

Higher Apprenticeship Takes Off for Would-be Pilots

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New pilots in the UK can become high flyers in more ways than one thanks to the launch of the Higher Apprenticeship in Professional Aviation Pilot Practice (HAPAPP) to boost skills and make it more affordable to pursue a career in the industry.

HAPAPP has been developed by the Aviation Skills Partnership (ASP) led by employers and supported by skills experts and training bodies, giving would-be pilots the chance to fund their studies for the first time through Government grants and loans to gain professional status.

Semta, the sector skills council for science, engineering and advanced manufacturing, People First, airlines and the three flight training organisations responsible for delivering the practical training, worked closely with the ASP to create the qualification.

With the practical elements of the course delivered by the airlines and flight training organisations, and exacting learning integrated with detailed theoretical studies in the work place, HAPAPP Apprentices will graduate with a BSc (Hons) Professional Aviation Pilot Practice degree from Middlesex University, and with a pilot's licence which fully meets all Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requirements whilst undergoing all of their training at the flight training organisation and airline.

The HAPAPP has been welcomed across the aviation industry for opening up career paths to a diverse range of talented and capable future pilots, rather than just those who can afford to pay for expensive flight training courses.

ASP's chief executive officer, Simon Witts has been the leading force behind the new HAPAPP and hopes to develop similar pathways for air traffic control, operations and crewing, engineering and maintenance, cabin crew and airport operations.

The first students are expected to enrol on the scheme from July 2013.