

Training Tips

For student Microlight Pilots

Part two

1. Have patience.

The most important qualities you need are patience and a sense of humour. You should find your instructor has them too! The weather will be a source of frustration at times. Go with it, you can't change it!

2. Have realistic expectations.

Learning to fly should be exciting, richly rewarding and fun. If you set yourself realistic expectations, you will enjoy your flying training. If they are unrealistic, you will end up unnecessarily disappointed, for example if you set yourself the target of obtaining your licence in three weeks in winter. That just cannot be done.

3. Gaps in training.

Are inevitable and may be caused by weather or personal circumstances. Sometimes life just gets in the way. But for whatever reason, when you fly again you will find you have forgotten things and it takes time to regain your previous position, so you must be patient.

4. Not less than 25 hours.

Another area where you need to be realistic is in how many hours it might take you to obtain your licence. The 25 hours (or 15 with Operational Limitations) are minimums. The licence is rarely obtained in the minimum hours, so you should not base your budget on these minimums. You have to reach a standard to pass the final flight test (The General Skills Test or GST). It's not a race and the more time you spend with an instructor, the better the pilot you will be.

5. Go at your own pace.

People vary hugely in their capacity to absorb information and learn new skills. Younger people tend to learn faster, so if you are a more mature student, you may need to be more patient. Your instructor is skilled in tailoring the learning to suit you personally.