procedures (these are both normal and also non-normal procedures). Once the instructor has seen the student demonstrate competency, he/she will send the student out for two or three solo circuits. Depending on student competency, they may also be sent out over the city to build competence and confidence. This solo flight will last approximately one hour, if a portion over the city is included.

The next lesson for the student is generally a solo flight, consisting of a combination of circuits and some flying over the city to build confidence in handling the aircraft at night. This will also last for one hour to an hour and a half. On completion of this flight, the students will have their night rating.



The next dual flight will be a cross-country. This flight will take the students down to Ashburton, Timaru or Oamaru depending on hour requirements. This teaches the student the ability to navigate at night.

On completion of the navigation flight, the students are required to complete the solo time to meet the CAANZ's requirements. This means they will fly in the Christchurch Airport circuit, in our west training area, Selwyn training area or over the city, continuing to increase their skills and confidence when operating an aircraft at night. The students are all briefed to ensure that if they are operating over the city they comply with the Canterbury Aero Club Noise reduction policies.

We work hard with our local Airspace Users' Group to keep noise to a minimum and have applied self imposed noise curfews (10pm winter and 11 pm summer). We have also developed new training areas to the south and west of the city.

We need to ensure safety is always our number one priority. This means we require our students to complete a portion of their flying over the city, in order for them to keep themselves orientated, until they become more comfortable operating the aircraft in this very different environment at night.

We hope this has given you an insight into our night time training at the Canterbury Aero Club/ International Aviation Academy of New Zealand. We are more than happy to answer any further questions you may have about the night training at our facility.

Kindest regards

The Team at the Canterbury Aero Club and International Aviation Academy of New Zealand