



Commercial Helicopter Pilot Licence (CHPL)

Complete Educational Guide – India & International Pathways

This document provides a comprehensive and educational overview of the process, requirements, stages, costs, and career progression involved in becoming a Commercial Helicopter Pilot (CHPL/CPL-H) holder in India under DGCA regulations, along with an overview of international pathways.

1. What is a Commercial Helicopter Pilot Licence (CHPL)?

A Commercial Helicopter Pilot Licence (CHPL), also known as CPL-H, allows a pilot to operate helicopters for hire or reward. This includes charter operations, VIP flying, offshore oil & gas operations, air ambulance services, tourism, corporate aviation, and government operations.

2. Eligibility Criteria (India – DGCA)

- Minimum Age: 18 years
- Educational Qualification: 10+2 with Physics & Mathematics (NIOS acceptable)
- Valid DGCA Class 2 Medical (initial stage)
- DGCA Class 1 Medical required before licence issue
- Proficiency in English Language

3. Ground School Subjects (DGCA Exams)

- Air Regulations
- Air Navigation
- Aviation Meteorology
- Technical General
- Technical Specific (Helicopter Type)
- RTR (Aero) – Conducted by WPC

Candidates must successfully pass all DGCA theoretical examinations before the licence can be issued.

4. Flying Training Requirements (India)

- Minimum 150 hours total flying time
- Dual Instruction Hours
- Pilot-in-Command (Solo) Hours
- Cross Country Flying
- Minimum 10 hours Instrument Flying
- Minimum 5 hours Night Flying
- Skill Test with DGCA Examiner

5. Estimated Cost (India)

Helicopter training is significantly more expensive than fixed-wing training due to aircraft operating costs and maintenance complexity.

Component	Estimated Cost (INR)
Ground School	■5 – 10 Lakhs
Flying Training (150 hrs)	■1.2 – 1.8 Crore
Exams, Medical, Licensing	■2 – 5 Lakhs
Total Estimated Investment	■1.3 – 2.0 Crore

6. Career Path After CHPL

- Charter & Corporate Helicopter Operations
- Offshore Oil & Gas Operations
- Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS)
- Tourism & Pilgrimage Flying
- Government & State Aviation Units
- Instructor Rating (after experience)

7. International Pathways (FAA / EASA)

Students may also pursue Commercial Helicopter Pilot Licences abroad under FAA (USA) or EASA (Europe) regulations. Typical requirements range between 150–185 flight hours, including instrument training. Licence conversion to DGCA standards is required for employment in India.

Duration of Course: Approximately 18–24 months depending on weather, exam clearance, and aircraft availability.