Flight School Visit Checklist

Take this with you. Tick a question when you have investigated it; a tick is not a school endorsement.

School / course: _____ **Date:** _____

BEFORE YOU PAY

Approval [ ]
Ask: Which legal entity is approved for this exact course and licence?
Evidence: Current regulator listing and course scope.
Investigate: A generic "approved school" claim.

Medical [ ]
Ask: Have I checked initial Class 1 eligibility for a commercial goal?
Evidence: Your own medical documentation.
Investigate: Pressure to pay a large fee first.

Price [ ]
Ask: What hours, exams, retests and living costs are excluded?
Evidence: Itemised written quote and extra-hour rates.
Investigate: A headline price without exclusions.

Payments [ ]
Ask: Where is advance money held and what protects unearned fees?
Evidence: Payment schedule and protection documents.
Investigate: Large upfront payment without clear protection.

Refunds [ ]
Ask: What if I pause, fail, leave or the school closes?
Evidence: Refund, transfer and training-record clauses.
Investigate: Vague or one-sided exit terms.

TRAINING IN PRACTICE

Capacity [ ]
Ask: How many aircraft and instructors can serve this cohort?
Evidence: Recent scheduling and maintenance examples.
Investigate: Repeated cancellations without a recovery plan.

Time [ ]
Ask: How long did recent comparable students actually take?
Evidence: Cohort median, range and exclusions.
Investigate: Only an ideal advertised duration.

Environment [ ]
Ask: What weather, airspace and operating hours limit flying?
Evidence: Recent cancellation reasons and catch-up plan.
Investigate: No plan for predictable seasonal delays.

Culture [ ]
Ask: How are mistakes and safety concerns handled?
Evidence: Observe a briefing; speak to current students.
Investigate: Dismissive answers or poor reporting culture.

OUTCOMES AND FIT

Outcomes [ ]
Ask: How many starters completed and found flying work?
Evidence: Cohort dates, denominator, job definition and response rate.
Investigate: Employment percentage without a defined cohort.

Airline links [ ]
Ask: What is the actual airline arrangement and fallback?
Evidence: Current written terms.
Investigate: A verbal promise of a guaranteed job.

Overseas [ ]
Ask: Will this course count toward my intended licence?
Evidence: Regulator confirmation, visa and conversion plan.
Investigate: Assumed recognition.

Personal fit [ ]
Ask: Can I see a normal training day and meet instructors?
Evidence: Compare support, location and student experience.
Investigate: Prestige standing in for personal fit.

QUESTIONS TO FOLLOW UP

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Verify current CAA approval and review the written contract before committing funds. See the full guide and sources at flightdeckmentor.com.