

Teaching English for Aeronautical Communication

An Advanced Training Course for
Teachers of English in Aviation



Effective and efficient communication in the domain of aviation demands not only linguistic skills, but pragmatic and strategic skills. Such communication is also carried out in a highly dynamic and technical environment with multiple factors interplaying simultaneously.

Cultural influences and competencies, code switching through diverse discourse communities, differing levels of proficiency, the technical roles and processes of the speakers, all play an integral role in how communication is effected.

Course overview

Developing individual elements of language proficiency is clearly an important element in any communicative process. What is less evident is how external factors affect this language and thus the efficiency and effectiveness of the communication. Teachers need to help learners develop skills in not only their operational language, but also how multiple contextual features affect how they manage the language in their communication. Greater awareness of implicit and explicit factors leads to improved communication and, as a result, increases safety.

This modular course, developed by English Plus and its partners in educational service provision, explores approaches and knowledge of how such external features affect the multi-cultural and multi-tasking operational communication in the highly specific environment of aviation. It will offer tools and techniques relating theory to practice above a purely linguistic discourse level in ways that teachers of aviation English will find both effective and efficient for both them and their learners.



Who is the course suitable for?

If you have been teaching aviation English for some time or have recently completed the initial English Plus Aviation English course for teachers, you will value highly the opportunity to complement your personal development programmes that this course offers. It provides extended reflection and practical application of the pedagogies and theory that underpin communication skills for aviation in the real-world. The course will enable teachers to further enhance their learners' understanding and use of efficient and effective language skills when communicating in the aviation environment.

Furthermore, those language experts involved in, or likely to be involved in, test development and assessment for language proficiency in aviation will also benefit from reflecting on renewed perspectives and methodologies to further enhance the validity and reliability of their test instruments, by reference to all aspects of the real-world communication of their test takers.

What will the course include?

The course develops skill sets for teachers through a structured methodology and practical hands-on tasks that address:

- Multi-tasking roles & code switching
- Referential & functional language
- Strategic and pragmatic skills
- Speaking AND listening
- Negotiation & accommodation
- English as a multi-national language
- Accent variation and effect
- Inter-cultural competence
- Culture, language and communication
- Honorifics & register
- A taxonomy for learning methodologies
- Authenticity in learning and assessment
- Validity in your test development

What does the course consist of?

The course consists of 5 x 6-hour classroom modules with qualified Teacher Trainers experienced in teaching English in an aeronautical context, as well as professional experience in one or more aviation related domains.

Classes are normally held simultaneously over the course of a week with 6 hours trainer time per module in any one day. Dates and specific times are arranged to suit the client's needs.

In addition to classroom time, visits will normally be arranged, subject to availability and likely security authorisation, to a variety of aeronautical institutions relevant to the course content. Attendance is not obligatory, but course participants are strongly encouraged to attend these.

What approach is used?

- Classes will be practical and 'hands-on', but with reference to relevant theory and up to date literature on topics related to relevant aspects of communication in the aviation world.
- Courses are participant-centred and entail involvement in tasks and activities which boost confidence and provide memorable contexts to aid learning.
- Demonstration lessons integrating prominent features of advanced aviation language teaching will be analysed for salient pedagogical and subject matter features, integrating the key course objectives.
- Participants will have the opportunity to work with the course leader to develop initial plans for their own learning and testing.

Facilities & Resources

This course is offered as part of a tailored service which can be delivered directly on your institution's premises or at one of our locations in Europe where full classroom facilities, such as: projector, Wi-Fi and online resources are available, enabling participants to access course materials directly on their own devices.

If you have other training requirements in this domain not covered by this course then we would also be more than happy to discuss provision of our service directly tailored to your needs and objectives.