



A fully sponsored training programme can provide pilots with everything they need, says Lee Woodward

EARN YOUR WINGS

Since CTC Aviation launched CTC Wings in 2003, over 250 pilots have joined the programme. And 100 per cent of those who have completed their training are flying with one of the programme's partner airlines. That includes easyJet, Thomas Cook, Monarch Airlines, MyTravel, Thomsonfly, Jet2, First Choice Airways and British Airways.

CTC Wings is a sponsored airline pilot training programme with two entry routes: CTC Wings Cadet, for those with little or no previous flying experience, and CTC Wings ATP, for individuals who already hold a frozen Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (ATPL) or Commercial Pilot's Licence with Instrument Rating (CPL/IR). Selection into the programme is hard, but for those who prove to be successful there is excellent training and good opportunities for employment with a key UK airline. CTC Wings prides itself on its innovative finance arrangements (the individual does not pay for their training) and genuine connections with the airlines for direct employment opportunities.

THE CTC WINGS CADET ROUTE

With Crew Training Centres in New Zealand and the UK, CTC Wings offers a fully integrated course and a training programme where candidates are taught to be airline pilots from the outset. All successful applicants are required to complete a foundation course at CTC's Crew Training Centre in New Zealand, before beginning training on the Wings course itself. This foundation training is tailored to suit the candidate's previous experience in order to bring everyone into the Wings programme at the same level.

With the introduction of nine new jets – called DA42 Diamond Twin Stars – to the training fleets in both New Zealand and the UK, the training resources for the programme truly reflect this commitment. The Diamond's cockpit set up is as close to that of an airliner as you can get, with a glass cockpit and engine control system closely resembling those found on board Airbus and Boeing aircraft. In addition to the twin-engine fleet of Twin Stars, Seminole and Duchesses, the training fleet also comprises single engine DA20 Katanas, Cessnas and Alphas. CTC's Crew Training Centre near Southampton houses five Boeing and Airbus fixed-base and full-flight simulators. It is here that CTC Wings pilots complete their 18-month training programme with type-rating training (training specific to the type of aircraft that the pilots will be operating on), just prior to starting to fly with their sponsoring airline.

THE CTC WINGS ATP ROUTE

The licensed pilot route into the CTC Wings programme is designed to assist talented but inexperienced, non jet-rated pilots to advance their careers. The programme gives these pilots an opportunity to gain a type rating and experience on an advanced commercial jet, as well as an opportunity to promote themselves to a future employer. If a pilot already has a commercial pilot's licence and is now seeking a first jet position in the right-hand seat, then the CTC Wings ATP



programme can help. It places around 80 pilots a year with the various partner airlines. Again, selection is stringent and includes a three-week, self-funded Airline Qualification Course (AQC), which incorporates the Joint Aviation Authority's required Multi Crew Cooperation (MCC). This is a mandatory course that teaches pilots how to work with another pilot, rather than flying solo. The course also includes an initial airline Crew Resource Management (CRM) course. Successful completion to CTC Wings standards places the pilot in a holding

pool awaiting type rating with a CTC Wings partner airline. The ATP route into the airlines celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2004 and, to date, has placed over 400 pilots with the airlines.

The two routes – CTC Wings Cadet and ATP – merge at the AQC (intermediate) stage of the programme and move on through type rating together. Depending on the airline that the individual is selected for, the type rating or advanced stage of the course is either run by CTC or the airline itself. Once type rated, all Wings pilots start training with their airlines, which makes up the final stage of training. After gaining approximately six months flying experience with their sponsored airline, CTC Wings pilots become eligible for employment. In the rare cases where an airline is unable to offer a full-time contract of employment, CTC will facilitate placement with an alternative airline. The pilot also holds a jet licence by this stage and has valuable experience with a reputable airline.

Currently, CTC is investing heavily in new aircraft and training centres in both the UK and New Zealand. There is also a development programme running in New Zealand to launch an Instructor Training Centre and build a new accommodation block for Wings pilots in training. CTC wants to help to provide tomorrow's airline pilots and make people's careers fly.

Lee Woodward is head of CTC Wings. CTC Wings and CTC Aviation Training are both part of CTC Aviation Group plc. For further information on both routes into the CTC Wings programme and how to apply online, log on to www.ctcwings.co.uk



GOOD GROUNDING: Training tomorrow's high fliers, CTC Wings provides training for both cadet and licensed pilots