



# **Pilot Flight Academy**

## *A New Model of Ab Initio Training*

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# What have we learnt at EATS?



## What did we hear?

- Sustainability
- Diversity
- New training methods - credits
- Pilot shortage?

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# Why not be different?



## What do our students want in 2022/3?

- Modern learning techniques
- Modern equipment
- Value for money
- Sustainable education – more awareness of the environment
- Affordable financing
- Generational Respect!





## Is it time to change?

- For too long it has been the case that all ATOs all seem alike
- What is the difference between one EASA Integrated ATPL course and another?
- The hours are often the same, costs and standards can vary...
- Single engine aircraft versus multi engine aircraft?
- Training locations?
- Diversity of learning experience?
- Is it FUN?

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# **COVID-19**

## **How did we adapt?**

## **What did we learn?**



- Need for flexible regulation
- Adapting to flexible learning methods
- Challenges of teaching with restrictions
- Well-being of students and employees



# Virtual Classroom - Student Feedback

Below there are five statements about virtual classrooms compared to regular classroom instruction. Please rate them as truthfully as possible.

Number of responses: 77

Not true Partially true True

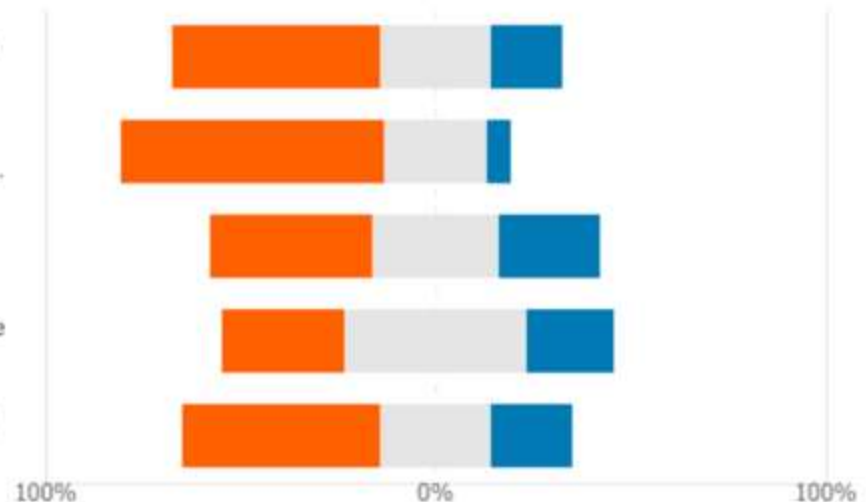
I learn just as much in the virtual classroom as I do in a regular classroom.

It is easier to contact my instructor with the chat function in the virtual classroom than face-to-face in...

I ask fewer questions in the virtual classroom than I would do in a regular classroom.

Lessons in the virtual classroom are just as informative as they are in a regular classroom.

I pay as much attention to the instructor in the virtual classroom as I do in a regular classroom.



# Virtual Classroom - Student Feedback

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How well prepared do you feel for CAA exams? Please rate the statements below true or false.

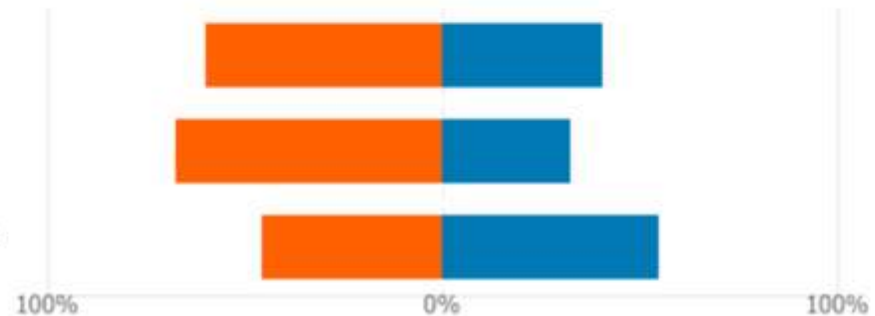
Number of responses: 77

True False

I feel well enough prepared based on the current training I receive.

I feel less prepared after doing partial training in virtual classroom than I would have had we done...

I feel I am more likely to fail my exams because of the current training given.



# Mental Health and Wellbeing

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- Very important issue highlighted further by COVID-19
- 2 distinct groups – Instructors and Students
- More of an issue for students
  - Financial concerns due to delays in training
  - Concerns of employment prospects
  - Unable to fully engage in the joy of learning to fly (mask wearing, lack of social interaction, private study etc.)
  - Hard to self study in virtual learning environment
- More of motivational challenge for Instructors with either virtual learning or getting back to full training engagement in flying
- Importance of a Peer Support Programme



- Communication is key with our next generation – they want to be engaged
- Put in measures to support mental health challenges – Peer Support Programme
- Hold regular 1:1 discussions with students to check on their progress and motivation – they want to be cared for
- Virtual learning can have a place in the modern learning environment - with feedback some improvements can be made but it does not replace face to face teaching
- Be flexible to change and doing things a little differently

## Lessons Learnt?

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# Why not be different?



# So why not be different?

- Challenge the norm! Should all courses and ATOs be the same?
- What does the customer want?
- What do the airlines want?
- What are we trying to deliver?
- *The student wants to feel at home and have fun!*
- *Pilot training is an adventure and should be a vocation of choice.*
- *We are creating the Captains of the future, looking to train pilots for the modern flightdeck.*
- *We wish to create an all rounded individual who is not only a great commercial airline pilot but a great leader and person.*
- *What holds us back?*



# So what can be different in an EASA Integrated ATPL course?

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- Let's challenge the regulation
  - *Let's address the Integrated ATPL and drive regulatory change*
  - *Adapt and enhance the learning experience for our students*
  - *Varied technology utilisation*
  - *Credits for technological learning*
- A course beyond the 'minimums' -
  - *Hours to suit the outcome and student – Competency!*
  - *Utilising the right equipment for maximum learning environment for the individual*
  - *Delivering an airline mentality and environment from the start*



## So, what can we as ATOs offer with our courses?

- A fun experience but with an airline mentality
- Multiple locations and diverse cultural experience
- Modern equipment with a strong focus on the environment, embracing greener technologies
- Developing the course structure with the student in mind – driving regulatory change
- Regular feedback at all stages to help improve courses and our instructors



# What can the industry do?

- Respect and support the Ab-initio ATOs
- Respect the Flight Instructor pathway
- Work with Ab-initio ATOs in the pilot supply chain
- Help drive regulatory change
- Consider sustainable pilot financing solutions



# Instructors make a difference!



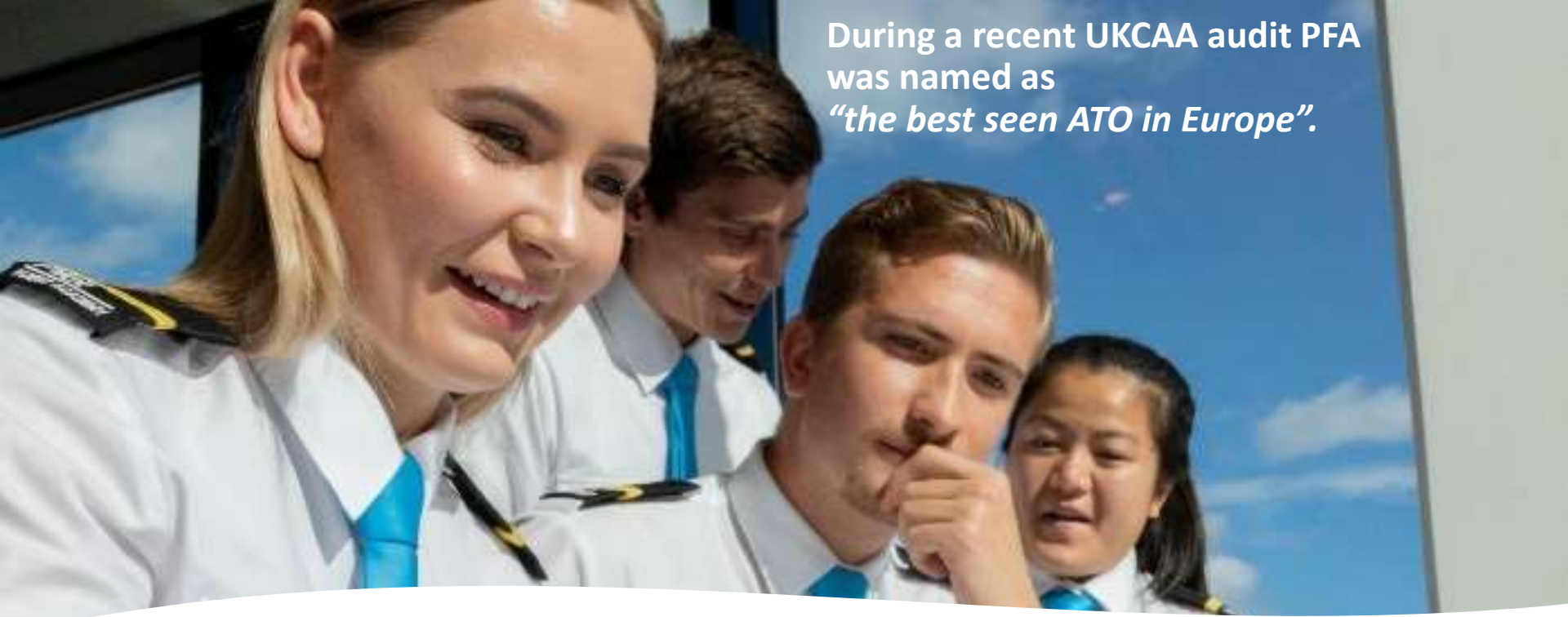
- An instructor career path that is embraced by the industry – airlines should support this pathway not destroy it
- High levels of standardization with dedicated Internal Training Department that can focus on developing each instructor for their individual needs, but this takes time
- Making learning a fun experience
- Respecting and promoting the delicate FI and student relationship
- Supporting the students to achieve success
- Let's make this a sustainable career step





## What next?

- The students are wanting a much greater focus on tomorrow and future sustainability
- PFA plans a «Zero Emission Concept Education MPL Program» but we should all be planning for this
- Electric aircraft for the next generation is a must!
- Anything is possible.....



During a recent UKCAA audit PFA was named as *“the best seen ATO in Europe”*.

**So why not be different – COVID-19 offers us a chance to reset!**

- Let's strive for the highest quality training and most modern learning environment
- Let's invest in instructors and students alike
- Let students enjoy their educational experience
- Remember anything is possible – let's make change where needed
- Let's focus on delivering high standard pilots!
- Let's work together!



**Pilot**

FLIGHT ACADEMY