

## ANSWERS TO THE MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HELICOPTER FLIGHT TRAINING

Learning to fly can be one of the most exciting and enjoyable experiences in life. To ensure that you receive the very best in flight training with the goal of becoming a safe, confident and capable commercial pilot you need to ask some very important questions in selecting the right Flight Training Facility.

What are the school's philosophy, goals and objectives: BC Helicopters strongly believes in quality Flight Training. Not only will Transport Canada standards be met and exceeded but the student will have the opportunity to learn the more advanced skills required by operators today in the helicopter market. Our objective is to maintain a student load of 4 full time students for one instructor for a seventeen week period in order to maintain this higher quality of helicopter flight training.

### How long has BC Helicopters been in business?

BC Helicopters was incorporated in 1992.

What are the credentials of the Operators of the school: Mischa Gelb, President and CFI is a Class I Instructor with 3000+ hours of flight experience and his wife Amy is the office manager and bookkeeper. Sancho Gelb, Co-owner is a licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer with 9 years maintenance experience.

What is the classroom facility like? We have 2 classroom areas. Both have computers available for use as well as a

video library, a flight simulator program, aviation data base, and other resources

How many students do you take at one time? We take on a maximum of 4 full time students for each instructor allowing for the best one on one flight training. This allows the student to fly on a daily basis (weather & aircraft permitting)

What is included in the Cost of the Course? Are there any hidden fees that I will have to pay as the course proceeds that are not included in the cost? The bulk of the course cost is the helicopter flight time. The hourly rate includes flight time, instructor time, fuel and insurance. B.C. Helicopters includes the cost for all ground school, books and additional fees that are required by Transport Canada for your license. There are **NO** hidden costs!

### Do you charge GST on the courses?

No, as flight training is the primary focus of B.C. Helicopters. Some charter companies who also operate a flight training program during the winter months will charge GST on their training because the bulk of their revenue is still charter. You will not pay PST or GST on our course and the Tuition Fees for the Commercial Courses are Tax Deductible.

Is there financial assistance available for flight training? B.C. Helicopters is registered and designated for student loans. Student loan packages are available at the school and at our website following the links in financing.

A Student line of credit is available at most financial institutions.

Do I have to pay the total cost of the course before I start? No, B.C. Helicopters requires a deposit of \$1000.00 upon enrollment. This will hold the next available spot for you to start training. We will take the cost of the books & grounds school out of your deposit and the balance will be flown off. When your account is at a \$0 balance we will request a deposit at your discretion to purchase a block of aircraft time. When you have flown this amount off we will ask for another deposit. If you are a student with a line of credit you will only be paying interest on the funds as you use them. All Flight Training Schools must be registered with the Private Career Training Institutions Agency (PCTIA) and as a requirement of this registration the school invests into the Tuition Completion Fund on behalf of each student. This is protection for you the student in case there is financial difficulty with the school. Any unused tuition funds on deposit would be returned to you. Just a note of caution: You should never have to pay all of the funds up front!

What Medical requirements are there for getting my Pilot's license? A Category 1 Aviation medical is required before beginning the commercial course. A class 3 for the Private Course. This must be done by a Transport Canada approved Doctor. One can be located on our website follow "links".

### How long will it take to get a license?

The commercial course is allotted 17 weeks if you are working at it full time. Full time is 5 days a week for approximately 5+ hours a day. If you are working and training at the



same time, you can expect to take a month or so longer depending on the frequency of your flights.

**What sort of priority does B.C. Helicopters put on its flight training program?**

Although we are a charter company, this area is secondary to our primary focus of flight training. Periodically, one aircraft will go out on charter flights however we always have sufficient aircraft available for flight training.

**How much time is allowed for each flight?**

The course is one on one and the instructor takes on a maximum of 4 full time students at one time and each student progresses at his/her own pace. The benefit of training at a smaller school is that the instructor has the time to work through difficult areas with you until you are confident that you understand the area being covered.

An average training flight is 1.3 to 1.7 hours. If flights are shorter then this then the bulk of the training time is used in simply flying to and from the practice areas. Flights exceeding 1.7 hours tend to cause fatigue. Each student is booked a 2 hour time slot with the instructor which allows for a briefing and de-briefing at no extra charge.

**What type of helicopter is used for training?**

BC Helicopters is Western Canada's Schweizer Helicopter Dealer. The Schweizer 300 CBI is our #1 training aircraft. After several years of training on the R22 a decision was made to switch to a more suitable piston-engine helicopter. At no extra cost to the student we now offer a bigger aircraft that has no "per seat" weight limit. It offers many superior training

characteristics including comfort, visibility, performance and the most fun to fly. Most important is the 300's safety record. The 300CBI has the lowest accident rate, whether caused by mechanical or pilot error. The aircraft you will be training on will most likely be less than 1 year old.

**What are the instructor's qualifications? Will I shift from one instructor to another?**

Our Instructors are highly qualified. Currently we have Class 1 & 2 Instructors. Experience ranges from mountain flying, bush and long line slinging to Air Ambulance, IFR and fire fighting. This practical experience is an important facet of the flight training program and greatly enhances the quality of the flight training provided.

We try to keep one instructor for the duration of the course. There are the odd times when changes occur but we do our best to try and accommodate the student's preferences.

**How does the ground school work?**

The minimum requirement for the commercial course is 80 hours of ground school. We run an in-house ground school 2 evenings a week as well as pre/post briefings during the day. 80 hours is a minimum and students average well over this amount. The cost of your course includes all pre & post-flight briefings. Some schools will charge an extra hourly rate for these briefings. Be sure to ask about any Extras! Our commercial ground school course prepares you for the written and flight exams. Over many years of teaching, the CFI has gathered very valuable teaching Resources and aids which guide you in your studying. A full computer data base is available for your

use, which is a valuable aid in answering worksheets and exams.

**Do you have a Designated Flight Test Examiner (DFTE) on staff?**

B.C. Helicopters has a flight test examiner on staff. Transport Canada flight test examiners may also come into the school and flight test our students. In working closely with Transport Canada, we have developed a very successful program that trains students to a higher level, to meet the high standards of the TC examiners. It is our policy to keep the student fully informed on the progress of their training. If at any time the CFI feels that a student will be unable to meet the high standards of proficiency required by the Industry, the student will be advised immediately.

**Some Flight Training Facilities boast of the highest job placement after training. Do you guarantee a job when training is completed?**

Hiring in the Helicopter Industry tends to move in cycles. We are experiencing the results of the economic slow down in the number of students that choose to train. However we are still seeing most of our students getting hired.

**Can I get an endorsement on another type of helicopter?**

Yes, BC Helicopters has a 4 place R44 on our training line. The endorsement can be part of the commercial license or completed after the minimum 100 hour course. If the student flight tests at 90 hours, the remaining 10 hours can be completed on the R44 for an additional \$2700.00.