

University degree course in Air Traffic Control

Frequently Asked Questions

Prior knowledge

Do I need prior knowledge of aviation for the training?

No. Prior knowledge of aviation is not required.

Costs, training

Do I have to pay for the training?

No. The training is funded by Skyguide.

Salary, training

What will the course cost me?

The university of applied sciences degree course in air traffic control is free of charge for students. During the first year of the course, you will receive a gross salary of CHF 4000 per month. During the second year, the monthly gross salary is CHF 5000. You will receive 13 monthly payments each year.

Duration, training

How long does the training take?

The training takes approximately 30 months. It is divided into three training stages

- Basic Training (6 months)
- Rating Training (6 months)
- Unit Endorsement (8 – 18 months, depending on the unit)

Nationality

I do not have Swiss nationality. Can I still apply?

Yes. Nationals of EU 28/EFTA countries or those with Residence Permit C are approved for training. Note: For military air traffic control, Swiss nationality is obligatory.

Application

What happens if the course is already full?

If the course is already full, the application can be considered for the start of the next course.

Location, free accommodation

Where does the course take place?

The first year takes place in Wangen b. Dübendorf (Zurich). Free accommodation worth CHF 850 is available for a limited number of students whose journey to work takes more than an hour. It will be assigned after the applications have been received. The accommodation is available until the end of the first year of the course. Thereafter the course continues at your future workplace.

Full-time or part-time

Is the degree course in air traffic control available on a part-time basis?

No. The degree in air traffic control is a full-time course. You cannot take the course and work part-time in parallel.

Age

What is the maximum age for applicants?

People who are a maximum of 28 years old at the start of the training are eligible to apply.

Sphair

I have completed the Sphair course.
Do I still have to complete the selection process?

Yes. Even if you have successfully completed the Sphair course you must go through all the stages of the selection process at Skyguide.

Laser eye surgery

Can I take the degree course in air traffic control if I have had laser eye surgery?

Laser eye surgery does not exclude you from the selection process. However, you must submit the details of your visual acuity before surgery together with your application. You must also take an eye test with a medical examiner recommended by the Federal Office of Civil Aviation at your own expense. Your visual range must be a maximum of +5 or -6 dioptres. If the test shows that you meet the requirements for the job, you will be invited to take the aptitude tests in the same way as any other candidate.

Medication

I am on regular medication. Am I still eligible for the degree course in air traffic control?

You must include details of the medicines and the doses with your application. Some medicines and some illnesses can result in applicants being excluded.

English level

What level of English do I need for this course?

You must have a B2 level in English as the teaching and most of the selection process is in English. You do not have to submit a certificate but an English test is part of the selection process.

Languages

What level of language competence is required?

German, French or Italian at Level C1, English at Level B2.

Time of application

Can I apply before I finish school or my apprenticeship?

You can apply shortly before you finish school, but you need to include an interim certificate or a confirmation of your educational level with your application. As soon as you have your final certificate, you must submit it to us. If you do not successfully complete your school education or your apprenticeship, you will not be able to join our degree course.

Application criteria for air traffic control

I have already applied to DFS, the German air navigation services provider.
Can I still apply to skyguide?

Yes. You can still apply to Skyguide as we do not have the same aptitude tests as DFS. However, we will ask you where you stand in their selection process or at which stage you dropped out and why.

Profile deletion

Can I delete all my data?

Yes. You can delete your data by logging in to our online recruitment portal. You will find the option for deleting your profile in the top right corner of the window.

Online application

Is there an alternative to applying online?

No. We can only accept applications from our online portal.

Changing documents

After I have successfully applied for the degree course, can I submit additional documents or change existing ones?

No. You cannot change your documents after you have completed the online application process. However, if you want to submit an additional document, you can send it to work@skyguide.ch with an explanation and we will then add it to your profile.

Military service, civilian service

Can I do my compulsory military service during the training?

No. You need to complete basic military training or civilian service before you begin the training. It is not possible to do your military or civilian service during the training. Skyguide will help you to postpone your period of service.

Selection process

How long does the selection process take?

The selection process is made up of different parts that take place on different dates. If your application is complete and you meet all employment criteria, you will receive an invitation for the first aptitude test within 48 hours (these tests are held on around 40 occasions each year). The entire aptitude process takes about 60 working days.

Repeating the selection process

Is it possible to retake an aptitude test?

You can retake the first aptitude test after 5 years and the second test after 2 years. You can retake the English test once. The maximum age limit of 28 at the start of the degree course still applies.

Selection process

Can I repeat the assessment if I was ill on the test date?

You must inform us if you are ill. We will then give you a new date for the aptitude test. By taking the test you take responsibility for your state of health and the test result cannot be disputed retrospectively due to your state of health on the day of the test. The test will be fully assessed.

Financial support

Does Skyguide offer students financial support if they need it?

Skyguide offers loans to students, which they have to pay back in instalments at the end of the course or when they leave the course.

Start of the course

How many courses start each year and when?

Courses always start in August for all the vacant training positions. The number of places depends on the demand from the units.

Qualifications required

Do I need to complete a specific apprenticeship or baccalaureate?

No. It does not matter which apprenticeship (federal VET diploma) or baccalaureate you have completed.

Career opportunities

What are the possible career development opportunities afterwards?

There are various opportunities for promotion. You can go on to be a supervisor, an instructor, a simulation pilot a project manager or a head of department.

Benefits of the job

What are the benefits of a career as a qualified air traffic controller?

As a qualified Air Traffic Controller you can benefit from various training and continuous professional development opportunities, flexible working time patterns and a good work/life balance due to part-time work, home office, opportunities for sabbaticals and childcare. In addition, we offer you attractive conditions of employment, a 35 to 38-hour working week and generous holiday benefits of 26 to 35 days each year (dependent on age).

Future workplace

Where will I finally be working and when do I get to know this?

The future trainees sign a training contract that indicates the location at which they will be working.

Questions

Who can I contact if I still have specific questions?

work@skyguide.ch
+41 43 931 60 84
(English, German, French, Italian)