

FUTURE SKILLS FUTURE WORKFORCE FUTURE PROOF



Air Traffic Control Accredited Training

Sector: Qualifications

Location: Sheffield, UK

The brief

NATS has developed a number of accredited qualifications with NOCN for air traffic trainees both from the UK and abroad, cementing the organisation's international reputation for high quality training in such a critical area.

For more than 60 years, NATS has been proudly delivering high quality and effective training to students for Air Navigation Service Providers around the world, as well as to NATS' own Air Traffic Control (ATC) trainees for UK operations.



The UK was the first European country to organise regular training courses for Air Traffic Controllers. In 1949, the School of Air Traffic Control was formally established at Hurn, in the South of England, to train the Air Ministry's controllers and assistants.

From 1959 other nations began sending students to the UK for ATC training and today most of NATS' air traffic controllers are educated at our training school, alongside students from countries worldwide.

In August 2011, NATS relocated to a purpose-built state-of-the-art training facility at the NATS Corporate and Technical Centre in Whiteley, Hampshire. This is where NATS continues to provide all of its own Tower, Approach and En-Route training requirements, as well as training for all NATS Engineering staff.



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NATS has always worked hard to ensure training is of the highest professional standards and works closely with our UK and European regulators and ICAO, to maintain these levels.

In recent years, we made a point of demonstrating the value of our training using external academic standards, taking various approaches to satisfy both the requirements of our customers and the UK government, where there must be assurance before they will issue visas to students.

Educational oversight was obtained from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) for private further education. This involved on-site audit inspections where evidence was provided of all the scenarios students would experience, as well as assessments of the strength of systems and processes, from course design and delivery to health and safety.

To support the educational oversight, courses had to be developed into accredited educational qualifications and NATS had to become a recognised centre, with the ability to teach the qualifications.

What we delivered

NOCN was the Awarding Organisation chosen by NATS to support this work and in September 2014, 12 months of qualification development work began. As a result, there are now eight Air Traffic Control courses fully recognised as accredited qualifications.

Achievements so far include: nine Certificates - eight at Level 4 and three at Level 5, with another 25 students progressing through current courses.

Where we added value

"Starting the training, the qualification was not something I was aware of. However, once starting it was another goal to work towards and it's a great feeling knowing that the hard work we do for our licence is also being put towards a formal, recognised qualification. It's another string to our bow, and as someone without a degree, another useful part of my CV to put alongside my licence to show off the skills and knowledge I have learnt." **Jordan, Aerodrome course.**

