

- New daily challenges.
- „You never stop learning“.
- And a perspective only few individuals ever have - to see the world from the sky.

JOB & FAMILY

In general, women have to ask themselves the following two questions: Is my emphasis in life solely on family? Or will I dare to perform the balancing act of combining my career with my family?

If the answer lies solely on the family, then the career of a pilot is not the right one. The time and effort invested as well as costs would be too high. Limited downtime and requalification in order to combine both is possible. For those who want to combine family and career, the pilot profession can be a good choice. Many airlines offer part-time options; the VC Diversity & Social Committee continuously works on improvements of these options.

The career of a pilot is one of the few where females are not discriminated against in terms of pay and advancement. Your career will enhance automatically within certain boundaries. Competition is undesirable within this career as it would negatively impact flight safety.



HERE YOU WILL FIND FURTHER INFORMATION:

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„HELLO FROM THE FLIGHT DECK. THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING“

Even to this day it is still uncommon to hear this announcement on board of an aircraft coming from a female pilot. There are approximately 1020 female airline pilots in Germany. The ratio is currently averaging 5-6%, but an increasing tendency is being observed. Many airlines would like to hire more female pilots, but there is a lack of candidates.

Female pilots have been around in Germany much longer than expected. Wilhelmine Reichard took a balloon in the air in 1811. 100 years later, the first pilot license was issued to a woman, Melli Beese. She had to fight hard to survive in an all-male environment. Since then, many more women have gradually fought their way into the flight decks, such as Melitta Schiller, Elly Beinhorn, Hanna Reitsch, and many more. These aviation pioneers were primarily test pilots and involved in the development of aircraft. The first female airline pilot working for a passenger airline was Marga von Etsdorf in 1928.

After WW II it took a while for female aviators to regain territory in this predominantly male environment. Only in 1977 did Rita Maiburg start her career as a copilot.



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HOW DO YOU BECOME A PILOT?

Requirements

Academics: no legal specifications. In general, an airline will require the baccalaureate.

Medical: EASA Class I medical certificate. Amongst other things, it involves an examination of the musculoskeletal system, a general health assessment, a vision test (corrective glasses/lenses are allowed, depending on the company).

Competence: Multi-tasking, teamwork, disposition to take responsibility, ability to work autonomously, open to new challenges, sociable, leadership qualities, good self-esteem; good hand-eye coordination, spatial sen-

se, good mental arithmetics, basic understanding of maths and physics, good English-language skills, good visual and acoustical retentivity, etc. No need for perfect performance in all these areas, however, there should also be no shortcomings.

Miscellaneous: Perfectly blank criminal record.

Training

Flight training without previous knowledge usually takes approximately 2 years at an accredited flight school. The training encompasses approximately 750 hours of academics in 14 different subjects, such as aerodynamics, meteorology, emergency response, electronics, basic principles of aircraft construction, and others. Depending on the type of license, the training is rounded up with about 150 flight hours.

The costs are between 70.000 Euro and 100.000 Euro and have to be paid for by the flight student.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS?

A challenging job that will never be one thing: boring. Possibilities to discover foreign countries, cultures, and people. The salary for first officers range from 1.500 Euro to 5.000 Euro, for a captain, between 3.000 Euro and 10.000 Euro a month.

- Ever rotating teams and schedules.
- Yearly medical exams, half-yearly after 59 years of age.
- At least 2 check flights a year.

