

# CASE STUDY

**Immersion environment produces results for GACA students**  
General Authority of Civil Aviation, Saudi Arabia

## Challenge

- Combining an intensive Aviation English training programme with ATC training, to produce top-quality graduates within two years.

## Results

- 84 Saudi Arabian students graduated from Airways' air traffic controller training between 2012-2016.
- Significant improvement in English competency.
- Employment ready graduates.

## Feedback



*"We had two really great years in New Zealand and I am grateful for the opportunity that was given to us to study here. Our ATC course at Airways was fast-paced and challenging, but I really think that we had the best training experience possible. Our team of instructors supported us throughout and it was great to see how quickly we improved and how our confidence increased".*

**Faisal Fallatah, ATC Trainee from GACA**

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## The customer

The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), is the national institution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in charge of aviation and related matters. It is the operator of four international and 23 domestic airports within the country. In the last eight years, GACA has sent four groups of students to Airways for air traffic control (ATC) training.

## The situation

With air traffic growing at an unprecedented rate in Saudi Arabia, air navigation training providers are coming under increasing pressure to train enough air traffic controllers to meet demand.

Additional challenges include limited access to simulation technologies, suitably qualified instructors and the requirement for trainees to achieve English language competency to ICAO Level 4, before gaining final certification.

## Airways solution

Students from GACA were chosen to complete a two-year training programme. The students spend one year in either Brisbane, Auckland or Nelson studying Aviation English, and one year at the Airways training academy in Palmerston North or Brisbane for ATC training.

The initial phase of their training focuses on enhancing the students' aviation English skills prior to progressing onto their ATC training. On reaching ICAO Level 4 (or higher) in Aviation English, the students advance to their ATC Induction, Aerodrome Control, Procedural and Radar Control courses.

Airways' ATC training programme comprises both theoretical and applied training using Airways Total Control simulator suite.

**96%**   
Training success rate

**137**   
Students enrolled in the programme

**100%**   
Students passed Aviation English

# CASE STUDY | GACA



Airways has been a trusted training provider for organisations throughout the world for more than 50 years. With customers in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the Pacific and North America, Airways is constantly improving training delivery and tools.

## The inherent value

The benefits of the training agreement between GACA and Airways are evident. Not only did the students grow their knowledge in the field of air traffic control, but they made incredible progress in their English language and were at the same time able to experience living in a different culture.

The supportive learning environment at Airways was extremely beneficial to students, because of the low instructor to student ratio, the 4D Total Control aerodrome simulator and the opportunity to experience a live operational environment at both regional and international airports, to gain a better understanding of taught theories.

Mohammed Al Shehri, one of the graduating students, said he enjoyed both the pace and style of learning and living in New Zealand. "I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to attend the Airways ATC training program in New Zealand and looking back it's unbelievable that I achieved so much in only 2 years. I was deeply moved when Airways presented me the certificate and I hope that one day, I will be able to return to New Zealand and show my family how beautiful this place is."

The customer relationship between Airways and GACA has been further developed and ties strengthened as groups of students continue to travel to New Zealand or Australia to complete a two-year ATC training programme.

## Quick facts

Programme Details (2 years)	ICAO 291 Aviation English	(8 weeks)
	ICAO 051 Aviation Induction	(11 weeks)
	ICAO 052 Aerodrome Control	(12 weeks)
	ICAO 053 Approach Control Procedural	(12 weeks)
	ICAO 054 Radar Control	(12 weeks)
Campuses	Palmerston North and Brisbane	
Past and Current Cohorts	28 students (2010)	24 students (2015)
	32 students (2012)	53 students (2016)
Success Rates	Aviation English – ICAO Level 4-6	100%
	ATC Training – 051/052/053/054	96%
Delivery Metrics	Instructor / Student ratio	1:5
	Total Simulator Hours	816
	Total Learning Hours	1350
Results	1st group of graduates, all achieved an ATC Licence 2nd group of graduates, all achieved an ATC Licence 3rd group of graduates, 100% ATC course success rate	