

Want a career that will
really take off ?

... Get into Aviation



*Aircraft Maintenance
Engineer* →

Indigenous Women

"Don't let the guys have all the fun!"

***“ I wanted to get up front ,
close and personal with the aircraft -
I wanted to know how aircraft fly.”*** Michelle



Yes! You can be an Aviation Maintenance Engineer.

A career in the aerospace industry can offer you exciting opportunities world wide. You will work on a diverse range of aircraft from supersonic military aircraft and commercial airliners through to light aircraft and helicopters.

As an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer you will be involved in the manufacture, installation, maintenance and repair of aircraft components such as engines, airframes and electrics.

There is a state wide shortage of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers in Queensland. Employment is available in general aviation firms, domestic and international airlines, aerospace businesses and the Australian Defence Force. You will be part of an elite team.

“When I first started in the aviation industry, I didn’t know of any other woman doing my role.”

Tracey

Michelle’s Story

First Year Avionics Apprentice

Born on Thursday Island Michelle was a regular passenger on the regional flights to and from the Islands. She grew to love the planes with a particular passion for helicopters. When Michelle moved to Cairns she considered a career in the Australian Defence Force as a pilot, however Michelle’s first career turned out to be in the retail industry. As time went on Michelle’s love of aviation didn’t wane and even later in life after the birth of her son, Michelle’s wish was still to join the aviation industry, but she needed to plan to make it happen. Michelle researched her options and after seeing an advertisement in the local paper, Michelle spoke with a Job Network Agency who gave her the confidence and knowledge to pursue this opportunity. Michelle started on the road to fulfilling her ambition by enrolling in a Certificate IV in Aeroskills.

“There was a build up in anticipation and I was nervous when I first started the course, but the first day we all talked and introduced ourselves. The class had about 18 students of all ages – I’ve had no issue with gender balance. Everyone mixes in well and we’re all passionate about the industry.”

“As a single parent I had to have a plan of action in case of sickness or if I was needed to work after hours. My family are a great support and help out when needed and my son enjoys being kept up to date with my daily stories of work.”

“ I’ve had to think long and hard about taking this option. I’ve resigned from my job and am pursuing full time studies.”





How do I get there?

To become an Aviation Maintenance Engineer you need to complete an apprenticeship that includes a Certificate IV in Aeroskills. If you have previous experience, contact Skilling Solutions Queensland for advice on recognition of prior learning. The minimum education standard required is Year 10.

There are three Aeroskill specialist programs you can choose from:

- **Mechanical** - Maintaining, inspecting and undertaking fault diagnosis of airframe and engine systems, components and accessories on aircraft.
- **Avionics** - Maintaining, inspecting and undertaking fault diagnosis of aircraft electrical, electronic, instrument and radio systems, components and accessories on aircraft.
- **Structures** - Producing, maintaining, assessing, modifying and repairing all aspects of aircraft structures.

*"It's a job I really want to do.
I find it exciting to work
on aircraft."* Joanne

You can complete your training in two ways; by completing a one year **institutional program** in a classroom, followed by a three year on the job apprenticeship; or by undertaking a **four year apprenticeship** which combines theory and on-the-job training.

Institutional program

You can complete the theory components as a fulltime student and then commence as a second year apprentice with an employer. The programs will vary in length from 38 to 42 weeks depending on which Aeroskills course you choose. To assist with fees, fulltime students may be eligible for Austudy or Abstudy.

For further information contact Centrelink on 13 24 90 for Youth Allowance and 13 23 17 for Abstudy.

*"Aviation is always a
challenge and the industry
is one of a kind."*

Tracey

Four year apprenticeship

This pathway means you will be paid from the time you commence your apprenticeship and you complete your training in blocks throughout the four years. As well, your off-the-job training is fully paid for through the registered training provider that you and your employer select.

Finding an apprenticeship

If you choose to do an institutional program your training provider will organise a work placement for you during the program and will assist you with finding an apprenticeship when you finish.

Group training organisations are also able to help you with finding an apprenticeship.

For further information contact:

Aviation Australia

Ph: 07 3860 0900 www.aviationaustralia.aero

Qld Institute for Aviation Engineering (QIAE)

Ph: 07 5437 2722 www.qiae.com.au

Aviation Training for Aviation Engineers (ATAE)

Ph: 07 3277 7227 www.atae.com.au

Skill360 Australia

Ph: 07 4046 4000 www.skill360.com.au

Queensland Apprenticeship Services

Ph: 07 4050 0777 www.qas.org.au

Skilling Solutions Queensland

Ph: 1300 654 687 www.skillingolutions.qld.gov.au

You may find other providers by searching the internet.



Things to consider

- Ask your family for support and plan your finances.
- Plan how you will balance study time with part time work and/or looking after a family.
- Determination and self discipline will equip you for this challenging industry.
- Have the confidence to ask questions of your trainers and peers.
- Build your good health and physical strength.
- Resist sexism from family and friends about your career choice - get informed.

For further resources and networks supporting women in non-traditional industries, see www.women.qld.gov.au/hardhats

"There is lots to learn and you must ask questions – the trainers are very supportive."

Joanne

High School pathway for school students

There are some 25 schools in Queensland involved in the Aerospace Gateway Program. This program offers year 11 and 12 students an opportunity to undertake Aerospace studies as a Queensland Studies Authority OP eligible subject. While the focus of the study is aerospace the program also provides a good grounding for students interested in aeroskills. The program informs students about pathways into the State's growing aviation and aerospace industry.

For further information contact:

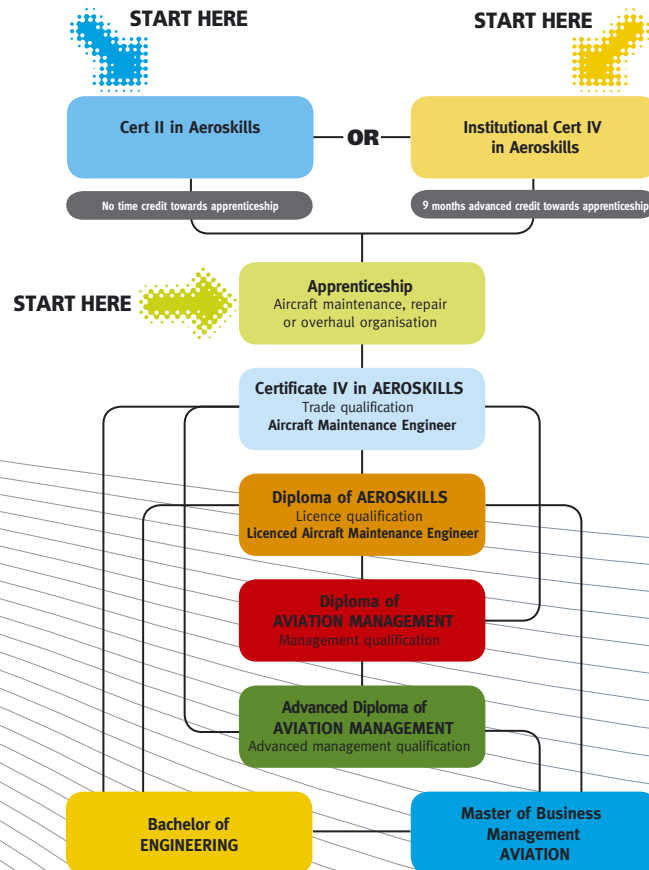
Aviation High Ph: 07 3637 0108
www.aviationhigh.eq.edu.au

Aeroskills Pathways

After you leave school, you can enter the aviation and aerospace industry via a Certificate II in Aeroskills, the Institutional Certificate IV in Aeroskills or directly into a 4 year apprenticeship. After completing your apprenticeship, you can further your career pathway through management and higher qualifications if you so choose...the sky's the limit!

"Cairns Aviation Skills Centre and our training provider Aviation Australia actively promote public awareness of women in aviation maintenance to encourage women to explore aviation as a career option and to inspire women of all backgrounds and ages to pursue their dreams."

Chris Pigott : Manager Cairns Aviation Skills Centre



"It's challenging, but if you like hands on work, then go for it... You need to be yourself and do what you love!" Joanne

