

Media Release

QANTASLINK PARTNERS WITH UNIVERSITIES TO BUILD THE NEXT GENERATION OF PILOTS

12 December 2017

QantasLink has today announced a new pilot recruitment program designed to provide the best and brightest aviation students with a flying start to their career.

The “Qantas Future Pilot Program” has been designed in collaboration with five universities across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria and is open to aviation students at UNSW, Griffith University, University of Southern Queensland, Swinburne University of Technology and RMIT University.

Students will have the opportunity to be mentored by experienced QantasLink pilots throughout their studies, and, if successful through the selection process, will transition to a job at QantasLink straight after graduation.

Based on current university intakes, the program will be open to a potential pool of 300 students.

QantasLink Chief Executive Officer, John Gissing, said the Qantas Future Pilot Program is about building the next generation of exceptional pilots from within Australia’s top aviation schools and providing students with unparalleled benefits and job certainty not available with any other training program.

“Aviation students will have an enormous head start to their career as a pilot. They will not only benefit from a direct pathway to Australia’s largest regional airline, but will also have access to experienced Qantas Group pilots throughout their studies,” Mr Gissing said.

“Together with these leading universities, this program will arm high-performing motivated students with the skills needs to transition into an airline and provide them with a platform from which to launch their career as a pilot within the Qantas Group.”

New pilots are usually only considered for employment with a commercial airline after spending time flying in the general aviation market, which is most often gained by flying single-pilot charter aircraft or by seeking employment outside of Australia.

The Qantas Future Pilot Program will see successful students invited to complete an intensive twelve-week Airline Transition Course at the completion of their degree. Once employed, graduates will complete their training under the supervision of QantasLink’s experienced training team and become qualified as First Officers flying the airline’s 74-seat Q400s and 50-seat Q300s. Pilots will later be eligible to extend their career with pilot opportunities within the broader Qantas Group.



The program follows the airline's recent launch of its Nancy Bird-Walton Initiative which will see the Qantas Group commit to a twenty per cent intake of women in its 2018 pilot recruitment programs, with the vision for that number to double over the next decade. By targeting STEM at schools, universities and flying schools the airline will support girls and women on a path to a career as a Qantas Group pilot.

The Qantas Future Pilot Program will launch in January 2018, open to all future and current aviation students at all stages of their degree. Applications are now open and students can visit qantas.com/careers or their University's faculty website for more information.

About QantasLink

As Australia's largest regional airline, QantasLink currently employs more than 380 pilots and operates a network of 56 metropolitan and regional destinations across Australia.

QantasLink operates the fastest turbo props of any airline in regional Australia, with 3 Bombardier Dash 8 -200/Q200, 16 Dash 8-Q300 and 31 Bombardier Dash 8-Q400 turboprop aircraft.

The Qantas Future Pilot Program will complement existing recruitment streams, including as a Direct Entry First Officer, or as a Trainee First Officer – visit qantas.com/careers.

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