



INTERCONTINENTAL
AVIATION ACADEMY

FLYIAA JOURNAL

Official Publication of Intercontinental Aviation Academy
Inspiring the Future of Flight
Your Dream FlyIAA



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INTERCONTINENTAL
AVIATION ACADEMY

NOTE FROM THE GLOBAL CHAIRMAN CAPTAIN WISSAM MEHYOU



As we step into 2026, I am filled with pride and optimism. 2025 was a year of milestones, growth, and innovation for FlyIAA, and the dedication of our students, instructors, and partners has set the stage for even greater achievements ahead.

This new year, we continue our mission to inspire, educate, and shape the next generation of aviation leaders, reaching higher, flying further, and redefining what is possible in aviation training.

Captain Wissam Mehyou,
Global Chairman, Intercontinental Aviation Academy

ACADEMY NEWS & MILESTONES

FlyIAA Journal – January 2026 Edition

A Year of Growth, Innovation, and Flight: FlyIAA 2025

2025 was a year like no other for **FlyIAA**, a year of ambition, milestones, and new beginnings. Across our global academies, over 100 students took their first steps into the world of aviation, each one embarking on a journey toward becoming the pilots and aviation leaders of tomorrow.

From the deserts of the UAE to the Mediterranean skies of Cyprus, from Portugal's training fields to the heart of Iraq, **FlyIAA's** story in 2025 was one of bold moves, strategic partnerships, and transformational growth.



ACADEMY NEWS & MILESTONES

FlyIAA Global Horizons

The story of 2025 began with a vision: to unite our global network and provide world-class training across continents. This vision took shape with the historic merger with Cyprus Airways Flying Academy (**CAFA**). Through this strategic partnership, Cyprus became fully integrated into the **FlyIAA** family, equipped with more aircraft, new training programs, and modern infrastructure. The island, already rich in aviation history, is now poised to become one of Europe's most advanced training hubs.

At the same time, **FlyIAA** launched the **Aviator Fund**, a pioneering investment vehicle dedicated to aviation training and next-generation services. This marked a bold new chapter, one where we invest not only in planes and facilities, but in the future of aviation itself.

Our global fleet also grew stronger with 10 brand-new Diamond aircraft joining our academies, while the acquisition of the ALSIM AL42 simulator ensured our students could experience advanced pilot training like never before.

2025 was also the year we looked after the people who matter most, our students. The **FlyIAA x Flyou** collaboration introduced cutting-edge wellness and performance monitoring systems, placing student safety and well-being at the heart of everything we do.

And, in a bold move to strengthen our global presence, we relocated our headquarters to the UAE, welcoming esteemed leaders like Issam Sultan and Hamdi Osman to our board, while HADID increased its stake in **FlyIAA GCC**.

ACADEMY NEWS & MILESTONES

FlyIAA United Arab Emirates: Soaring New Heights

The UAE was where strategy met ambition. **FlyIAA** expanded operations with a second base at Al Ain Airstrip, in partnership with Emirates Falcon Aviation Group. By February 2026, this new hub will welcome students to a modern Diamond fleet, enhancing training capacity and operational excellence.

Mentorship became a key focus through our partnership with **SolitAir**, guiding students on their journey from classrooms to cockpits. We also proudly launched the **Women in Aviation** Middle East Scholarship, celebrating and empowering the next generation of female pilots. Partnerships with institutions like Alfaisal University further strengthened our educational ecosystem in the region.





ACADEMY NEWS & MILESTONES

FlyIAA Cyprus: A European Beacon

Cyprus became more than a destination; it became a hub of opportunity. The **CAFA** merger brought expanded fleet capacity, enhanced training programs, and closer airline collaborations, establishing the island as a cornerstone of FlyIAA's European ambitions.



ACADEMY NEWS & MILESTONES

FlyIAA Lebanon: Nurturing Talent

In Lebanon, FlyIAA continued to nurture aspiring pilots through foundational programs that prepare students for advanced training across the global network. Every classroom, every simulator session, and every flight took students one step closer to their dreams.



ACADEMY NEWS & MILESTONES

FlyIAA Iraq: Building the Future

2025 saw Iraq emerge as a place of innovation. Through a partnership with **AUIB**, students can begin their aviation journey locally before progressing to any **FlyIAA** base worldwide. Additionally, our joint venture with Pier Seven Aviation created a fully integrated training pathway, guiding students from initial training all the way to type ratings.



ACADEMY NEWS & MILESTONES

FlyIAA Portugal: A New European Chapter

In Portugal, FlyIAA planted new roots with the Ponte de Sor Academy, a €4 million investment that includes hangars, maintenance infrastructure, and full integration into Europe's training network. Portugal now serves as a vital bridge for students across the continent.



ACADEMY NEWS & MILESTONES

FlyIAA Saudi Arabia: Strengthening Partnerships

In the Kingdom, HADID's 50% acquisition of **FlyIAA GCC** reinforced **FlyIAA's** presence and capacity, while new leadership strengthened regional strategy and operations, ensuring sustainable growth in one of the world's most dynamic aviation markets.

FlyIAA Greece: Eastern Europe's Rising Star

Greece became a hub of strategic importance. Through our partnership with Cretan Eagle Aviation Academy, **FlyIAA** Greece saw new aircraft, a dedicated training facility, and a maintenance hangar, creating a strong foundation for future growth in Eastern Europe.

ACADEMY NEWS & MILESTONES

Looking Ahead

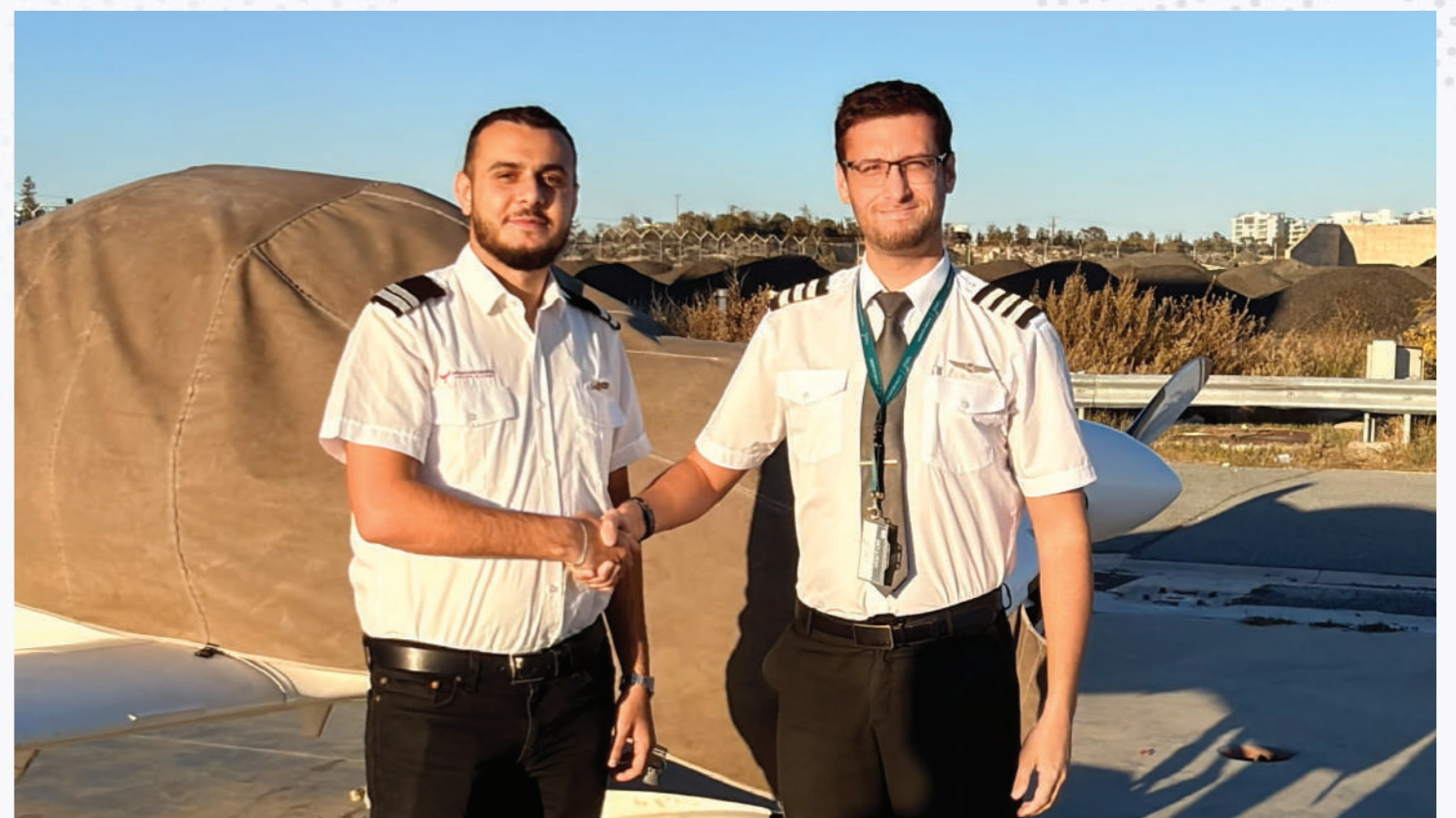
2025 was more than a year of milestones; it was a story of ambition, vision, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. Every student trained, every aircraft acquired, every partnership forged brought us closer to our mission: to shape the next generation of pilots and aviation leaders worldwide.

As we take off into 2026, the journey continues, higher, faster, and further than ever before.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

We proudly celebrate the achievements of three FlyIAA students



whose dedication and determination mark important milestones in their aviation journeys.

Mohamad Ibrahim has successfully completed his EASA Private Pilot License (PPL), followed by Hours Building and the full ATPL Ground School, establishing a strong foundation toward a professional flying career. From mastering the fundamentals of flight to progressing through advanced theoretical studies, his journey reflects discipline, resilience, and a clear vision for the future. As he moves forward into the next phase of his training, we wish him every success as he prepares for the CPL-ME/IR stage.

We also extend our congratulations to **Dimitri Abboud and Karim Chamas**, who have both successfully completed their CPL Multi-Engine Instrument Training (CPL ME IR). Their accomplishment represents a major step toward commercial flight operations and demonstrates the high level of skill, focus, and professionalism required at this advanced stage of pilot training.

These milestones are a testament to what structured training, commitment, and passion for aviation can achieve. We are proud of all three students and look forward to seeing their careers continue to take flight as they progress toward the airline cockpit.

INSTRUCTOR INSIGHTS



Kamal Kassamni
Instructor & Head of Students Experience

Aircraft Performance and Limitations:

Aircraft performance is determined by operating conditions and aircraft limitations. Key factors include air temperature and air density (density altitude), which can reduce available engine power and aerodynamic performance, increasing takeoff distance and reducing climb capability. Aircraft type/configuration (engine/propeller characteristics, flap system, and airframe design) affects expected acceleration, climb, and landing performance. Weight and balance directly influence required runway length, climb rate, and stall speed; increased weight generally increases takeoff and landing distances and decreases climb performance.

Instructor Advice: Importance of Pre-Flight Calculations:

Pre-flight calculations are crucial for ensuring safety and operational effectiveness. Pilots must consider the specific conditions of each flight, including temperature, altitude, and weight, to make informed decisions. Understanding aircraft limitations and performance metrics helps pilots assess whether the aircraft can safely complete the intended takeoff, climb, enroute, and landing within specified limits for the actual conditions. This knowledge not only promotes safety but also enhances overall situational awareness and decision-making capabilities in flight operations.



FLIGHT SCIENCE & INNOVATION

GoAERO Announces Stage 2 Prototype Winners

The GoAERO competition continues to push the boundaries of aviation innovation. With the successful completion of Stage 2, teams transformed visionary concepts into flying prototypes, demonstrating impressive technical progress and creativity. This milestone highlights the growing role of next-generation aviation solutions in real-world emergency response and advanced air mobility.

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Eight teams were recognized as Stage 2 Prototype Winners for their outstanding achievements: CraneAERO (UK), Elevate (Netherlands), Harmony (USA), HORYZN (Germany), LIFT + UT Austin / Texas Aerial Robotics (USA), Rescue Pack (USA), Soteria Flight Technologies (USA), and VSDDL (USA). Their work reflects the global scale and collaborative spirit driving the future of aerospace innovation.

Looking ahead, the competition now advances toward the Final Fly-Off at NASA Ames in 2027, where teams will compete for \$1.65 million in prizes across Adversity, Maneuverability, and Productivity missions. Open to innovators at every stage, the Fly-Off will bring together industry leaders, regulators, and visionaries, reinforcing GoAERO's mission to support and accelerate the future of flight.

Source: goaeroprize.com/post/goaero-stage-2-prototype-winners-2025



INDUSTRY TRENDS & GLOBAL AVIATION OUTLOOK

How Severe Is the Aircraft Shortage—and What Comes Next?

Global air travel demand has rebounded strongly since the pandemic, but aircraft supply has struggled to keep pace. While passenger demand continues to grow, new aircraft deliveries and maintenance turnaround times have slowed due to complex manufacturing processes, supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, and geopolitical uncertainties. This mismatch has created visible pressure across the aviation ecosystem.

At first glance, the shortage appears severe: between 2019 and 2024, only about 7,000 aircraft were delivered, compared to an estimated 12,000 had pre-pandemic trends continued. However, this headline gap does not tell the full story. Demand itself dipped sharply during the pandemic, and airlines responded to delivery delays by keeping aircraft in service longer than usual, slowing retirement rates well below historical averages.

When delayed retirements are factored in, the effective global aircraft shortage is likely closer to around 2,000 aircraft, with the majority concentrated in the narrow-body segment. While still meaningful, this figure is considerably smaller than some industry

estimates suggest and highlights how fleet management decisions have helped cushion the imbalance.

Source: [mckinsey.com/industries/travel/our-insights/how-severe-is-the-aircraft-shortage-and-what-happens-next](https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/travel/our-insights/how-severe-is-the-aircraft-shortage-and-what-happens-next)

FEATURED ARTICLE

Saudi Arabia's Aviation Overhaul: Building a Global Hub for 2030 and Beyond

As of 2025, Saudi Arabia is embarking on an unprecedented aviation transformation under its Vision 2030 strategy, aiming to serve 330 million passengers annually and connect to 250 global destinations by the end of the decade. At the heart of this initiative is the construction of a new megahub in Riyadh, alongside extensive upgrades to existing international and regional airports.

King Salman International Airport (KSIA) – Riyadh

Slated to become one of the world's largest airports by 2050, KSIA is being developed around the current King Khalid International Airport. The \$30–\$65 billion megaproject will eventually feature six parallel runways, multiple terminals (up to nine), and a 12 km² "aerotropolis" that integrates residential, retail, and logistics zones. By 2030, the airport aims to handle 120 million passengers annually, reaching 185 million by 2050, with a cargo hub targeting 3.5 million tons per year. Construction officially began in September 2025, with Bechtel and Parsons appointed as lead delivery partners earlier that year.

WORLD AVIATION NEWS

Middle East Expands Air Connectivity with New Routes This December

The Middle East's aviation sector continues to soar, with airlines across the region launching new direct flights, increasing frequencies, and resuming key routes this December 2025. This expansion reflects the region's growing importance as a global air travel hub and its ongoing infrastructure development.

Key highlights include Thai AirAsia X's debut Riyadh–Bangkok service, SalamAir connecting Muscat to Abha, and Air Arabia launching its first Sharjah–Munich flights. Established carriers are also boosting capacity: Qatar Airways is increasing Doha-Lagos and Doha-Kuala Lumpur frequencies, while Emirates adds extra weekly flights from Dubai to Cairo. Austrian Airlines and Eurowings are also entering the region, opening new connections to Vienna and Düsseldorf from Dubai.

This surge in connectivity not only enhances travel options for passengers but also supports the Middle East's broader aviation strategy. New routes complement ongoing airport expansions and infrastructure projects, including Saudi Arabia's megahub in Riyadh and upgrades across the UAE, Oman, and Saudi regional airports.

As the Middle East cements its position on the global aviation map, these new services illustrate a region ready to meet growing demand, connect more international destinations, and support the continued growth of tourism, commerce, and regional integration.

Source: connectingtravel.com/news/8-new-direct-flights-from-the-middle-east-launching-this-december



FLYIAA COURSE

Launch Your Aviation Journey: Fundamentals of Aviation Course

Are you fascinated by the skies and dreaming of a career in aviation? The Fundamentals of Aviation course at **Intercontinental Aviation Academy (FlyIAA)** is the perfect starting point to turn that dream into reality. Designed for aspiring pilots and youth exploring aviation careers, this 16-week program provides a solid foundation in the principles and practices of flight.

Starting in January 2026, the course is offered across our global bases in the UAE, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, Iraq, and KSA. Cadets will be introduced to critical subjects including Aviation English, Air Law, Principles of Flight, Aircraft General Knowledge, Navigation, Meteorology, Human Factors, Flight Planning, and Performance & Limitations. This structured curriculum ensures that every student builds the technical knowledge, problem-solving skills, and decision-making abilities essential for a successful aviation career.

Open to students as young as 15 years old, the course serves as both a self-assessment tool and a first step toward professional pilot training. For those

committed to becoming pilots, it lays the groundwork for the EASA or ICAO Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL) journey, equipping cadets with the expertise needed before advancing to flight training and further theoretical

FLYIAA COURSE

With expert instructors, interactive classrooms, and a globally aligned curriculum, the Fundamentals of Aviation course is more than a learning program—it's the launchpad for future aviators. If you're ready to explore the skies and begin your journey in aviation, this course is the perfect place to start.

Next Intake: January 2026

Duration: 16 Weeks

Locations: UAE, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, Iraq, KSA



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Understanding the Difference Between ICAO and EASA Certificates

For aspiring pilots, understanding the distinctions between ICAO and EASA certifications is essential when planning an aviation career. Both play crucial roles in ensuring safety, quality, and global recognition, but they serve different purposes and operate under different regulatory frameworks.

EASA – European Union Aviation Safety Agency

EASA licenses follow strict European standards, ensuring that training programs meet the highest levels of safety and quality. FlyIAA is proud to be the only EASA-approved academy in the Middle East, offering cadets access to world-class aviation education. Graduates of EASA programs gain certifications that are internationally recognized, providing a competitive edge in the global aviation industry.

EASA regulations stipulate that the ATPL exams and the CPL phase (the final six months of training) must be completed within a European territory, guaranteeing consistent, high-standard practical and theoretical instruction. This makes EASA certification especially valuable for pilots seeking careers in Europe or with international airlines that prioritize European standards.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Understanding the Difference Between ICAO and EASA Certificates

ICAO – International Civil Aviation Organization

In contrast, ICAO sets globally recognized aviation standards, providing a baseline framework for international aviation safety and operations. ICAO certification

ensures that pilots trained under its standards can operate in countries worldwide, facilitating cross-border careers and flexibility for global aviation operations.

Why FlyIAA Offers Both

FlyIAA's Airline Pathway Programs integrate training under both EASA and ICAO standards, giving graduates dual benefits: rigorous European-level training and broad global recognition. Whether you aim to fly in Europe, the Middle East, or anywhere in the world, completing FlyIAA programs ensures your license is respected by airlines internationally, paving the way for a successful and versatile aviation career.



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**VIDEO
FEATURE**





UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS



FlyIAA UAE Course Intake
January 26, 2026



FlyIAA Lebanon Course Intake
January 19, 2026



RESOURCES & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



Theoretical Knowledge
Instructor
Various Aircraft
(Qatar | Doha)



First Officer
A320
(Dammam | KSA)



Direct Entry First
Officer
A320 family
(Bahrain | Bahrain)



Ground Instructor
A320 family
(Jeddah | Saudi Arabia)



Customer Contact
Centre Agent
CY15336
(Cyprus)



First Officer
Legacy 600
(Dubai | UAE)



Pilot Cadet
B737 MAX
(Dubai | UAE)

For more information, visit
www.pilotsglobal.com



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QUOTE OF THE MONTH



The lure of flying is the lure of beauty

Amelia Earhart



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CONTACT INFORMATION

 Phone: +971 55 747 2466

 www.flyiaa.aero

 [flyiaa.global](https://www.instagram.com/flyiaa.global)

 [Intercontinental Aviation Academy](https://www.linkedin.com/company/intercontinental-aviation-academy)

 [flyiaa.global](https://www.tiktok.com/@flyiaa.global)