

Career of the week – **FLIGHT ATTENDANT**

A flight attendant (also known as cabin crew) is a member of an aircrew employed by an airline aboard commercial flights, primarily to ensure the safety and comfort of passengers.

Qualifications required:

- You will need to be over the age of 18 to become a member of air cabin crew.
- The ability to speak a second language is highly desirable.
- Airlines will usually require a good standard of education, including GCSEs (grades 4-9) in maths and English, or equivalent qualifications.
- You could do a college course like a Level 2 Certificate in Air Cabin Crew, or study a cabin crew module as part of a broader travel and tourism course.

Cabin crew with experience can expect to earn a base rate of £15,000 to £18,000 a year. You can add an hourly flight rate, inflight commission on sales and performance bonuses to your base rate. Depending on your base rate, this additional income can boost your salary to around £20,000 to £28,000 a year.

Skills and knowledge required:

- customer service skills for working with passengers
- excellent verbal communication skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to enjoy working with other people
- knowledge of public safety and security
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- sensitivity / understanding for dealing with customers' needs
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer

Restrictions and requirements:

- **have a good level of fitness**
- **pass a medical check**
- **pass enhanced background checks**
- **have a smart appearance**
- **have a valid passport**
- **live within 90 minutes of your base**

Many airlines also ask that you're able to swim up to 25 metres. There are rules about height and weight - these vary between airlines. As a general guide, most look for people between 5ft 2in and 6ft 2in with weight in proportion to height.