



SHARP TRAINEE PROFILE

Dushyant Mehrotra

Pilot

Case studies of transport and logistics enterprises and real-life accounts of how they have benefited from upskilling their workforce.

Dushyant Mehrotra, 22, was born to fly. He sought out Sharp Airlines' 18-month, nationally accredited training after two and a half years of an aviation degree.

Mehrotra's parents raised him in Dubai where his father was general manager of a travel company, so knew many pilots. "We used to travel a lot. I loved sitting in the cockpit, chatting with the pilots," he says.

Mehrotra is completing a Certificate IV in Aviation (Commercial Pilot Aeroplane Licence) and Diploma of Aviation (Instrument Flying Operations) and, like all successful trainees, will be appointed as a First Officer with Sharp on graduation.

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The Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council (TLISC) developed his qualifications, which allow him to fly for any Australian carrier in the future, and brokered his training under the National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF).

Mehrotra is one of an annual intake of just 14 students, and admits the school's intentionally small size initially concerned him, having come from a class of 200.

But a mentor pointed out it would help his career take off with more air hours and hands-on experience, essential in the aviation industry. "The pilot shortage, it's not looking for inexperienced pilots, which is what I would've been," he says.

Aviation is "dynamic: no two days are the same. Actually, no two hours are the same. I plan for a flight and two hours later the winds change, 180 degrees. That is when training comes into effect: you need to be able to think and react fast."

Mehrotra says trainee pilots should have a good grasp of maths, physics and English along with confidence, motivation, discipline and "situational awareness".

Aviation offers "a million opportunities. That's another good thing about Sharp. We cover a lot of skill bases that the bigger companies are happy to use.

"Here, pilots help the engineers, pilots help the ground crew, pilots help the customer service agents to check in – everything. It is nice to have that many skills."

Regional flying is the route to international carriers for most ambitious young pilots, but Sharp "still put in all the effort to help get you where you want to go".

So how does it feel to be on his way? "Just unreal. Being on the ground is boring!"

For more information about how TLISC can assist, please contact our Workforce Development team:

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