



Train to be an Air Traffic Services Specialist

"The technology is so advanced, it feels like I'm sitting in a real control tower talking to real pilots."

Ashleigh Bindon | Former air traffic control trainee

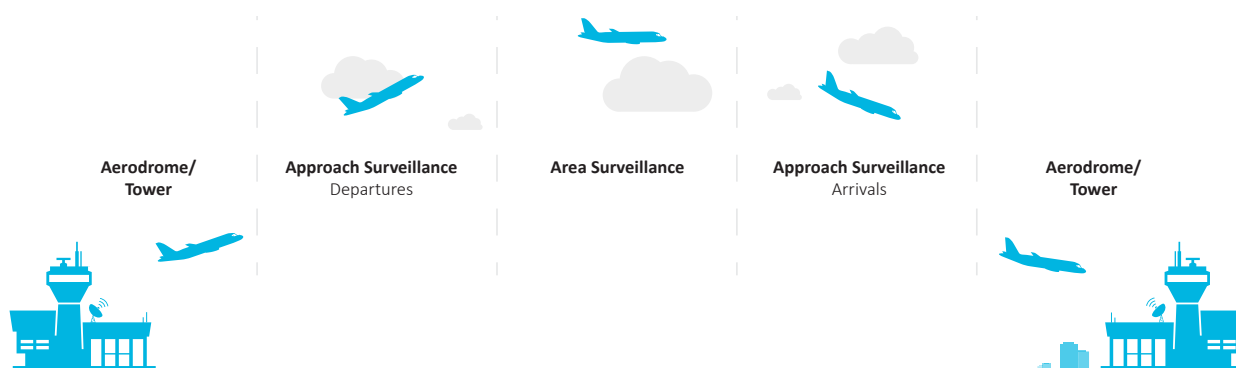
Keeping our skies safe is a big responsibility. It takes a certain kind of person with the right skills, aptitude and attitude. In return it offers a career full of challenges, opportunities, rewards and a sense of purpose and achievement.

What do Air Traffic Services Specialists do?

Air traffic controllers (ATCs) and flight service officers work in aerodrome control towers and surveillance centres throughout New Zealand, keeping aircraft separated and operating safely and efficiently, and providing advice and information to pilots.

How does air traffic control work through the airspace?

Different ATCs, as shown in the graphic below, handle the various stages of flight - they're responsible for air traffic management, navigation services and communications.



Have you got what it takes?

To be an air traffic services specialist you need to be goal focused, a good decision maker and enjoy problem solving.

You'll need to be a team player with good spatial awareness, strong communication skills and a calm under pressure nature.

ATC training is a New Zealand Qualifications Authority Certificate at Level 5 and Diploma at Level 6, so academic success is also important.

Apply for an air traffic services trainee position with Airways

Following successful completion of our training programme, you will be eligible to apply for a trainee air traffic control/flight service position with Airways New Zealand - the employer of all air traffic services specialists in New Zealand.

Visit airways.co.nz/careers to find employment opportunities.

Are you eligible to apply for training?

You need to meet the following criteria to train as an air traffic services specialist in New Zealand:

- ▶ Be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, or Australian citizen
- ▶ Be aged at least 20 (for ATC) or 18 (for flight service) when you start training. If you are under 20 at the start of the training programme, then you need to have achieved Level 2 NCEA and 42 other credits at Level 3 or equivalent
- ▶ Able to meet the requirements for a Civil Aviation Authority Class 3 medical certificate (ATC only), and Civil Aviation Authority 'fit and proper person'.

What's involved in academy training?

Academy training begins online via self-directed learning for a period of four weeks. You will then join us at the Airways Training Centre in Christchurch for further theory and practical training - for 8-9 months (ATC) or six weeks (flight service). You must be able to relocate in order to carry out academy training with us.

Training for ATC and flight service is full-time and intensive. For the period of training, you need to be able to dedicate time outside of the classroom for further study.

The training consists of theory and practical components, with practical training undertaken in our ATC simulators. A significant amount of effort and study is required throughout, and each stage of training has assessment requirements which must be successfully completed in order to progress.

APPLY NOW:

airwaysinternational.com/atcapplynow



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What’s the selection process?

Training to become an ATC or flight service officer is both demanding and rewarding. We use our carefully designed selection process to offer training to those people with the exact skills and attributes we need. Here’s the process:

- 1 Apply online**
 Complete your online application, including some information about yourself, and an eligibility questionnaire. We’ll then review, and select candidates to take through to testing.
- 2 Aptitude testing**
 We’ll assess your aptitude via a range of online tests and assessments (in a three-stage process) – covering detail accuracy, spatial awareness, memory, multi-tasking, and a personality assessment.
- 3 Assessment Centre**
 If selected, you’ll attend a one-day Assessment Centre in Christchurch (we will support your travel expenses). You’ll undertake further aptitude tests, group and individual activities, and an interview. You will also find out more about the role and training programme, and meet some air traffic controllers.
- 4 Selection**
 Following successful background checks, you will be offered a place on an upcoming training programme. You will also need to complete a criminal records check, drug test and meet the Civil Aviation Authority’s medical requirements.

Please note that the selection process can take several months from when you apply and complete the online tests and assessments. If you have been unsuccessful in reaching the next stage, you will be notified.



What’s the cost?

For 2026, fees are \$14,000 incl GST for ATC training, and \$3,000 incl GST for flight service training. Please refer to our website for further details – airwaysinternational.com/atcapplynow.

You may be eligible for a StudyLink student loan and/or student allowance, and Fees Free for the first year of study.

NZQA qualifications

Upon successful completion of academy training, air traffic control students will be awarded a New Zealand Certificate in Air Traffic Services (Level 5) and a New Zealand Diploma in Air Traffic Services (Level 6). Flight service students will earn a New Zealand Certificate in Air Traffic Services (Level 5).

It may be possible for you to cross credit to Massey University’s Bachelor of Aviation Management from your air traffic services qualifications, should you choose to study at Massey.

NZQA Level 5 - Certificate (60 credits)

New Zealand Certificate in Air Traffic Services (ICAO 051)

Five unit standards (15 credits each)

- Air law and operational procedures
- Aeronautical meteorology
- Air navigation
- Principles of flight and aircraft performance
- Human performance

NZQA Level 6 - Diploma (120 credits)

New Zealand Diploma in Air Traffic Services

Two strands:

- Aerodrome Control and Approach Control Procedural (ICAO 052 and ICAO 053)
- Area Control Surveillance and Area Control Procedural (ICAO 054 and ICAO 055)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: airwaysinternational.com/atcapplynow