



Aviation & Airlines

The airline industry offers a variety of career options. The two main employers of graduates in the airline industry in Hong Kong are the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department and Cathay Pacific Airways Limited.

Careers in the airline industry are not limited to those that are directly related to the operations of an airplane. Position with airlines may also be found in personnel, public relations, accounting, customer servicing and administration.

HONG KONG CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

The Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department is responsible for administering the air services activities in Hong Kong. Its operations are divided into seven major divisions, namely, air services, air traffic management, technical and planning, flight standards and airworthiness, air traffic engineering and standards, airport standards, administration, and finance.

Positions

The department recruits degree holders for the position of assistant operations officer. The latter assists the operations officer in the planning and provision of airport facilities, international air services and aviation safety. Graduates fluent in Cantonese and English from any faculty may apply for the position of assistant operations officer.

CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LIMITED

Cathay Pacific Airways recruits graduates for its cadet pilot programme, management trainee programme and engineering trainee programme, as well as flight attendants and customer services officers.

Positions

The duties of a pilot are very demanding as they are responsible for the wellbeing and safety of the plane, its crew and passengers. The cadet pilot programme is offered to those aged 18 or above with a minimum height of 1.6m, physically fit, with excellent eyesight, has an excellent command of English and is a permanent Hong Kong resident.

Although five passes in HKCEE/GCSE, including Physics and Mathematics, together with two passes in HKAL/GCE A Level preferably in Science are acceptable as qualifications, university





graduates are preferred for the programme. Newly recruited cadets are sent to Australia for a 60-week flight training course.

Cathay Pacific Airways also offers a three-year management trainee programme which is designed to cultivate future business leaders by providing professional training and worldwide management exposure both in Hong Kong and overseas.

During the intensive induction programme, management trainees will gain exposure to airline operations, rudiments of management practices and the culture of the organisation. Once completed, management trainees will be assigned to one of the following areas, namely, line function, support function and outpost posting.

Applicants should have a degree in any discipline, and possess good business acumen and analytical skills. As the airline industry is an international environment, applicants have to be geographically mobile, and should have good communication and interpersonal skills. High standards of English, Cantonese and Mandarin are desirable.

Engineering trainees are given structured and comprehensive on-the-job, hands-on, and classroom training. Applicants should have a degree in an engineering discipline, such as electrical/electronics, mechanical, aeronautical or industrial engineering. As the airline industry is an international environment, applicants should have good communication and interpersonal skills; high standards of Cantonese, English and Mandarin are desirable.

Being a flight attendant is not all glamour and travel, it is the responsibility of the flight attendant to anticipate and respond to passengers' needs quickly and efficiently, and ensure that the passenger's flight is as safe and enjoyable as possible. A university degree is not necessary but, in times of fewer vacancies, it always helps.

As the flight attendant is the face of the airline, the ability to mix well with people from all walks of life and to work as part of a team is very important. Language skills are a definite advantage. An intensive training program in technical, safety and interpersonal skills is provided.

Customer services officers are the on-ground people responsible for providing a variety of services to ensure that a passenger's flying experience goes smoothly. While a degree is not necessary for this position, it is always an advantage. People skills and a willingness to assist others are also important.

SALARY & BENEFITS

Customer services officers can expect starting salaries of around \$9,000 per month while ground control officers earn about \$10,000 plus shift allowance. Flight attendants start at around \$8,000-\$10,000 plus allowance. Management trainees earn around \$12,500-\$14,000. An aeronautical engineer trainee earns about \$18,000-\$20,000. A cadet pilot earns around \$25,000-\$28,000.