

ISSUE 11

AVIATION LEARNING: CHOICES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT

As a global aviation hub, Singapore recognises the importance of investing in human capital development, enhancing the skills of today's aviation professionals and nurturing the next generation that will take Singapore's aviation into its next stage of growth. Today, Singapore offers a comprehensive range of academic, training and development programmes. There are courses for the novice with a passion for aviation to the aviation executive seeking to upgrade or a mid-career professional looking to join the dynamic aviation industry.

The aviation industry is continuously looking for a whole host of qualified and experienced professionals to fill jobs. Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), universities and private training organisations have answered the call for grooming aviation professionals and upgrading skills to enhance the quality of aviation manpower in Singapore. They make available qualification courses from diplomas, specialised and postgraduate degrees and executive programmes to enable a constant inflow of aviation professionals to feed the rapidly growing needs of the aviation industry. Here are some of the key offerings available today:

INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE) is committed to nurture and equip students with practical hands-on training like technological, methodological and social competencies that are relevant to meet industry demands. They offer courses in Aerospace Technology, Aerospace Avionics and Aerospace Machining. To further enhance the training of ITE students, ITE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ST Aerospace to cooperate in various aspects of training. This included the setting up of an aircraft airframe workshop at ITE, offering scholarships to students, providing on-the-job attachment for ITE staff and knowledge sharing and development of joint certification courses.

The Polytechnics offer a selection of aviation-related courses to reach out to a wide pool of aviation enthusiasts. From aviation management, airport management to aerospace engineering and avionics, the polytechnics cover a spectrum of courses with different focuses ranging from training students as apprentice licensed aircraft engineers to training students as technicians and trainee engineers. Through classes, lab sessions, site visits and work placements, students experience their first brush with the industry, interacting with industry practitioners, exposing them to emerging trends and technical knowledge, instilling a strong

foundation in the fundamentals of aviation-related knowledge and equipping them with the relevant practical hands-on skills as they prepare to enter the industry.

TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

The Nanyang Technological University's (NTU) approach hinges on offering courses at the tertiary level to mould ardent aviation students into professionals. Its School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering was the first to offer the Aerospace Engineering course to tertiary students in Singapore in 2005. Since then, it has produced more than 500 students to date. SIM University (UniSIM) on the other hand, has carved a niche for itself by offering flexibility and customised education for working professionals who are either seeking a career switch or are already in the aviation industry, but would like to broaden their skills and horizons. The chance for an education upgrade and also to increase competency in the areas of work have drawn mid-career and also seasoned professionals through the doors of UniSIM.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTION

The Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA), training arm of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, extends courses and training programmes for aviation professionals both locally and internationally. SAA offers degrees, graduate and post-graduate programmes jointly with world-famous academic institutions like Massey University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Through its four schools – School of Aviation Management, Aviation Safety & Security, Air Traffic Services and Airport Emergency Services — the SAA provides a variety of specialised aviation training programmes, catering to the needs of industry and civil aviation professionals worldwide. Certified programmes aside, SAA also organises forums, conferences, seminars and workshops for knowledge sharing and networking among the international civil aviation community to stay at the forefront of aviation knowledge and industry developments by forging alliances with well-respected aviation organisations and institutions worldwide.

For more information on the courses available at the respective learning institutions, please visit the following weblinks.

ITE

[Nanyang Polytechnic](#)

[Ngee Ann Polytechnic](#)

[Republic Polytechnic](#)

[Singapore Polytechnic](#)

[Temasek Polytechnic](#)

[Nanyang Technological University](#)

SIM University Singapore

Aviation Academy