



# Drone Pilot

## Remotely operating aircraft used in work like surveying, filmmaking and aerial photography



<p><b>Entry requirements:</b></p> <p>You can get into this job through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● applying directly</li><li>● specialist courses run by private training organisations</li></ul> <p>You can apply for jobs directly. Most employers will expect you to have experience of flying drones, with at least 40 hours of recorded flying time.</p> <p>You could complete training approved by the Civil Aviation Authority. This lasts between 2 and 4 days and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● UK air regulations</li><li>● flight safety</li><li>● flight planning</li><li>● theory test and practical flight skills assessment</li></ul> <p>You will also have to write an operations manual describing how you are going to use your drone commercially.</p> <p>After successfully completing training, you can apply for the Permission for Commercial Operations certificate, which you need to fly drones for commercial purposes.</p> <p>You must renew the certificate every 12 months.</p> <p><b>Career tips</b></p> <p><b>You will have to join the armed forces or the police and train as an aerial vehicle pilot to operate drones for military or security purposes.</b></p>	<p><b>What you will do:</b></p> <p>As a commercial drone pilot, you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● plan flight paths</li><li>● test flight equipment</li><li>● carry out aerial surveys</li><li>● gather digital images and data</li><li>● maintain and repair drones</li><li>● produce maps based on flight data</li><li>● work with other professionals to interpret data</li></ul> <p><b>What you will earn:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Starter: £13,000</li><li>● Experienced: £65, 520</li></ul> <p><i>These figures are a guide.</i></p> <p><b>Working hours, patterns and environment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● You could work on a film set, on a construction site, in the countryside or in a control room.</li><li>● Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers and you may spend nights away from home.</li><li>● Freelance/self-employed 39 to 41 hours a week.</li></ul>
<p><b>Skills required:</b></p> <p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● knowledge of media production and communication</li><li>● to be thorough and pay attention to detail</li><li>● to be flexible and open to change</li><li>● the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure</li><li>● leadership skills</li><li>● the ability to use your initiative</li><li>● patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations</li><li>● the ability to monitor your own performance and that of your colleagues</li><li>● to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device</li></ul> <p>You will also need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● a Permission for Commercial Operations certificate</li></ul>	<p><b>Career path and progression:</b></p> <p>You may be able to complete a qualification like the Level 3 Certificate and Level 4 Diploma in the Remote Piloting of Unmanned Aircraft Systems.</p> <p>Examples of work you might do includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● filmmaking, TV and marketing</li><li>● weather forecasting</li><li>● mapping land use for farming or archaeological work</li><li>● inspecting infrastructure like bridges and tall buildings</li></ul> <p>If you have engineering qualifications, you could move into drone design and development work.</p>