



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM VISIT (College)

INSTITUTION: Flying Time Aviation

ADDRESS: Wingfield House
Shoreham Airport
Shoreham-by-Sea
West Sussex
BN43 5FF

HEAD OF INSTITUTION: Jonathan Candelon

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of visit: 8 August 2016

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE: 13 October 2016

PART A - INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the institution

Flying Time Aviation Global (FTA or the College) is a flight training company limited by shares, based at Brighton City Airport (formerly Shoreham Airport). FTA Global is the trading name of Flying Time Ltd, which is privately owned and operated by a board of directors. FTA was established in 2006 and has developed into a fully approved pilot training organisation for commercial pilot training. It has a modern fleet of aircraft together with flight simulators for instruction.

The standards applied to training are as prescribed, regulated and approved by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). The courses and facilities are regularly monitored by the United Kingdom (UK) Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

It is reported that former FTA students are flying with a diverse range of airlines/aviation companies all over the world after successful completion of the FTA programme.

2. Brief description of the current provision

FTA has 15 full-time teaching staff and 11 staff comprising of administrative, marketing, accounts, operations and management. FTA's parent company employs around 50 further staff in the context of its linked but separate management of Brighton City Airport.

The training courses offered by FTA include; PPL (Private Pilot Licence), CPL (Commercial Pilot Licence), Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL), MEP (Multi Engine Piston), IR (Instrument Rating) and MCC (Multi Crew Co-operation Course).

The most important programme for recruitment to FTA is the Integrated Flight Deck programme, which covers fATPL, ATPL Theory, ME CPL, ME IR and MCC. The courses and facilities offered by FTA are regularly monitored by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Theoretical knowledge courses are delivered by FTA on-site: these courses provide the essential underpinning knowledge required by the students and the CAA. FTA courses are offered on a modular (full-time or part-time) or integrated (full-time) basis, with the flexibility to enrol continuously.

At the time of the inspection, FTA had 49 full-time students, the majority attending the Flight Deck programme, and 25-part time students. No students under the age of 18 were enrolled.

3. Inspection visit process

This interim inspection visit was undertaken over half a day by one inspector, who visited the FTA site at Brighton City Airport. The inspector met with members of the senior management team; the Managing Director, the Head of Training, the Chief Flight Instructor and the Student Welfare Manager. Changes and developments within the organisation were discussed, together with the key features of the ongoing operation. Subsequently, the Managing Director accompanied the inspector on a tour of the FTA teaching facilities and the airport. The main control tower, teaching accommodation, flight planning centre, flight simulator rooms, security provisions, airport fire service, aircraft hangers and aircraft engineering maintenance centre were all visited. The arrangements made for the inspection, and general support for the process on the side of FTA, were excellent. This inspection report is in relation to the provider's provision in the United Kingdom only.

4. Inspection history

Full Accreditation: 22 January and 29 March 2010

Interim inspection: 15 April 2011

Reaccreditation inspection: 25 November 2014

PART B – JUDGEMENTS AND EVIDENCE

The following judgements and comments are based upon evidence seen by the inspector during the inspection and from documentation provided by the institution.

1. Significant changes since the last inspection

Since the last inspection in 2014, new appointments have been made to two key posts: Head of Training and Chief Flight Instructor; both being experienced staff members within the FTA organisation.

In 2014, Flying Time Ltd, the parent company of FTA, took over the ownership and management of Brighton City Airport, with responsibility for all aspects of its operation.

FTA is at an advanced stage of planning for the extension of its flight training programmes to an additional base in Spain. The Spanish site will enable the College to offer a more economic version of its main programme, and also to provide a better service to its overseas applicants who have experienced difficulties in obtaining UK visas.

The planned collaboration with Buckinghamshire New University on a degree programme, a possible development mentioned in the last accreditation report, has not come about due to changes in the university. However, a positive collaborative association remains between FTA and the university.

2. Response to actions points in last report

The reaccreditation inspection report of 2014 recorded complete compliance with all accreditation standards. There were no recommendations for action, or areas for improvement, identified by the inspector at that time. It follows that there were no areas for action that required discussion.

3. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements – spot check

3.1 Management, Staffing and Administration

	Met	Partially met	Not met
The standards are judged to be	✓		
<p>Comments</p> <p>There are effective management arrangements within FTA. Regular meetings take place with systematic planning by a coordinated team of senior staff.</p> <p>The recent appointments made from within the organisation, to key senior positions, provide good evidence of the positive support and ongoing staff development.</p> <p>All expected systems necessary to support the effective management of the organisation were confirmed to be working, as previously reported, including the areas of communication, information management, administration and staffing.</p>			

3.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

	Met	Partially met	Not met
The standards are judged to be	✓		
<p>Comments</p> <p>A professional and committed team of teaching staff and flight instructors remain in place; together with all the required technical resources for flight instruction.</p>			

3.3 Student Welfare

	Met	Partially met	Not met
The standards are judged to be	✓		
<p>Comments</p> <p>The Student Welfare Manager provides an accessible contact point for students, and oversees the provision of information to students (e.g. the comprehensive student handbook). Well managed student support is provided, as required, for accommodation, finance, and health or counselling issues raised by students.</p> <p>Attendance and student progress are carefully monitored on a weekly basis. Cultural and religious needs are addressed and international students' particular needs are well supported.</p>			

3.4 Premises and Facilities

	Met	Partially met	Not met
The standards are judged to be	✓		
<p>Comments</p> <p>All the College's buildings were seen during the inspection visit and found to be well maintained. Staff office accommodation is good. There are social meeting spaces for students and staff. The security onsite was observed to be excellent.</p>			

FTA has a fleet of modern aircraft for the practical flight training, together with flight simulators.

The operation and maintenance of the Brighton City Airport by FTA's associated sister company provides for an integrated and coordinated service.

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

Institution's strengths

The interim inspection was able to confirm the very positive evaluation of FTA found in the more detailed inspection report for the 2014 reaccreditation.

FTA is a successful and well-established organisation, effectively led and managed.

It offers high quality, personalised programmes of training for pilots and takes care to support its students.

It meets fully the requirements of its professional licensing agencies.

FTA facilities are excellent and include highly specified modern aircraft and training systems.

Great care is taken over the internal quality assurance of training and teaching.

The organisation continues to recruit successfully and is planning for ongoing expansion and development.

Actions required	Priority H/M/L
NONE	

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.	YES
Further comments, if applicable	