

# Atlantic Flight Training Academy



## AFTA Collaborate with the Marketing & International Business

### Department to Improve Access to Honours Degree Programme for Pilots

#### Background

Atlantic Flight Training Academy was established in 1995. It is a Cork-based Flight Training Organisation approved by the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) with a main base in Cork International Airport and satellite operations in Waterford and Shannon.

Their operations involve 2 significant hangars, 18-aircraft fuelling facility, a 5,000sqft. administration centre and simulator centre including two state of the art simulators. They currently have 51 instructors, 220 enrolled trainees with 70-100 graduates each year.

#### The Need

Demand within the aviation sector for pilots over the next 10 years is expected to increase significantly. Between now and 2027 IATA predicts 4.2% annual growth culminating in 4.8 billion air passengers with a doubling of unique city pairs to 18,000 and 37,000 commercial aircraft composing the global fleet.

In addition, AFTA and CIT established a need for a programme that aided pilots in developing careers with certain carriers and ensuring appropriate promotion opportunities. Progression within airlines is often predicated on experience coupled with third-level degrees.

#### The Solution

To meet the demands and requirements of the airline industry an innovative programme was proposed which reflected the needs expressed by AFTA and members of the airline industry.

The programme is a two year add on honours degree course, delivered online, offering flexibility to reflect the nature of careers of pilots within the airline industry.

A mapping of the pilots' non-formal and informal learning is the basis for entry to the programme. The mapping of the prior learning and a reflective submission equate to 120 ETCS credits.

#### Benefits of the Engagement

Atlantic Flight Training Academy and qualified pilots benefit hugely from the engagement as pilot training counts towards an honours degree. The programme enables them to avail of opportunities and promotions as they arise within the airline industry which are currently not open to them due to the requirement for an honours degree. The programme also broadens their knowledge base beyond the airline industry and in to more general business.

*Joining a degree program with AFTA & CIT as part of one's entry into the world of aviation will be of enormous benefit to individuals. I would encourage anyone wishing to embark on a career in aviation to give serious consideration to joining the degree program, which will form the bedrock of their knowledge and prepare them for the future."*

- Captain Donal Young, Director of Flight Operations Stobart Air

*"It has been very uplifting to work on a solution to a very real industry and educational problem. The aviation sector is so important in Ireland – this collaboration offers something very distinctive that strengthens the potential of the sector."*

- Pio Fenton, Head, Marketing and International Business Department

