

THE WINGS OF OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION 2024 NIGHT RATING SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT



a) INTRODUCTION

It is well established that the high cost of pilot training is a significant barrier for many aspiring pilots. The full cost of training to become a commercial airline pilot is somewhere between \$80,000 and \$100,000. Financial cost has also been established as the main reason for students to abandon or not begin a pilot training program.

In order to address a small part of this funding challenge, the Wings of Opportunity Foundation (WoOF) is pleased to announce an opportunity for the Canadian piloting community to advance their understanding of aviation and further their flight experience through night certification.

With this Announcement, the WoOF solicits proposals from individuals that want to take advantage of their Private Pilot's License to advance their careers in the Canadian aviation industry.

Applicants are asked to read the following Announcement carefully before submitting their application. This announcement guides the applicant to complete the application process and outlines key elements including mandatory criteria for eligibility, types of eligible candidates and the selection process. In the event of any discrepancies between this Announcement and the individual funding agreement provided to successful applicants, the latter document(s) will take precedence.

The criteria for eligible applications are given in sections c) and d).

b) SCHOLARSHIP OBJECTIVES

One of the objectives of the Canadian aviation industry is to ensure a constant supply of pilots eligible to fly for Canadian airlines and transport companies. The objective of this Announcement is to advance the Canadian aviation industry by supporting the development of young pilots to expand their knowledge and skills in aircraft operations, navigation, aerodrome operations, radio procedures, and reduced visibility experience. With this new knowledge and experience, young Canadian pilots would continue through the next steps to become commercial pilots and able to enter the workforce.

The primary objective of this opportunity is:

To advance knowledge and operational piloting experience by offering night ratings to young pilots.

c) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible Recipients

To be eligible, the recipient must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

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Eligible Applications

To be eligible, applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

- (1) Hold a Canadian Private Pilot's License (PPL) issued from Transport Canada;
- (2) Do not hold a night rating; and
- (3) Be 25 years of age or younger.

These conditions must be satisfied at the time of application.

Links to Priorities

This funding opportunity is aligned with Canada's House of Commons "Supporting Canada's Flight Schools" Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. The report recommends that the Government of Canada, in cooperation with provincial and territorial governments, take steps to support flight students by establishing financial assistance programs to assist professional students with the high cost of flight instruction.

This funding opportunity is also aligned with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) Program whose vision is a global aviation community that has sufficient competent human resources to support a safe, secure and sustainable air transportation system.

d) COMPLETE APPLICATION

Required Documentation

The application must include the following:

- A completed application form signed and scanned by the applicant;
- A statement by the applicant, no longer than two pages (12pt times new roman font, single spaced, 1 inch margins), that explains how the applicant will: contribute to advancing the professional aviation industry in Canada and conduct outreach activities to communicate the importance of aviation within Canada;
- A copy of the applicant's most recent academic transcript;
- A copy of the applicant's valid Private Pilot's License;
- A copy of the applicant's valid passport (photo page) or permanent residency status;
- A letter of support from a registered flight school confirming the enrolment of the applicant in a Commercial Pilot's License program;
- At least one letter of support from a flight professional in Canada attesting to the applicant's piloting abilities and achievements, professional aviation aspirations in Canada, and academic achievements.

The application must be prepared in a single PDF-formatted file containing all of the above requested documents with all security features disabled. Please order the document with the application form and statement first. If there are any accessibility issues with the submitted PDF file, all consequences reside with the Applicant.

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Applications will remain valid for a duration of one year from the date of submission. All material within the application must comply with all relevant federal, provincial and territorial legislation and municipal laws.

The application form and supporting documentation must be submitted electronically through the website. **Applications must be submitted by Applicants no later than 11:59 EST on September 15th, 2024. Applicants are encouraged to provide their submission many days before the deadline as technical difficulties may arise.**

The Wings of Opportunity Foundation reserves the right to refuse applications that: do not meet the eligibility criteria, are incomplete, or are received after the submission deadline. Incomplete applications shall not be considered.

e) EVALUATION

Only applications that have passed the eligibility assessment listed above will be given further consideration.

Once the eligibility criteria are confirmed, the review board’s evaluators will assess the screened applications according to the criteria listed in Table 1 below. Applications shall provide the appropriate documents, as indicated in the ‘evidence’ column, to demonstrate how each evaluation criteria is met. Only applications that obtain a total minimum score of 70% will be given further consideration.

Table 1: Definition and Details of Evaluation Criteria

Criteria and Weighting	Indicators	Evidence
Relevance of the applicant’s experience and education to the Canadian aviation sector (40%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience and academic background of the applicant as well as achievements and other extracurricular activities that bear relevance to the Canadian aviation sector; • Description of how the applicant’s competencies and work as a student stands out; • Experience, academic and/or other relevant extracurricular activities that demonstrate the applicant’s leadership skills and ability to build and maintain a career in the Canadian aviation industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factual examples provided in the application form; • Factual examples provided in the reference letter;

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<p>Motivation to contribute to the Canadian aviation sector (60%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant’s expectations for pursuing the night rating and how their rating will positively impact the applicant’s future contribution to the Canadian aviation industry; • Applicant’s aspirations regarding pursuing studies or a career in Canada as a professional pilot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factual examples provided in the application form; • Factual examples provided in the reference letter.
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Note:

The total of the scores for each of the criteria will be used to establish a ranking of applications. The Foundation may, at its discretion, reject any application that fails the evaluation.

Before a final decision is made, the Foundation’s evaluation committee responsible for this announcement may seek input and advice from other organizations and/or experts.

In the final selection, the Foundation may also take into consideration factors such as balanced scholarship distribution across Canada and the relevance of the field of study of the applicant.

The results of the evaluation committee are final. Due to the large number of applications, the Foundation will not provide feedback on any application received.

f) SERVICE STANDARDS

Applicants will be notified by email of decisions regarding their application. Recipients will be announced on the foundation’s website. The Foundation has set the following service standards for application processing times:

Acknowledgement: The objective is to acknowledge receipt of applications within one (1) week of receiving the completed application.

Decision: The objective is to respond to eligible applicants within eight (8) weeks following the deadline and to send a grant agreement to selected candidates for signature within four (4) weeks following the notice of decision.

Payment: The objective is to issue payment within four (4) weeks from the date of receipt of the funding agreement signed by the candidate.

Meeting these service standards is a shared responsibility. Applicants must submit all required documentation in a timely manner. Actual notification times may be shorter.

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g) CONFIDENTIALITY

The Foundation will manage and protect information provided by applicants under the Privacy Act. By submitting personal information, the applicant consents to its collection, use, and disclosure in accordance with the following Confidentiality Statement which explains how information on applicants is handled.

By submitting an application, the applicant authorizes the Wings of Opportunity Foundation to undertake any consultation or verification, in particular but not exclusively with other aviation organizations, educational institutions, and/or government departments in order to obtain any useful information in assessing the application, and it agrees to have the contacted parties disclose any requested information.

This information will be used for administrative purposes and for the evaluation of applications. Personal information (such as name, contact information and biographical information) will be stored for up to six years, then destroyed.

h) PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

“Recipients” are Applicants who have received and accepted a scholarship offer from the Foundation.

The Recipient agrees that the Foundation may use their name, photo, hometown and province in promotional materials, including but not limited to brochures, social media, and the Foundation’s website, for the purpose of promoting the scholarship program and its benefactors.

The Recipient agrees to submit a letter to the Foundation, within 6 months of completing their Night Rating, explaining how the scholarship has aided in advancing their pilot training and thanking the donor of their scholarship. This letter may also be used in any promotional materials at the discretion of the Foundation.

i) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Recipients are advised to contact their aviation schools and insurers to verify coverage with respect to participating in Pilot in Command (PIC) and Night Rating activities. The Foundation provides no protection in this regard.

Recipients are also advised to ensure that they have in their possession all documents required for such piloting activities.

It is the sole responsibility of the recipient to plan and pilot aircraft safely during flight operations.

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j) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should the need arise, it is up to applicants to obtain clarification regarding the requirements contained in this opportunity before submitting their completed application.

For all questions, applicants must use this email address. Questions and answers will be posted on the Foundation website under the “Frequently Asked Questions” section.