



**FLIGHT TRAINING** *Prospectus*

**0800 46 36 26**

**TRAINING@WANAKAHELICOPTERS.CO.NZ**

**WANAKAHELICOPTERS.CO.NZ**

# OUR *Mission*

Provide **superior flight instruction**  
and mentorship to produce a pilot  
who is **skilled, mature**, makes **good decisions**  
and is dedicated to a **successful aviation career**.

Maintain our position as a **national leader**  
in rotary flight training through practice  
and promotion of professional  
**flight safety standards**.

Ensure the high value of our trainee pilots  
to **future employers** through a culture  
of **professional** and **progressive** conduct.





## WELCOME TO *Wanaka Helicopters*



We are a family owned and directed flight training school and commercial helicopter operator. Conducting scenic, commercial, charter and training flights year round in one of the most beautiful locations in the world.

We have established ourselves as NZ's premier and most experienced helicopter flight training school, operating in Wanaka since 1992. At Wanaka Helicopters we offer private (PPL), commercial (CPL) and tertiary training including the Diploma in Aviation. The most productive Ministry of Education approved Diploma in Aviation programme.

Founder and Chief Flying Instructor, Simon Spencer-Bower is NZ's most experienced helicopter flight instructor, recently celebrating 22,000 flight hours. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Queen's Service Medal for services to aviation and the Helicopter Association International, Certified Instructor of the Year 2015 award.

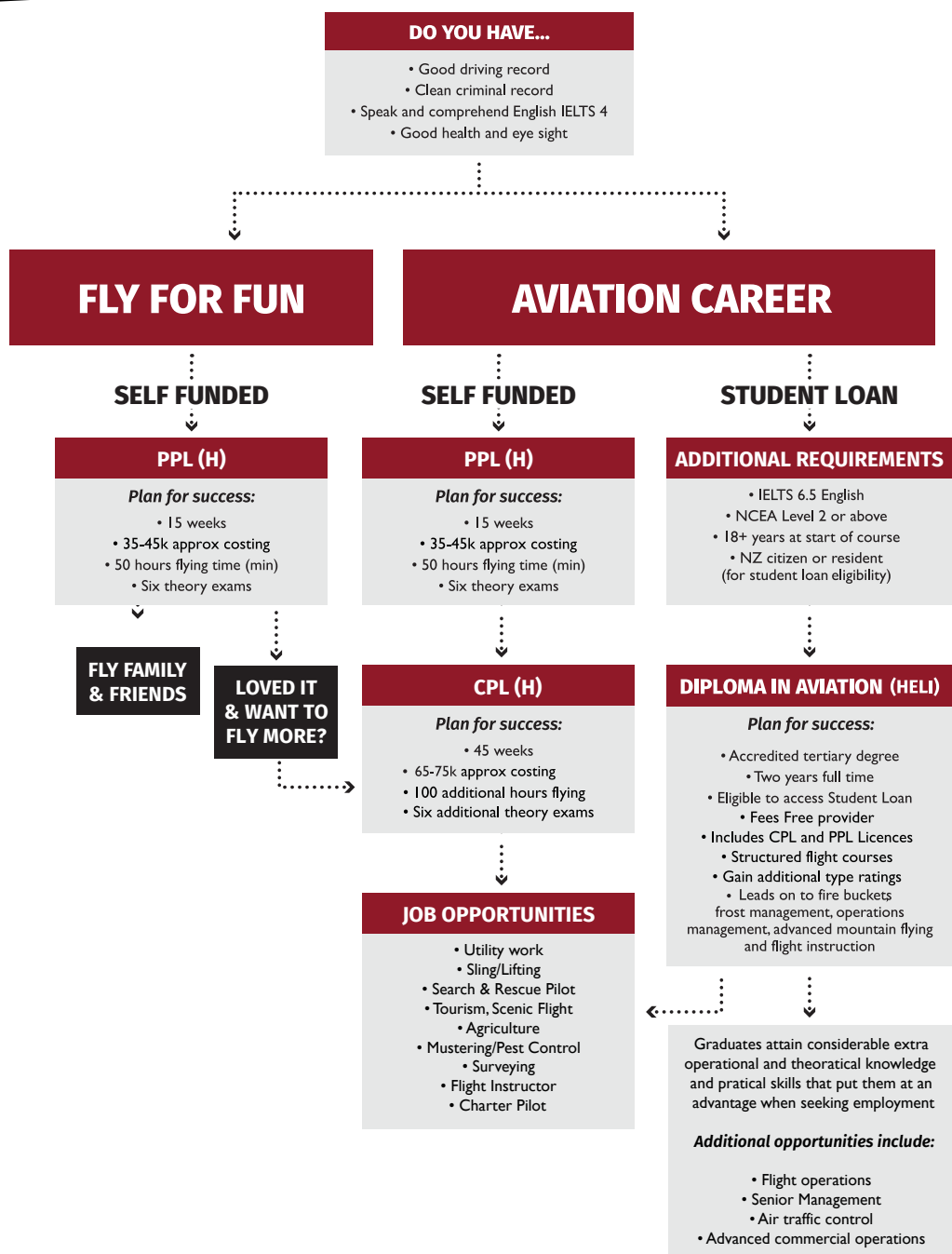
The New Zealand Diploma in Aviation programme is designed to equip students with skills required to set them above most CPL licence holders for early employment with a commercial operator or future path toward ATPL, Air Traffic Control or becoming an Air Operator themselves.

We have also developed NZ's top Advanced Helicopter Mountain Flying Training course and offer highly sought after specialist practical experience.

The surrounding Southern Alps provide an exceptional flying environment. This setting is perfect for developing all round flying skills, and Wanaka Airport comes with the benefits of having uncontrolled airspace and a variety of nearby training areas. This ensures more productive flight training time and development of mountain flying skills - the hallmark of why Wanaka Helicopter pilots are valued around the world.

Our team operates in and around our mountains on a daily basis in our fleet of Robinson R22, Guimbal Cabri, Robinson R44 and Airbus AS350 Squirrel helicopters, all of which are used for flight training, scenic and commercial work. Several other aircraft types are available for specific training requirements.

# Pathways to BECOMING A PILOT?







## MEET Our Team

The Wanaka Helicopter's team are passionate about what we do and our special location in the world.

Wanaka Helicopters is family-owned and directed on a daily basis by the Spencer-Bower family. Simon, Carolyn, Chris, and Pete offer superior training and commercial services. It is more than a business for us, it is a family legacy.

Our experienced flight instructors will be your first point of contact as a prospective student.

They are dedicated to your success and can answer any questions about course planning, enrolment, or Wanaka life.

Each pilot brings a specific set of skills and experience to the team, accessible to every WHL trainee. Trainees engage with a single instructor for some skill areas, but every trainee will fly with several instructors to benefit from their diverse working backgrounds.

## Reach out TO US!



### BRIAN PAAVO

Brian is WHL's Academic Coordinator, looking after all of our Diploma students and maintaining most of our private trainee records. In addition to programme applications, enrolment, scheduling, and student finance assistance, Brian participates in several theory courses and leads WHL's responsibilities as a signatory to the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International (and Domestic) students.





## **FLIGHT** *Instructors*



### **SIMON SPENCER-BOWER**

Simon guides the Wanaka Helicopters team and provides support and advice for all students. Simon is an A category flight instructor, and general aviation flight examiner. Having been in the aviation industry for over 50 years and more than 22,000 flight hours, is an industry leader in all aspects of helicopter operations.



### **NICK MILLAR**

Nick is an experienced transport and agriculture pilot having worked extensively throughout Otago, Fiordland and Southland for over twenty years. He is a senior B Category flight instructor and airline flight examiner.



### **DEAN WILLIAMSON**

Dean has flown in many environments and countries and brings a wealth of knowledge and instructional expertise to the business. Dean is a senior B category flight instructor and also flies scenic and commercial operations.



### **WILL SIMPSON-SHAW**

Will entered aviation as an RNZAF engineer before becoming a commercial pilot and B category flight instructor. Will teaches technical knowledge theory and is often the first contact providing support and advice for prospective students including trial flights and interviews.





## **FLIGHT** *Instructors*



### **CHRIS SPENCER-BOWER**

Chris is based between the USA and NZ where he flies commercially and instructs on several helicopter types specialising in sling training. He provides guidance in all aspects of training and leading several theory courses. Chris is a B category flight instructor.



### **PETE SPENCER-BOWER**

Pete is an experienced Commercial Pilot who has also enjoyed fire fighting and commercial operations in Canada and NZ. He also operates our sister company Greenstone Helicopters on the South Island's rugged West Coast. Pete ensures our hunting, fishing and wilderness survey clients always get to the right place at the right time. Pete is a B category flight instructor.



### **DARRYL "DAZZA" SHERWIN**

Dazza particularly enjoys mountain flying while providing a wealth of SAR and Air Ambulance experience as a former Rescue Helicopter pilot. Dazza often introduces trainees to simulated instrument flying, necessary for night flying and frost protection flight ops.



### **JASON LUSH**

Jason began his flying career in the RNZAF, spending 15 years in uniform before coming across to the commercial helicopter world. Having spent time flying commercial and scenic operations on the West Coast, Jason is a C category Flight Instructor and Safety Manager for Wanaka Helicopters.



## OUR Fleet

Wanaka Helicopters operates an extensive and modern training fleet of piston and turbine helicopters. Our fleet is maintained to the highest industry standards and includes:

- Robinson R22 (2 place)
- Guimbal Cabri G2 (2 place)
- Robinson R44 (4 place)
- Airbus AS350 SD (Squirrel) (7 place)
- Airbus AS350 B2 (Squirrel) (7 place)
- Several other types may be available to meet specific training requirements

While these are our main training helicopters, as a student you will be exposed to many different types of helicopters during the course of your training.

Diploma training includes three type ratings (R22, G2, R44) which is of great benefit to students entering the commercial environment.

We pride ourselves on the presentation of our fleet, so that during training and commercial operations students and passengers are able to enjoy a comfortable experience and focus on the task at hand. All of our aircraft are used day-to-day in flight training and commercial operations.

“ **Wanaka Helicopters** has been training flight instructors since the early 1980's. We are passionate about flight training and pride ourselves in **producing exceptional pilots** ”

– Simon Spencer-Bower (Owner/Director)







## PRIVATE PILOT LICENCE (PPL)

This requires a minimum of 50 hours of flight training of which a minimum of 20 hours is flown dual with an instructor and a minimum of 15 hours is flown solo.

The first 15 to 25 hours training covers basic air exercises and generally learning to operate the helicopter before completing the 'first solo' flight.

Trainees then progress to compulsory advanced exercises including 5 hours mountainous terrain flights and 10 hours of cross country (navigation) flying.

In conjunction with the flight training, six theory exams have to be passed including air law, meteorology, navigation, air technology, flight radio and human factors. A spoken English examination is also required.

Private training students undertake self-directed study and schedule their own theory examinations. Wanaka Helicopters staff will help identify resources

students can purchase to prepare or help direct trainees to extended tutors or training programmes.

Navigating the regulatory environment can be a challenge but we stand by our trainees, helping guide them through each stage culminating in an official log book review and flight test with an examiner.

Every trainee and training schedule is different, but we pride ourselves on a high flight test success rate for trainees with 50-60 flight hours experience. Age and training flight frequency are important components for success so we support a personalised approach to training programme design.

WHL can arrange a Public Trust or full-time flying schedule (20+hours per month) to help you achieve your goals most efficiently.

We welcome trainees from anywhere in the world for private training. The official global language of aviation is English, so spoken English and English comprehension standards apply.





## COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENCE (CPL)

A minimum of 150 flight hours of training is required, of which 35 hours must be solo flight. Similar flying exercises are covered as in a PPLH, but to a higher standard and in a broader range of environmental conditions.

In addition, 10 hours of sling (external load) training must be completed. During the 100 hours required over and above the 50 hour PPLH requirement, additional advanced training can be done depending on the student's ability and goals such as advanced mountainous terrain, advanced sling load operations, type ratings and some practical 'in the field' operational flying such as power line inspection.

Six additional CPLH examinations must be passed with advanced topics in aviation law, meteorology, navigation, helicopter principles of flight, helicopter

technology, and human factors. Helicopter principles of flight and helicopter technology are two separate exams in the commercial licence as opposed to one for the private licence. A PPLH flight radio pass suffices for CPLH licensing.

CPL training culminates in a local and mountain flight test with an independent external examiner.

As a Ministry of Education approved Private Tertiary Organisation, WHL can report CPL credentials to appear on your official academic record. Trainees find that earning their CPL from WHL opens doors to employment through our industry reputation and trainees regularly take advantage of instructor references to gain their first position.

“ What I was taught was **beyond the standard** level of instruction, and I really benefited from the **practical approach** our instructors took in lessons ”  
– Remy Lewis (Dip in Aviation)







## CAREER ADVANCEMENT & CONTINUED TRAINING

### MOUNTAIN TRAINING

Advanced training amongst the Southern Alps, Mount Aspiring and Mount Cook National Parks. Wanaka Helicopters are the NZ specialists in mountain flying training. Our instructors operate flight training and commercial operations in the mountains on a daily basis.

Both our PPL(H) and CPL(H) programmes include mountain flying components but we also offer our certified advanced flying instruction which provides trained pilots with the skills and knowledge to conduct flight operations in extreme mountain conditions. This is a non-compulsory course that can be taken at the end of a student's CPL or is available to existing CPL's looking for more experience.

### INSTRUCTOR RATING/RENEWALS

Wanaka Helicopters is holder of an Air Operator Certificate (under CAA Rule Parts 119 and 135) and is an authorised aviation training organisation (under CAA Rule Part 141).

Under our Aviation Training Certificate, Wanaka Helicopters is authorised by the NZCAA to conduct numerous training courses and assessments, which include Instructor ratings, Instructor renewals and additional privileges.

### FLIGHT CREW COMPETENCY CHECKS (FCCC)

At Wanaka helicopters we have two flight examiners who are able to complete Operational Competency Checks for pilots flying for aviation organisations who hold a Part 135 Air Operator Certificate.

### BIENNIAL FLIGHT REVIEW (BFR) AND ROBINSON SAFETY AWARENESS TRAINING (RSAT)

As a PPL(H) holder a BFR is required to keep your license current. Our experienced instructors will facilitate this process through consolidating your flying skills and also introducing new ideas/techniques. If you fly Robinson R22 helicopters then RSAT is also a biennial requirement and can be combined with a BFR.







# DIPLOMA IN AVIATION (*Helicopter*)

## (GENERAL AVIATION) LEVEL 5

Train for your aviation future amongst Wanaka's stunning mountain landscape. Study core flight theory, plus essential aviation subjects for commercial operators. Acquire superior flight skills by training in a mountainous environment with highly experienced flight instructors during the two year, full-time qualification. All courses are taught at Wanaka Airport where trainees actively participate as support in daily commercial operations as part of their training.

Wanaka Helicopters' Diploma includes everything you require for a commercial licence, plus extra flight opportunities, ratings, and invaluable ground operation experience to prepare you for your commercial flight test (typically 150-152 flight hours).

### OVERVIEW

The New Zealand Diploma in Aviation (NZDipGA) has been developed by the New Zealand aviation industry for both fixed and rotary wing pilots. It is a nationally recognised qualification administered under NZQA and ServiceIQ.

The Diploma results in candidates graduating with a commercial pilot licence (helicopter) and a Diploma in Aviation. The Diploma comprises more than 25 unit standard courses and modules combined into one, two-year qualification. These courses encompass topics and aspects of aviation over and above those required for a basic

commercial pilot licence. The Diploma is structured to start a professional pilot on a career path including safety management systems and principals. Graduates will attain considerable extra operational and theoretical knowledge and practical skills that put them at an advantage when seeking employment as commercial pilots.

### AIM

The purpose of this qualification is to provide the General Aviation sector of New Zealand with graduates who have attained knowledge and practical skills to operate as commercial pilots and support staff for flight planning and aircraft operations.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing the course, graduates will be a qualified commercial helicopter pilot, with type ratings for single-engine helicopters, able to exercise the privileges provided for by CAANZ in New Zealand including ground operations, flight planning and assisting operators with their safety management systems (SMS).





# *Deciding if* **WE ARE RIGHT FOR YOU!**

**THREE STEPS AND YOU COULD BE IN THE PILOT SEAT!**

## *Step 1*

### **GATHER THE INFO YOU NEED!**

Do you have the dedication, time and funding?

## *Step 2*

### **DECIDE TO TAKE THE BIG STEP UP**

The first step in starting your career in aviation is choosing the right school and qualification for you.

- Check out our Flight Training guide.
- Contact the liaison team at Wanaka Helicopters.
- If you're at high school, talk to your Career Advisor. Secondary school subjects that can aid your study are English, geography, maths, physics, and economics.
- Talk to people in the aviation industry.
- Decide if private training or the Diploma is the right pathway for you.

## *Step 3*

### **CHECK YOU MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION**

Requirements for Private Training

- Good driving record
- Clean criminal record
- Good health and eyesight
- Speak and comprehend English IELTS 4

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DIPLOMA IN AVIATION**

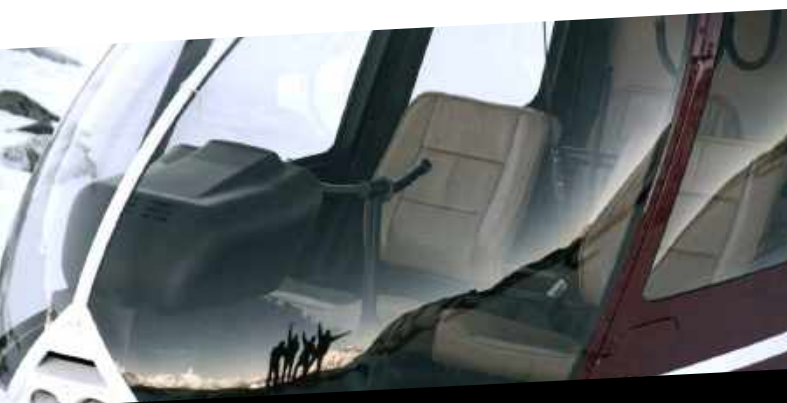
- At least 18 years of age at programme start date
- NCEA Level 2 equivalent
- English IELTS 6.5 or equivalent is our minimum level.
- NZ citizen or have residency (necessary only if applying for a student loan)

### **READY TO TURN THE KEY?**

**Contact us and we'll take care of you!**

0800 46 36 26

[training@wanakahelicopters.co.nz](mailto:training@wanakahelicopters.co.nz)





## GRADUATE Profile

### JARED FALLAVER

Jared's fascination with helicopters came as a child when the local search and rescue helicopter was based next to his house. Thinking helicopters were "pretty cool" he had some private lessons in his early twenties, bought a logbook and was soon hooked on flying.

Taking advantage of an interest-free student loan, Jared decided the Diploma in Aviation (Helicopter) was the perfect training to start his aviation career. After starting flight training at another school Jared transferred to the Wanaka Helicopters Diploma Programme in 2015.

Jared most enjoyed being able to learn to fly in an environment people come from all around the world to see. The challenges of technical mountain flying, nearby low fly training zones, high flight hours of instructors, and the family atmosphere we provide made it a great fit for him.

Jared found the additional courses undertaken during the Diploma useful, particularly those around safety management systems and crew resource management. Jared says "At the time I didn't know when I would ever use some of the content but it has proven really valuable in my current job based in Papua New Guinea."

The perfect job rarely shows up right after graduation. So Jared juggled truck driving while taking on part-time ground crew, frost protection

and maintenance flight operations for a New Zealand operator after completing his Diploma.

Within a few months however, an opportunity he couldn't refuse came knocking! Putting his best foot forward in his CV, adding some great references from our instructors and a willingness to move quickly resulted in a job flying Bell 212's in Papua New Guinea.

Starting within a week of applying, Jared was off to Port Moresby with a three year contract working for an operator that supplies helicopter services to the Papua New Guinea defence force. Jared's work involves moving defence force personnel around for border protection, soldier deployment into areas of civil unrest and operating a winch capable helicopter for search and rescue. A very mountainous and remote terrain with dense rainforest up to 14,000ft means helicopters are the easiest way to transport personnel and equipment around the country.

In his third year of duty he will focus on work around oil and gas operations undertaking pipeline surveillance and personnel transport in a Bell 412 Helicopter.

Jared's goal is to work long lining with twin engine helicopters and to eventually be a pilot back in Wanaka or Queenstown "The Helicopter Capital of New Zealand!"







## GRADUATE *Profile*

### JEREMY INGLE

Jeremy was lucky to grow up around aviation so it is no wonder he decided to later study the Diploma in Aviation. Both of his parents worked as air traffic controllers which meant he was exposed to a range of different aircraft from a young age. "I've always loved anything to do with aviation, I was always going to do something along that line, however helicopters were always the main attraction for me."

Pursuing a career as a helicopter pilot was made possible with the ability to apply for an interest free student loan, eligible with the Diploma programme. Securing this funding, Jeremy enrolled in the Diploma in Aviation and transferred to Wanaka Helicopters in 2015 after starting training with another training school, "I had heard about Wanaka Helicopters' level of training before and I was instantly very keen to finish my training there."

Jeremy most enjoyed sling load flying. "Sling was a highlight of my training, the best part of Wanaka Helicopters training is the emphasis on practical training. I believe that makes you very employable because it means you can arrive at your first job ready to work." After graduating with his Diploma

in December 2015 Jeremy moved back to Christchurch for a short time.

Jeremy heard through Wanaka Helicopter's industry networks about a job opening in Australia. Within a week he was on a plane heading for a work trial which culminated in a job offer to begin his piloting career flying Robinson 44 helicopters. After only six months he was offered a rating to fly H130 helicopters. Jeremy has steadily built his flight time to over 500 hours, an important employability milestone in any pilot's career.

"The thing I love most about flying is that you are in an ever changing office, whether it is where you are flying on any given day or the weather conditions you are flying in."

Jeremy's dream is to eventually return to the South Island, to fly passengers in and around the spectacular Southern Alps.





## GRADUATE *Profile*

**CHARLOTTE NEWBOLD**



Charlotte remembers the day her aviation career began, undertaking a trial flight at Wanaka Helicopters. Foregoing her plan to study a Masters in Dietetics at Otago University, she made the decision to become a helicopter pilot and has never looked back. “I always had an interest in aviation as my grandfather was a pilot in the Pacific during WW2.”

Charlotte undertook private training at Wanaka Helicopters to gain her commercial licence and was determined to have a job she loved. Wanaka Helicopters was an obvious place for her to train, being from Queenstown. However, the opportunity to learn to fly in the mountains and with experienced instructors was a big factor. “My research told me Wanaka Helicopters is the best training provider in NZ. Not only that you are flying around one of the most beautiful places. When you are not training you are enjoying everything Central Otago has to offer skiing, hiking, boating and so much more!”

After completing her commercial licence in 2015, Charlotte worked at Heliworks Queenstown Helicopters/Southern Lakes Helicopters and is now loving her new role at Volcanic Air in Rotorua.

Charlotte describes her typical day:

“I start my day preflighting my assigned helicopter and talk with the office staff to get any last minute details for the job. An example would be flying down to Huka Lodge in Taupo. I would fly them over

geothermal areas on the way to White Island where we do a tour around NZ’s most active volcano.

We might then stop on the beach close to Whakatanu for a picnic. On the way back to Huka Lodge we would land up on Mt Tarawera which last erupted in 1886 taking in the views overlooking the many lakes surrounding Rotorua and the rift that splits the mountain in two. After dropping my clients back I will then fly back to our hangar at Rotorua Airport, clean and tidy the machine all ready for the next flight.” The best aspects of her new role include flying most days, the coastal scenery, meeting lots of interesting people and the professional challenge she encounters.

Charlotte describes some of the challenges of starting out in the industry. The travelling required to move where the work and opportunities are. “I was lucky to get an initial job close to home but that’s rarely the case. Most pilots will work weekends and public holidays so there is social sacrifice which comes with that. I have a very supportive family and partner which makes it easier.” Charlotte would eventually love to get involved with search and rescue or a medical helicopter pilot role.

If you are thinking about becoming a helicopter pilot she encourages you to do a trial flight and talk to people in the industry. “Most pilots live and breathe their job so it’s not a decision to be made lightly - you need to really love aviation, it’s a journey not a sprint.”



## GRADUATE Profile

### LIAM MCMILLAN

Coming from a family passionate about aviation, Liam grew up in and around airfields and aeroplanes. Both his grandfathers were pilots which had a profound influence on his ambition to follow a career in aviation.

Making the decision to become a helicopter pilot over fixed wing came very last minute. Thinking carefully about the type of work and flying he wanted to do in the future, cemented his decision on helicopters. "The things you can do in helicopters is awesome, fixed wing is a little more restrictive and boring."

Opting to study the Diploma in Aviation at Wanaka Helicopters, Liam took up the benefits of getting a student loan to help fund his training. He felt the diploma course was a good fit and the location and reputation of Wanaka Helicopters is what sold Liam to start study. "Getting the best training with industry leaders and training with the Spencer-Bower's influenced my final decision to train in Wanaka."

The consistency of a structured learning environment on site at the airport everyday provided familiarity with instructors and the opportunity to learn within the commercial environment. "I really enjoyed the balance of study and social comradery of my classmates."



He also enjoyed the practical experience assisting on commercial operations, mountain training was a special highlight.

Liam gained his first ground crew role at Wellington Helicopters within a month of graduating from Wanaka Helicopters in 2017. The courses delivered around safety, risk management and dangerous goods were particularly useful in his first role. After six months experience he is now on the adventure of a lifetime flying full-time in Botswana.

Flying in Botswana is a mixture of charter transfers and scenic safaris. "I find the work interesting and fun, I am currently flying an R44 helicopter about 70 hours a month during the peak season" Liam hopes to move into flying a Jet Ranger after about 18 months. He enjoys working in tourism and utilises his extensive hospitality experience to connect with clients. "No two days are the same and I enjoy seeing different things each day of flying, learning about the african wildlife."

A typical day sees him staying in the pilot's quarters of a tourist camp taking clients on scenic safaris exploring the local landscape and looking for wild animals. Planning to work in Botswana for a few years Liam then plans to head to Canada to undertake utility flying. Like many of his classmates his ultimate goal is to work amongst the mountains around Queenstown and Wanaka.





## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

WHL is a nationally accredited training provider with the New Zealand Qualification Authority and is a signatory of the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students.

### REQUIREMENTS

Our responsibility to international trainees means that, if you are not a New Zealand or Australian citizen, you must have:

- ☐ Medical and travel insurance including insurance for flight operations.
- ☐ An appropriate visa or permit to study in New Zealand ([www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)) for more information.



- ☐ An English translation of Justice Department and/or police reports for the CAA Fit and Proper Person application.
  - ☐ Proof that you have the ability to support yourself whilst in NZ (access to \$10,000 per year).
  - ☐ An IELTS test result 6 for the Diploma in Aviation if English is not your first language.
- Wanaka Helicopters can provide assistance to successful applicants with obtaining a student visa.

Please note that all mandatory paperwork must be signed (in English) before application for a student visa will be made to the New Zealand Immigration Service.

## TOP 5 REASONS TO *Train with us*

**ONE** - New Zealand's most experienced helicopter flight training school.

**TWO** - Highly experienced and knowledgeable flight instructors.

**THREE** - High altitude mountain flying two minutes away.

**FOUR** - Training based within a commercial environment.

**FIVE** - Graduate employability and industry networks.





**YOU'RE** *one of a kind*  
**AND SO ARE WE**  
*so why go anywhere else?*





## CONTACT US

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