

Full RPAS Pilot Certificate Program With Fixed Wing & Multi Rotor Endorsements

Background and Details

V-TOL Aerospace, under its education and training organisation 'The Australian Unmanned Systems Academy' (AUSA), offers the CASA Approved Basic Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) Pilot's Certificate Training program.

On successful completion of the program you will be issued with the CASA approved V-TOL Aerospace RPA Pilot Certificate of Attainment, a certified log book, fixed wing & multi-rotor < 7kg electric category OEM Type Certificates that will allow you to legally commence your commercial RPAS career as a Remote Pilot (RP). You will also be issued the AUSA Remote Crew Resource Management (R-CRM) certificate.

V-TOL is a leader in small RPAS training in Australia and one of the first regulator approved Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) training organizations in the world. It has taken many years of development to secure the regulatory approvals and a recognized curriculum approved by CASA.

The Academy

The Academy (AUSA) is the training organisation of V-TOL Aerospace, the holder of the training UAV AOC qualification. Courses are held at 'Woodlands' Marburg, Queensland. The reason we are located there is because it offers first class facilities at a convenient location where students can be accommodated onsite at a reasonable price, with lecture rooms and flight training airspace that allows RPAS activities, all in the one location.

Marburg is located approximately 45 minutes from the Brisbane CBD by car and is on a major highway that links directly to the city, Ipswich and Brisbane International airport.



'Woodlands' is effectively a conference resort. The grounds are beautiful and accommodation rooms suitable for the residential course. Both budget and luxury accommodation are on offer. Being onsite takes away the hassle of travel, busy city traffic, travelling to and from airfields and early starts and late nights. However, other accommodation options are available nearby Ipswich, if preferred.

As this is a residential course AUSA has negotiated a 'special' arrangement for food and accommodation wise to help ensure we keep costs down as much as possible.

The Training Program

This CASA approved training program has been expressly developed for RPAS training. To join the program ALL students must have obtained an Aviation Reference Number (ARN) from CASA. For information on how to obtain an ARN please visit:-

http://www.casa.gov.au/scripts/nc.dll?WCMS:STANDARD::pc=PC_91494

The training program is presented as a residential program over a 7 day period, with students joining the program by 8.30am on a Monday morning and completion the following Sunday, by 4pm. Those booked to attend the Unmanned Operator's Certificate (UOC) workshop complete this activity on the Monday, at V-TOL Rocklea.

The program does involve some examinations, both written and practical. Study assistance is available for those who may not have attempted an exam for some time.

The first three (3) days of the program concerns itself with the theory of flight, the legal requirements for flying an unmanned aircraft, radio communications, introduction to the RPA simulators and RPA equipment and systems (RPAS).

Those students who already hold a current CASA qualification as a PPL, CPL or ATPL should find this week interesting, as it is all about changing the flying perspective from being in the aircraft looking down, to being behind a computer looking up.

Additionally, this week will highlight the subtle (and not-so-subtle) differences between a larger and heavier manned aircraft and smaller and lighter unmanned aircraft. Although pilots holding any of the previously mentioned qualifications need not sit the written examinations, it is strongly recommended that they do.

The remainder of the program is all about flying the RPAS. The theory is taught in the classroom, and then applied in the form of a scenario on the simulator. Once the exercise can be successfully flown on the simulator, the same exercise is then flown on the actual RPAS platform.

Most days start early and conclude around 5.00pm. A few evenings involve lessons after dinner and study time.

The aim of undertaking this RPAS training program is for you to become a competent, safe and capable RPAS pilot. The Certificate of Attainment is the instrument that will allow you to legally pilot an RPAS. V-TOL submits your details to CASA Licensing who will then register your pass and issue your CASA RPAS /UAV Controller's Certificate with the appropriate permissions of RPAS piloting.

Students with no aviation experience should be prepared to dedicate every hour not in the training rooms or at the flight zone studying for the exams. You will be sent a study pack prior to the commencement of the course and will need to have studied (read and review) the material before arriving. If you are not conversant with the material sent out it will be difficult to complete the course within the nominated time frame.

Living onsite will allow you to use every spare hour to study, practice on the simulators and if necessary undertake extra tutorials.

What to Expect

To register and secure a position on a course please visit the AUSA website (www.auscademy.org) and complete the Pay Pal application or if requiring an EFT payment, request an automated Tax Invoice via email for your action. You will be required to complete an online 'Checkout' details application form. These fields of information will be used to generate your Tax Invoice and commence your student and or customer record. All funds are not refundable, but are transferable to future courses subject to availability.

For those requiring onsite accommodation and all meals an additional charge of \$150.00 a day will be required. This can be done after the course booking process either directly with Woodlands or where required in advance through AUSA. For those commuting daily you need to allow \$20.00 per day for lunch, coffee, tea, water and basic snacks which will be provided during all training activities.

You will receive via email pre-course study with any joining instructions that you will need prior to the course starting. Textbooks and other relevant aeronautical charts, maps and associated courseware will be issued to you at the commencement of the course. You will also be guided on how to get to and from Marburg so you can plan flights and accommodation accordingly. You will also be guided on how to confirm and arrange any special dietary requirements.

The training program involves training room lectures, use of simulators and practical flight activities. Flying RPAs mostly involves being able to operate a computer-based program that will in turn program the RPA. The RPA will fly in semi-autonomous mode. You will however, be instructed and assessed to fly the RPA sufficiently to recover from an abnormal flight operation using manual & stabilized mode.

Paperwork systems, log books, aircraft management and preparation and semi-autonomous flight training will also be covered during the course. The training program is detailed and you will be busy. You will have some time to yourself on Sunday (study and SIM practice is recommended).

Course Costs

The following costs will apply (all prices are inclusive of GST):

NOTE: All funds must be electronically transferred (EFT) or conducted using a Pay Pal methods via the AUSA website (www.ausacademy.org). EFT details can be found on your issued invoice. For EFT tracking purposes, please use your Invoice number when making payment.

Pay Pal secures and confirms your position on a selected course, subject to availability (see course counter). A single payment of \$5,250.00 incl GST, is required. Your course joining and relevant study information will be sent out via mail prior to the commencement of your course.

EFT Payment secures and confirms your position on a selected course when paid in full (\$5,250.00). If you would like to reserve a position you have the option to pay a 50% (\$2,625.00 incl GST) deposit upon making a booking, but will be required to pay the balance no later than 10 working days before your nominated course commences to secure and confirm your position.

Total course fee including GST is AUD\$5,250.00. Approximately, seven days (7) prior to your course, relevant course joining information will be sent to you via email. All hardcopy course ware such as aeronautical charts, maps, log book, ERSA, and Aeronautical Knowledge text book will be provided at the commencement of class on the Monday morning.

Those already holding the minimum radiotelephone qualification will not need to complete the Aircraft Radio Operator Certificate (AROC) component of the course. All applicants will be required to attend the introduction to radio and conduct RPA radio calls as part of their practical assessment during the simulator and flying serials. Note, that no formal radio qualification will be issued to you, but the requirements for gaining your RPAS Certificate will be covered, as required under CASR 101.295.

You will need to allow for transport from and to wherever home is before and after the course. AUSA can assist with transportation options to get you to and from the Woodlands training facility and Brisbane city/airport on the last day of the course.

Refund policy. We will refund all monies paid if the course is cancelled for any reason. Refunds will not be made if you do not turn up and your place could not be filled by another student. If you are a no show you may forfeit your course fee. Refunds will not be made if you do not pass your exams. You can re-sit exams up to 3 times only. Your fee allows for two exam sittings (during the course) and additional fees could apply if you need to sit the exam again after the course has concluded.

Other Costs

You may have other expenses relevant to securing your employers RPA Piloting requirements. There are a number of CASA related applications such the Aviation Identification (AVID) or Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) that all require application fees. Check the CASA website for details.

At a minimum, you will need and should **immediately start your application** process for an ARN. Your ARN is how CASA and AUSA will recognize you throughout your career.

The Next Step

Go online and fill in your 'Checkout' application. We will contact you as soon as possible. The website address is www.ausacademy.org

Alternatively, email us at info@ausacademy.org or info@v-tol.com

AUSA / V-TOL Group Phone (Australia): 1300 886 532

AUSA / V-TOL Group Phone (International): +61-7-32752811

Please make sure you give contact details and you complete the application in detail.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I stay in accommodation off-site?

A: Yes. We do encourage you to live onsite as we do have early starts and late evening lectures however it is not mandatory. Being onsite will allow you to dedicate every spare hour to study or simulator training. You may also be able to secure extra tutorials if needed.

Q: How difficult are the exams?

A: You will need to undertake study before you arrive and study each night and over the weekend to pass. You are gaining a skill that will allow you to fly an aircraft so you will have responsibilities. The CASA recognized Certificate will not be issued unless you have achieved a level of proficiency required and can demonstrate control of an aircraft flying in airspace around Australia. There are 3 written exams and 2 practical tests.

Q: Do I have to speak fluent English?

A: It is a condition of V-TOL that all RPAS Certificate applicants speak and understand English. We may require you to undertake a test in this regard, if needed.

Q: Can I bring in my own food?

A: No. Lunch, coffee, tea and light snacks will incur a daily cost of \$20. This policy is due to the licensing regulations that apply to Woodlands of Marburg.

Q: Where will the AUSA transport pick me up from (if needed)?

A: The AUSA will offer you alternatives, but typically one pick up Sunday pm before the course from Brisbane airport and or CBD and drop offs Sunday, pm at end of course usually by 5pm.

Q: What if we miss our organized transport?

A: You will need to make your own way to the Academy at Marburg. This can be done by catching a train to Ipswich and then taking a cab to Woodlands.

Q: Is there parking onsite?

A: Yes, free onsite parking is available.

Q: Do I have to have computer skills to undertake the course?

A: It will help you greatly if you do have computer skills and knowledge of Windows software. If you don't you will need to listen carefully and practice. Unfortunately the facilitators do not have time to tutor you on computer skills.

Q: Do I have to have had Radio Controlled Aircraft skills or experience before undertaking the course?

A: No, but such experience will assist in grasping the basic skills of manual flight operations.

Q: Am I issued with a Certificate(s) at the end of the course?

A: YES. A successful student will be issued with the CASA recognized V-TOL Basic RPAS Pilot Certificate of Attainment, the AROC (radio), and an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) certificate for the training aircraft types used on the course and a Basic RPAS CRM Certificate indicating you have worked as a two man crew.

Q: What facilities are at Woodlands?

A: Different styles of accommodation, tennis courts, pool, walking tracks, beautiful views, manicured grounds, restaurants (and a menacing but beautiful peacock).

Q: Who books the accommodation at Woodlands?

A: We do. We will provide you details. AUSA has a block booking in the budget accommodation section of Woodlands.

Q: What if I have special dietary requirements?

A: Let us know in advance. You should also discuss this with Woodlands Staff when you arrive to confirm they have this item catered for.

Q: When are the courses run?

A: Over two week periods, contact us for latest course details and dates.

Q: How can I practice my flying and build hours after the course?

A: V-TOL has a program that will allow you to build hours where you live. Details will be provided during the course.

Images of Woodlands Facilities



Academy - Woodlands Site Map

