

AoC Submission: Commission on Adult Vocational Teaching and Learning

Extra Case Study: Craven College's Aviation Academy

Craven College opened the Aviation Academy in 1999 and it now offers courses at levels two to six. The attraction of studying at the Aviation Academy for students is that they are airside at Leeds/Bradford International Airport, and the vast majority of students enter employment in the aviation industry post-course. The Academy recruits from both the UK and internationally.

There are currently 75 students on three HE programmes, indicating the growing higher level skills requirements of the industry: FdSc Aviation Management and Operations (including a separate Pilot Studies pathway) and a top-up, the BSc Air Transport Management.

Tutors typically have both academic and practice backgrounds; giving them currency and value to students, and many students progress from FE to HE. Many assessments are based on real work issues and problems and feedback from employers and students indicate that they feel well prepared when they enter work in the industry.

Employers are involved in all the aspects of the programmes including curriculum development, assessment advice, and expert master classes and providing work experience placements. Employers include: British Airways, Leeds Bradford Airport, Servisair, Multiflight and Jet2. In addition Sherburn Aero Club delivers specialist pilot training modules for the Pilot Studies pathway and offers special student rates for flying lessons.

Students have been employed in air traffic control at Leeds Bradford International and Humberside Airports and in operational positions students work for Jet2, Servis Air, Multiflight, the Civil Aviation Academy and the National Air Traffic Service.

Future plans involve closer liaison with Jet2 and a possible aviation engineering pathway.