

Saudi Private Pilot Licence (PPL)

GACAR Part 61 — the route to your first licence



Indicative study aid — not an official GACA document. Every age, hour, validity period and requirement must be verified against the current GACAR and confirmed with GACA before you rely on it. These points are condensed from the Fly GACA guide named below.

ELIGIBILITY

- Solo from age 16 on a Student Pilot Licence; PPL issued from age 17.
- No upper age limit — the only ceiling is your medical.
- Training and the skills test are in English; ICAO Operational Level 4 to use the radio.

MEDICAL

- Class 2 aero-medical certificate (minimum), from a GACA-approved AME.
- Going commercial later? Sit the Class 1 from the start — it covers Class 2.
- Plan the medical before booking training hours.

FLIGHT TIME — 40 H MINIMUM

- ≥ 25 h dual instruction · ≥ 10 h solo.
- ≥ 5 h solo cross-country: one leg ≥ 150 NM (270 km), 2 full-stop landings at different airports.
- ≥ 3 h instrument · ≥ 3 h night (for night privileges) · up to 5 h approved simulator.
- Most candidates finish in 50–60 actual hours.

THEORY & TESTS

- Written exams in nine theoretical-knowledge subjects.
- The GACA written exam, then a practical skills test (checkride) with a GACA examiner.

WHAT THE PPL LETS YOU DO

- Act as pilot-in-command on non-revenue flights.
- Carry passengers — but not for hire or reward.
- Add night and, later, an instrument rating to widen the privileges.

Condensed from the full Fly GACA guide — <https://flygaca-firebase.web.app/guides/saudi-ppl-requirements.html>. Fly GACA is an independent educational reference and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or connected to the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA). The authoritative source for any regulation is always GACA — gaca.gov.sa.