



WINGS AWARD SCHEME

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Wings Awards Scheme offers four levels of award; Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Wings. The scheme aims to promote the development of holders of the Private Pilot's Licence (PPL) and the National Private Pilot's Licence (NPPL), through recognition of their continuing achievements by the award of AOPA Wings.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

To encourage the development of PPL holders through:

- Air touring experience
- Additional training and qualification
- The practice of good airmanship
- Broadening pilots' activities and interests
- Encouraging personal development and flight safety awareness through advanced seminars.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHEME

- The scheme is open to all members of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association who hold either Private or Professional Pilot's Licences for powered aircraft or rotorcraft.

REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH LEVEL OF AWARD

There are four categories against which criteria are set for the award of Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Wings:

- Minimum Flight Times, both Total and as Pilot-in-Command (PIC)
- Achievements
- Seminar Attendance
- Air Touring Experience

The requirements in these categories are detailed below and summarised for each level of Wings in the table on page 5.

In all of the flying activities undertaken in pursuit of the AOPA Wings Scheme, it is essential that safety is the primary concern. In meeting the requirements of the scheme the applicant is expected to seek to attain high standards in training, engage in thorough preparation, make the correct use of standard operating procedures and display a high standard of airmanship.



WINGS AWARD SCHEME

1. Minimum Flight Times

The award of Bronze Wings is available to all Pilot's Licence holders whether or not they are members of AOPA. Applicants for the Silver, Gold or Platinum Wings must be current AOPA members and meet the minimum requirements for Total Time and Pilot-in-Command Time as given in the Table on page 5.

A pilot with a Professional Licence may count only those hours in powered aircraft or rotorcraft which have *not* accrued in the course of commercial activities. Flight Instructors may include those hours which have accrued while giving flight instruction in powered aircraft or rotorcraft.

- Single Engine Piston (SEP)
- Single Engine Turboprop (SET)
- Multi-Engine Piston (MEP)
- Touring Motor Glider (TMG)
- Self Launching Motor Glider (SLMG)
- Microlight.

2. Achievements

As the pilot develops his/her flying experience from Bronze through to Platinum Wings, each stage of the scheme requires two new Achievements to be demonstrated. The Achievements recognised in this category are listed below. They do not have to be accomplished in any particular order. However, the application for Silver Wings must show that two have been met, a total of four for Gold (which could include the two cited in a previous application for Silver) and, similarly, six for Platinum. For the purposes of this category the qualifications recognised as achievements include:

Flying qualifications:

- Night Qualification
- IMC Rating
- Addition to JAR-FCL PPL of another rating (SEP, TMG, MEP, SLMG or Microlight)
- Addition to NPPL of another rating (SSEA, SLMG or Microlight)
- NPPL converted to JAR-FCL PPL
- Instrument Rating
- Flight Instructor Rating
- Display Authorisation
- Ultimate High Advanced PPL Syllabus
- Royal Aero Club Records, Racing & Rally Association Air Race School
- Seaplane Rating

Certificates:

- AOPA Radio Navigation Certificate
- AOPA Basic Aerobatic Certificate & Standard Aerobatic Certificate
- AOPA Ground Instructor Certificate

Training:

- Two items of differences training on complex features (eg. retractable gear, VP propeller, turbo charger, pressurisation, nose-wheel to tail-dragger and vice versa), aeroplanes with single power lever controls and aircraft with electronic ('glass') flight instruments.
- Conversion to three additional and distinct types of aircraft (state types in application e.g. PA28, C172, DHC1 etc)

Activities:

- Complete one Royal Aero Club handicapped Air Race
- Complete one British Aerobatics Association Aerobatic Competition
- Complete one British Precision Flying Association Precision Flying Competition
- Complete one Royal Institute of Navigation Top Nav Competition
- Complete any other organised event with the prior approval of AOPA.

Achievements are not limited to the above lists. Alternative achievements may be considered when submitted with the relevant supporting documentation.

3. Seminar Attendance

For the Platinum Wings Award the applicant should be able to demonstrate that a minimum of three different types of approved seminar have been attended, two for the Gold and one for Silver. Currently approved Seminars are:

- CAA Safety Evening
- GASCo Flight Safety Forum
- AOPA Flight Instructor Refresher Seminar (*non-instructors may attend for a minimum of one day*)
- Military Civil Air Safety Day
- Weather School courses (*various providers*)
- PPL Masterclass
- RAeC "Three R's" Race School Day

- NATS visit with infringements presentation
- Light Aviation Sea Survival Course
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Course
- Any other Seminar previously approved by AOPA

Evidence of attendance should be obtained. This may be in the form of a letter, or a certificate, or a stamp in pilot's log book etc

4. Air Touring Experience

To encourage cross-country flying, three separate qualifying flights are defined below in terms of minimum criteria for total distance and number of intermediate landings between the point of departure and the final destination. The intermediate landings must be made at different airfields from the point of departure and the final destination. The applicant is to be the Pilot-in-Command for the complete qualifying flight.

The applicant is required to show that the requirements for one of these qualifying flights have been met when applying for Silver Wings, two for Gold and all three for Platinum. The chronological order in which they are achieved is not prescribed (eg. flight C could be submitted in application for Silver). A pilot holding a Professional Licence may not include either flights conducted within commercial activities, nor in aircraft other than those covered by the ratings specified in "**PARTICIPATION IN SCHEME**".

Minimum requirements for qualifying flights:

- A.** A flight of total distance greater than 300 nm with at least two intermediate landings, **OR**
A flight of total distance greater than 200 nm with a sea crossing (>20 nm) and at least one intermediate landing.
- B.** A flight of total distance greater than 500 nm with at least three intermediate landings, **OR**
A flight of total distance greater than 400 nm with a sea crossing (>20 nm) and at least three intermediate landings.
- C.** A flight of total distance greater than 600 nm with at least four intermediate landings, **OR**
A flight of total distance greater than 500 nm with a sea crossing (>20 nm) and at least four intermediate landings.

APPLICATION FOR A WINGS AWARD

The applicant must complete the form on pages 6 to 8 of this Guide. The initial application may be for any level of the Wings Award but must provide details of all the qualifying flights, achievements and seminars that relate to it. The application (with supporting evidence) should be presented for authentication to the Chief Flying Instructor of a Flight Training Organisation or Registered Training Facility that is a Corporate Member of AOPA and in which the applicant is a member. Alternatively, the application (with supporting evidence) may be presented to the Chief Executive of AOPA.

To cover the cost of administering the scheme the following fees are applicable:

AWARD LEVEL	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
Administration Fee	None	£30.00	£30.00	£30.00

The completed application form, together with the appropriate fee, should be sent to the Administrative Secretary, AOPA, 50a Cambridge Street, London, SW1V 4QQ. Provided that the necessary requirements are met the appropriate AOPA Wings will be issued to recognise the achievement; these will be sent to the applicant, unless a request has been made for them to be sent to the Corporate Member's, or other address. The Wings Award badge is accompanied by a signed Certificate.

CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF AOPA WINGS

AWARD LEVEL	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
Minimum Total Flight Time Minimum PIC Time (See Section 1 above)	n.a. n.a.	150 h 70 h	300 h 200 h	500h 400 h
Total Number of Achievements (See Section 2 above)	0	2	4	6
Seminar Attendance – Total Number of Approved Seminars attended (See Section 3 above)	0	1	2	3
Air Touring Experience as PIC – Total Number of Qualifying Flights (See Section 4 above)	0	1	2	3

n.a. not applicable