

2015 Future Pilot Training Program (Australia)

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18th July, 2015, the day finally came. I was extremely excited about going to Australia for this pilot training program, but yet quite nervous to meet 20 people from 6 different schools.

Thanks to my school I was able to know about this program. You may ask 'Do you want to become a pilot in the future?', to be honest not really, I actually want to be an engineer, however I still couldn't decide what kind of engineering industry I would like to go into. The main reason for me to join this program was that I want to know more about my abilities in the fields related to my electives (mainly physics) and also explore myself. Before being selected, we had a few interviews. I did not even think that I will be chosen, but I did. I was so happy when I found out about that. I would really thank school for this opportunity.

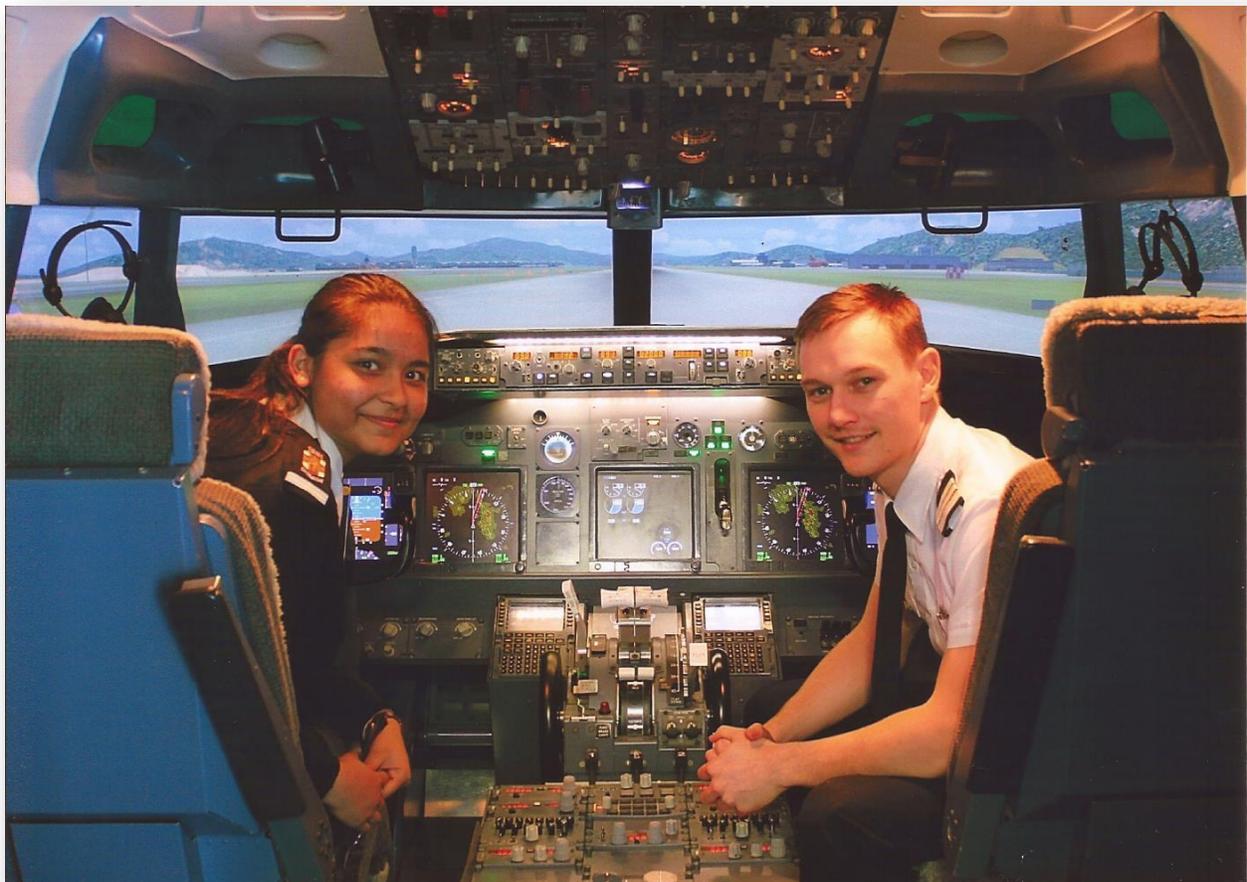
When we reached Australia the next day, we went sightseeing to the Royal Botanic Garden. It was an amazing park with a lot different from Hong Kong. There were many different type



through the garden, we saw the Sydney Opera House which I have only seen in picture before. We also went to the Australian Museum.

for the first lesson of our program, we went to the training place which is a building of the University of New South Wales and it was besieged by the Bankstown Airport. Our professor told us that we were only supposed to have one whole day of studying, while four days are for flying, and the rest of the days are for stimulator and other things like a cross country flight. I was surprised and got scared as I didn't have much confidence in myself. The lecture consisted of a lot of knowledge about the structure of an aircraft, how the airflow is in midair and what type of aircrafts are there, something which I had never even thought of.

Next day, I experienced my first flight. Everyone was divided into groups of 4 and each group had one instructor. Every 4 students had different time slots. I was so tensed and nervous. Before we start the aircraft (DA40), the instructor explained how to see the measures such as the speed, fuel and airflow. When taking off, I felt so overwhelmed. In that lesson we learned how to do 360 turns and it was so much fun, so I almost forgot it was my first flight. Everything looked so beautiful. I really wanted that the time will just stop right there.



When the second time of flight, my instructor asked me if I would like to take off, and I was like "Ya sure!!!". Then he instructed me how to take-off. The instructions were very simple and easy to understand, then I thought actually it is quite easy to control the plane. The take-off was so smooth, and I really felt proud. Then, I was asked to go to different places by just following the instructions from my instructor. For example, if my instructor says "turn to your west", I have to turn right and keep heading that way. It was quite wonderful as my instructor actually took me to a lot of famous beaches and the Blue Mountains. The sea water looked so clean.



On the next day, the weather was not that good so some schedules were rearranged. For me, my instructor was changed. The new instructor, kind of treated me as the first officer and told me to read out all the before take-off measurements. That was cool. After taking off, the instructor let me experienced 0 Gravitational force which felt like a roller coaster. Also I experienced 2G forces which make you feel heavier. I thought I was in a theme park with extreme rides. Afterwards, we went to the sea side again, and guess what I saw, I SAW A WHALE!!!! I never even expected that. I swear I am never going to forget that.



The last day of flying, I am not very happy about that. We went to the Camden Airport to do circuits. Circuits are like doing laps but with an aircraft. It includes Taking off, then doing one lap and land, and then keep repeating the same thing. I thought I performed comparatively poor in that but the instructor commented that I was quite good.



During the weekends, we went to the place where Olympics was once held. Then we went to the zoo. Having a chance to see and touch koalas and kangaroos was really a once in a lifetime experience. We also went to the Blue Mountains where the view was very good, but it was extremely cold. Darling Harbor on Sundays is just something else as on that days a plane writes thing in the sky. Instead of walking around the Harbor, we all just stood there and looked up to the sky.

It is a Monday again, which

mean back to University. I got to do my first stimulation training. It was mainly done to train instrumental flying which is done above the clouds. It was confusing when all you see is white or black. But, I guess it was good enough for a first timer.

Next day, a cross country flight YEAH!! This flight was to Temora. We visited the Temora Aviation Museum. Places nearby the museum are empty. It is because that used to be a very training area for Tiger Moth (a very old type of plane) pilots. In the museum, I learnt a lot about history of many different planes along with the engineering technique used in building it. I personally loved the engineering part.



This Wednesday is our graduation from that program. But before that, we visit the control tower and also had a look at the engine of the aircraft we used for training. I learned a lot from the engine part for example the usages of oil in a vehicle.

On the second last day (Thursday), we had another stimulation training but it was the stimulator of a commercial plane instead of the small training planes. However, this time the aim was different, it was to train how to land at big airports.

On the last day, we went to see the main campus of the University. It was so big, I am sure that at least some people got lost in the campus. There are a lot of libraries as well as grassland where students can play or study or maybe just rest. The dorms in this University looks very big and also have a hotel feel to it. And also within the campus, there is a bookstore where students can buy any necessary books they need. I would love to go in to this university as they provide a very good learning environment which motivates students to do their best in all areas like academic or other learning experience. I would really recommend this university to everyone.



In conclusion, this trip really allowed me to experience many new things, and explore a new interest in the aviation industry as I am considering of doing aviation engineering in the future. Australia is a very nice place.