Aviation English Course at Kingsway English Centre

Detailed Course Description

The course is aimed at ICAO Level 5, and is focused on the specialised area of language development with 30 lessons per week. The course focuses on activities and drills designed to ultimately help the air traffic controllers to develop their listening skills with authentic recordings and practise using the functional language and vocabulary required in both standard and non-standard aviation situations. There will also be listening exercises based on real life radio telephony conversations covering normal, unusual and emergency situations. Scenarios will cover situations that are likely to be experienced by Tower, Approach and Area Controllers.

Topics Covered

- Handling emergency situations
- Reporting equipment failures
- Co-ordination with other controllers/ATC Units
- Liaison with airlines
- Liaison with airport agencies
- Weather information
- Parts of aircraft
- Aerodrome equipment and infrastructure
- Surveillance systems
- Incident report writing
- Flow management

Main Features

- Listening and reading materials appropriate to aviation and aeronautical air and ground operations
- Actively participate in both face-to-face and non face-to-face conversations and routine exchanges in both general and aeronautical contexts
- Express opinions, approval and disapproval, likes and dislikes, attitudes and ideas on familiar topics and convey needs, information, instructions and descriptions using pronunciation intelligible to the international aeronautical community
- Negotiations
- Recognise and resolve miscommunications
- Recognise stylistic variation and register, and make predictions about content
- Read and discuss a range of text types including description of objects, locations, situations and features
- Recognise and use a range of appropriate grammar

- Recognise and use general vocabulary and vocabulary related to aviation themes such as time, duration, schedules and fuel, health, people , weather, technology, aerodromes, cargo, materials and fire, communication, navigation, movement and geography
- Use and understand appropriate language used during flying training
- Use the language necessary to describe normal and abnormal situations
- Describe accurately weather phenomena
- Describe airport features, markings and hazards
- Use and understand ATIS and clearance information

Tools and Equipment Used

- Media server with extensive library of materials streamed to classrooms
- High speed internet to all classrooms to enable full use of internet resources, for example TED talks
- All classrooms fitted with AV projectors / large screen TVs
- Self-study room with good range of computer programmes covering all skills to use outside of regular lesson times
- In-school visits from retired professionals from a variety of industries to give exposure to real life situations. Current visitors include a retired British Airways captain but also those with backgrounds in engineering, accounting, computing etc.

Self-study skills training included to enable ATCs to learn how to improve by themselves :

- Importance of using English-English dictionaries to avoid bilingual translation
- Mind mapping
- Regular revision
- Using the International Phonemic Alphabet (IPA) to learn the correct pronunciation and stress of new words
- Using recording software (eg. Audacity) to record, review and improve speaking

Aviation English and General English Training Programme ('the Programme')

Overview

The Programme is designed around the need for ATCs to be assessed in the 4 foundation skills (pronunciation, vocabulary, listening comprehension and grammatical structure) and the 2 over-arching requirements of fluency and interactional ability (which bring everything together).

The approach used is based on active communicative teaching techniques (at least 80%) supplemented by lessons focused on a more formal structured approach (under 20%) so that the overall programme develops fluency within both individual and group interaction situations.

These objectives are achieved through a combination of very small group classes of similar professional adults in the mornings (max 5 in the class) with a General English theme, and individual lessons in the afternoons focusing on specialised Aviation English needs. These needs (and those of 'general communication') are determined by a needs analysis at the start of the course.

By the end of the Programme each participant will feel much more confident in communicating effectively in real-life situations with both native and non-native English speakers and will have gained knowledge and confidence in using job-related English for the aviation industry.

Timetable

The Programme is defined by group lessons and individual lessons of 45 minutes – also known as an academic hour.

Description	Teaching Style	Lessons of 45 min.	Hours of 60 min.
General English	Group (max 5)	20 lessons/week	15 hours/week
Aviation English	Individual	10 lessons/week	7.5 hours/week
Total Programme per week	-	30 lessons/week	22.5 hours/week
Total Programme in 2 weeks	-	**60 lessons**	**45 hours**

Lesson Times

- 09h00-10h30   Morning session (2 lessons)
- 10h30-10h45   Morning coffee break
- 10h45-12h15   Morning session (2 lessons)
- 12h15-13h30   Lunch (free buffet included on Mondays to meet staff and new students)
- 13h30-15h00   Afternoon session (2 lessons)
- 15h00-18h00   Self-study / material assimilation

Other important points

- Placement test / assessment (usually by Skype) provided before arrival to ensure correct level
- Needs Analysis carried out on first day to define candidate's needs and Programme objectives
- Programme outline and training materials all included in the price
- Certificate of Studies issued on completion of the Programme.
- Student Evaluation Report issued on completion of the Programme