

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Aviation Operations

Location	Altrincham Campus
Course Type	College 16-18
Department	Tourism & Aviation
Start Date	Tuesday 1st September 2026
Course Code	AFP-TT3D-1200

Course Overview

This programme is the equivalent to three A levels. It can be used as additional A levels for those already possessing academic qualifications but who require specialist knowledge for pre-entry to a HND or degree course in airline operations or management. It is also ideal for those that may wish to work within an airline or airport who need specific vocational knowledge at this level for employment.

This programme has been designed to meet the needs of national airlines and airports for air side functions, both for passenger and cargo operations in the Aviation industry and as such is delivered by industry specialists. It is ideally designed for learners wanting to pursue a career in airport or aviation management, air traffic control, cargo or dispatch.

Course Requirements

4 GCSE's at Grade 4 or above (including maths and/or English Language).

Applicants will also be required to complete an assessment, which must be successfully finished to a satisfactory standard prior to being offered a place in the course.

What You Will Learn

This qualification provides the opportunity to build UCAS points toward entry to university. For those wishing to progress toward a career in flying, successful completion of this programme at Distinction level is recognised by commercial flight training providers.

This course is also available as a one year option, equivalent to one or one & a half A levels. Please ask for details (Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Aviation Operations or 90 credit Diploma in Aviation Operations).

To enhance studies students may also carry out day visits and an overseas educational visit to the air side area of one or more major European airports such as:-

Geneva, Schiphol, Eindhoven, Palma, Faro, Gibraltar

A variety of guest speakers carry out presentations from airlines, handling agents and cargo operations.

Assessment

A variety of assessment methods are used including assignments, role plays, case studies, presentations and short tests.

Students are expected to complete additional study and research outside of college.

Progression

On successful completion of the course it may be possible for students to apply directly for aviation employment, use the course toward further education here at Trafford College, progress to higher education at university level or flight training.

Career Options

Flight Attendant, Airport Staff, Supervisor

Mandatory Units

There are four mandatory core units:

The Aviation Industry

Health, Safety and Security in the Aviation Industry

Security in the Aviation Industry

Inter-relationships within the UK Aviation Industry

Students will also undertake an industry placement, previous placements have been to Barton Aerodrome.

Contact Details

For further information please contact T: 0161 886 7070 or E: info@trafford.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.