

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Training Academy

OEM and Remote Pilot License (RePL) Training

Background and Details

Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) offers a Remote Pilot License (RePL) Training course, that when successfully completed will be the means for securing your CASA issued RePL. When you do secure your License you can commence legal commercial activities.

The RPA Training Academy is fully approved by CASA and is a one-stop-shop for all your training and Licensing needs.

RPA undertakes both multirotor and fixed wing training programs.



The RPA Training Academy

The RPA Training Academy is the training arm of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pty Ltd (a ReOC Certificate holder). Courses are held throughout the year in most cities but mainly at the Warwick Airfield, Queensland. The reason we are located in the Warwick area is because it offers a convenient location where students can be accommodated (if needed) at a reasonable price, the lecture rooms are comfortable, catering is available (if needed) and we have airspace that allows RPAS flying activities, all in the one convenient location.

Warwick QLD is located approximately 65 minutes from Toowoomba city and 2 hours by car from Brisbane. Both Toowoomba and Brisbane have regular Qantas and REX (and other airline) flights. We offer a free pick up and drop off service from Toowoomba airport. Hertz has a rep in Warwick if you decide to drive up and drop off a hire car.

The training course is over 5 days.

The RePL Training program offers both multirotor and fixed wing courses. Both cannot be run consecutively due to time constraints. If you require both types (multirotor and fixed wing) on your RePL the second endorsement can be achieved by undertaking the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) Type Training course over a two day period.

RPA does conduct offsite/interstate training for small groups and major organisations (police, state govt depts, clubs etc). Contact us for further details.

The Remote Pilot Training Program

You have a few options. Firstly **if you already hold a current PPL/CPL** one option is to undertake only the OEM (Type Training) course. This simply involves training you to fly the UAV/RPAS. If you have absolutely no UAV/RPAS knowledge or skills the OEM course will not assist you with knowledge on aerial robotics or about the business side of things. If you want those skills you will still need to undertake the full course but you will not need to sit the Aeronautical Knowledge, and Air Legislation exams.

CASA does not recognize any Recreational Aviation Australia (RAAus) qualifications relevant to RPAS training.

Applicants with no aviation experience will undertake the course in full including relevant exams. There are a few training options available to you.

If you live near Warwick you have flexibility when and how you undertake your training i.e. a half or full day here and there as time allows.

If you decide to undertake the 5-day training program you would arrive onsite by 8.30am on a Monday and depart the following Friday at approximately 3.30pm.

The program does involve 'open book' exams - Aeronautical Knowledge, Radio (if required) and Air Legislation plus two practical, simulator and flight reviews. The English language proficiency assessment test is required by CASA if you undertake the radio certification course. This is undertaken by RPA.

The aim of undertaking this RPAS training program is for you to become a competent, safe and capable RPAS Controller and systems operator. You will receive a 'Statement of Attainment' Certificate from RPA and RPA will send on your performance details to CASA allowing them to issue your RePL directly to you. We will undertake any paperwork required during the training program. We cover all costs.

For those participants with no aviation experience you will have to dedicate time to study for exams. You will be sent a textbook prior to the commencement of the course and we recommend you read it before arriving. If you don't it will make it more challenging for you to complete the course within the time frame specified.

You will need to have completed at least 5 logged hours of flight training (SIM and actual flight) before CASA will issue you with your RePL.

What to Expect

Once you have decided you wish to attend, you will need to register your interest by completing an online application form. You will need to also transfer relevant funds at the time of making your application. Those funds will represent 100% of the course fee and will secure your place in the program. You will be issued a receipt.

All participants will receive a logbook and textbook to use during training.

If you undertake the 5-day training program, you will have to arrange accommodation and meals. We make recommendations. Coffee, tea, water and basic snacks will be provided during training activities.

To ensure your place on the course, you will need to have booked and paid before the course commences.

Flying RPAS mostly involves being able to operate a computer-based program that will in turn program the RPAS. The RPAS will fly in either stabilized or autonomous mode. You will also be instructed on how to fly RPAS manually and to recover from abnormal flight situations.

Remote Pilot Certificate training also includes simulator training, RPAS programming, navigation, RPAS electronics, safety, risk management, weather and maintenance procedures.

Paperwork systems, log book management and aircraft management and preparation will also be covered during the course.

Costs

The following costs will apply:

NOTE: Funds to be electronically transferred. Credit card facilities are not available.

The 5-days course at \$2995.00 is all-inclusive except for the CASA ARN (which is free) accommodation and your transport costs (flight, car etc) to and from our Academy sites at Warwick Queensland.

The OEM course is only available to existing PPL/CPL and Remote Pilot Certificate holders. The course is over 2 days and costs \$1995.00 with no radio training and over 3 days and costs \$2500.00 with radio qualifications included. Radio licensing involves an exam and an English proficiency assessment.

Refund policy. RPA will refund all monies paid if the course is cancelled by RPA for any reason. If you have booked in for the 5-day course refunds will not be made if you do not turn up and your place could not be filled by another student as we will have paid for relevant costs (staff, CASA fees, text books etc) associated with the running of the training program. Refunds will not be made if you do not pass your exams. You can re-sit exams up to 3 times. Your fee allows for two exam sittings during the course and additional fees apply if you need to sit the exam again after the course has concluded.

You will need and should **immediately start your application** process for a CASA issued ARN. We will need a photocopy of your driver's license as proof of any medical condition. Without these essentials we will not be able to apply to CASA for your RePL.

The Next Step

Fill in the application at www.rpas.net.au

Payment in full should be sent to:

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pty Ltd

ANZ

BSB: 014002

Account Number: 347558134

NOTE – Please include your surname in the bank payment reference section

Questions? Email us at kelvin@rpas.net.au or phone Kelvin Hutchinson

RPA Training Academy phone: 0407733836

RPA Training Academy (International): +61407733836

Frequently Asked Questions

Q.. Is RPA able to offer me a one-stop-shop training service so I don't have to undertake any other training, reviews, tests or exams (like most of the other RPAS trainers are requiring me to do)?

A.. Yes, we are a one-stop-shop... you do not need to do any other courses, tests, exams.

Q.. What are the costs involved?

A.. see training options and associated costs in the table above

Q.. What is included in the \$2995.00 course?

A.. If you live locally and don't need accommodation, food or radio and English proficiency testing the basic license is \$2995.00.

Q.. Do we really need the radio license and English proficiency testing?

A.. No... you can still secure your RePL without it... however most of the locations you will flying in commercially will require you to have the radio license so you can make radio calls. You will need it eventually. It will be logistically more difficult and more expensive to get it later. Having the radio license will be needed if you start your own business or wish to work for someone (it's a base requirement) as an RPAS pilot.

Q: Who is the Chief Controller and Chief Flying Instructor at the academy?

A: Kelvin Hutchinson. Kelvin is a CFI in the aviation industry and has over 2000 hours flying experience. Kelvin has been involved in the aerial robotics industry for over 7 years.

Q.. What RPAS are used by RPA?

A.. RPA uses quadrotors and hexacopters for training. Fixed wing training is undertaken using a Ranger or Condor. All RPAS are fitted with Autopilots and Ground Control Station (GCS) training is undertaken as a part of the training program.

Q.. Is there a preferred type training?

A.. over 90% of students want multirotor training and associated qualifications. Most RPA training programs involve multirotors.

Q.. If I do the multirotor training program can I secure the fixed wing qualification also?
A.. Yes but not during the multirotor course. RPA offers a separate OEM type-training program that will secure you the fixed wing endorsement on your license. It's an additional 2 days flight training program and costs \$1995.00.

Q.. So how do you (RPA) differ from other RPAS training organisations?
A.. We undertake all RPAS training required in-house.

Q.. So you say I must secure an ARN. Why?
A.. once you become involved in aviation you must have an Aviation Reference Number (ARN) before you undertake any aviation pursuit that involves CASA. This is issued by CASA. It's free. You need this BEFORE you start the RPA training course. The application and details are available here:
www.casa.gov.au/scripts/nc.dll?WCMS:STANDARD:1001:pc=PC_91494

Q.. Where do we undertake training?
A.. We undertake the training at Warwick Aerodrome. Throughout the year RPA holds RePL and OEM training in east coast capital cities. Call for details.

Q.. What is the duration of the training programs?
A.. OEM 2 or 3 days... Live-in training 5 days, 4 nights. Locals undertaking either the OEM or full Remote Pilot Certificate training typically to a few hours here or there to suite their schedules.

Q.. How do we get to RPAs training facilities in Warwick QLD?
A.. If coming from interstate Qantas and REX fly into Brisbane West Wellcamp (Toowoomba) daily. We can pick you up from the airport. Alternatively you can drive or catch a bus as needed. There is plenty of free parking onsite.

Q.. Are there exams?
A.. All aviation exams are 'open book' exams however you will need to undertake study before you arrive and study during the course to pass the exams. The aviation radio exam is closed book. CASA will not issue you a RePL unless they feel you have been trained sufficiently to be in control of an aircraft flying in airspace around Australia.

Q.. Do I have to speak fluent English?
A.. It is a condition of CASA that all Remote Pilot Certificate applicants who undertake the Radio license speak English well. You will already have or will need to undertake an English proficiency assessment.

Q: Where will the RPA provided transport pick me up from in Toowoomba?
A: Yes RPA will do pickups from Toowoomba Sunday night. Same applies regarding transport back to Toowoomba airport the following Friday afternoon. Details will be provided where and when.

Q: What if we miss our organized transport?
A: You will need to make your own way to the Academy at Warwick QLD.

Q: Is there parking onsite?

A: Yes, free onsite parking is available.

Q: Do I have to have computer skills?

A: It will help you greatly if you do have computer skills but it's not essential.

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

A: No, but if you did it would help greatly.

Q: Am I issued with the CASA RePL at the end of the course?

A: No. Upon completion of the course RPA will send your results and details to CASA. CASA will send the RePL directly to you approx 2-3 weeks later. The same process applies to the 'Aircraft Radio Operators Certificate' applications we send to CASA. We will fill out the CASA application forms during the course.

Q: What facilities are at Warwick Airfield?

A: RPA's head office, meeting room, well maintained airfield, RPA workshop. Warwick township is approximately 14 km and Allora 12km away.

How to get to Warwick QLD

IF DRIVING

If your training is being undertaken at the Warwick Airfield the address is:

Warwick Airport

Lot G

89 Massie Bony Mountain Rd, Massie, Warwick QLD

It is a light brown hangar with the words 'Flying School' on the front wall.

If the training is being held at the Leslie Dam Training Centre the address is:

YMCA – Leslie Dam Training Centre

Leslie Dam Rd

Warwick, QLD

Drive to the end of the road and it will be on your right.

IF YOUR FLYING INTO BRISBANE WEST WELLCAMP AIRPORT (TOOWOOMBA)

Qantas and or REX fly in daily. This is the closest RPT airport to Warwick.

If you send us details of your flights we will arrange to pick you up and drop you off.

IF YOU FLY INTO BRISBANE AIRPORT

You can get a connecting flight to Toowoomba.

Alternatively you can hire a car and drive 2 hours to Warwick (Hertz has a centre in Warwick for drop off).

BY BUS

There are busses to and from Brisbane to Warwick and most of the major capital cities on the east coast of Australia.

IF YOU FLY IN YOURSELF

YWCK (Warwick Airport) has tie downs and avgas on site.
We can pick you up.