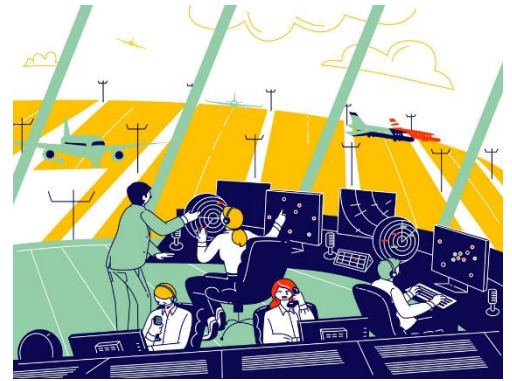


Air traffic controller

Air traffic controllers manage an aircraft in controlled airspace through all aspects of its flight, taking responsibility for the aircraft's safety and making the flight as efficient as possible.

As an air traffic controller, you'll use highly sophisticated radar and radio communication equipment to communicate advice, information and instructions to pilots. You'll guide the aircraft as it travels, using radar to track its exact position, keep it safe in the airspace and provide the most efficient route.



Skills:

You'll need to be:

- excellent levels of concentration and ability to focus for long periods
- ability to work well under pressure
- decisiveness and good problem-solving and planning skills
- spatial awareness
- information processing capability

Qualifications:

A degree or HND (Higher National Diploma) is not a necessary requirement for entry into the role of air traffic controller. As part of the entry process with NATS (the UK's leading provider of air traffic control services), you'll need to pass several online assessments that test cognitive and situational judgement skills. In addition to passing the entry tests, you'll be required to meet the following requirements:

- have at least five GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above, including English and Maths
- over the age of 18 when applying
- legally eligible to work in the UK
- able to meet the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) medical standards.

NATS is currently applying to make part of its air traffic control training an accredited apprenticeship scheme. If this is implemented, it means candidates would get a Level 5 recognised apprenticeship qualification. Air traffic controller roles are also available with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. Entry requirements there may differ.

Working hours:

Air traffic controllers usually work between 37 and 45 hours a week, but this is spread out over days, nights, weekends, and public holidays. Air traffic control must be manned 24 hours a day, so shift work is used.

Salary:

- Trainee air traffic controllers earn a salary of £17,000 with NATS. A weekly payment of around £60 is also available to help to cover your expenses as you'll be expected to attend one of NATS colleges for your training.
- On completion of training, you can expect a salary in the range of £37,014 to £41,253, location dependent.
- Senior controllers with substantial experience can potentially earn over £100,000 (including shift pay) at NATS busiest units.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/air-traffic-controller>

