

ATM simulation pilot

An ATM simulation pilot represents pilots or other positions inside an air traffic control training simulation. This is not a drone pilot job and does not mean flying an aircraft. SAIC and Airservices describe computer-and-voice work supporting instructors and trainees; the role must be distinguished from the controller being trained and the engineer maintaining the simulator. [EMP1, EMP2]

Other titles to compare: Remote pilot operator in ATC simulation, Simulator support officer, Pseudo-pilot where duties align. Titles alone do not establish equivalent duties.

What the role does

- Operate simulated aircraft/position responses within the training exercise. [EMP1]
- Coordinate with instructors and adapt the simulated scenario to its objectives. [EMP2]
- Interpret displayed information and communicate clearly through the simulator system. [EMP1]

Where the work happens

On-site controller-training simulator; Rostered training-support team.

Employer example 1

SAIC • United States • AVP Remote Pilot Operator (2618164)

Active vacancy when checked • Checked 2026-10-27 [EMP1]

Category	What this employer states
Essential in this source	US citizenship and ability to obtain/maintain Public Trust suitability. High-school diploma/equivalent, basic computer proficiency, diagram/manual interpretation and clear speech.
Desirable in this source	ATC simulation experience/certification, relevant terminology familiarity and teamwork/office-tool skills.
Other stated conditions	On-site rotating shifts; required classroom and laboratory certification after selection.

One employer and stated role only; this record does not establish current hiring unless explicitly marked active.

Employer example 2

Airservices Australia • Australia • Simulator Support Officer (502953)

Active vacancy when checked • Checked 2026-10-27 [EMP2]

Category	What this employer states
Essential in this source	Information assessment, communication, computer literacy, teamwork and accuracy under pressure. Australian citizen or permanent resident; stated ASIC/security process.
Desirable in this source	Aviation/ATC/simulator/training experience and radiotelephony knowledge.
Other stated conditions	Prior aviation experience not required; training provided; Sydney on-site, rotating seven-day roster.

One employer and stated role only; this record does not establish current hiring unless explicitly marked active.

PREPARE AND VERIFY

Separate requirements from preparation

Employer competence versus aircraft-pilot licensing: The FAA facility description confirms a simulation setting. The two employers specify their own training, security and competence arrangements. This evidence does not establish a universal simulation-pilot licence, nor does the word pilot alone establish a requirement for an aircraft or UAS pilot certificate. Check the exact notice and local function. [EMP1, EMP2, REF1]

Still to verify: No independent personal licensing/occupational-standard assessment completed for these simulation-support roles. Vacancies may close or change after the checked date.

Explore a realistic entry route

- Search using simulation-specific titles and read the duties before selecting a course. Check whether a vacancy concerns ATC training, a flight-training cockpit simulator, software engineering or UAS operations; these are different jobs despite overlapping words.
- Compare required communication, computer and information-processing skills with your own evidence. The two examples allow consideration without previous aviation experience, but this does not remove selection or workplace training. Record any stated certification as employer training unless an authority source establishes otherwise.
- Investigate the roster, workplace and training assessment. Ask what supervised learning is provided and which positions you must qualify on. Do not spend money on an aircraft-pilot course solely because an ATC simulation vacancy contains the word pilot.

Build evidence of your skills

- Practise an invented non-aviation instruction exercise with a partner: update coloured tokens in a spreadsheet after clear spoken requests. Track corrections and ask for clarification when a request is ambiguous; do not use aviation clearances or claim operational phraseology proficiency.
- Write a short reflection on learning unfamiliar software. Show the instructions you followed, the error you noticed and how you verified the correction. A truthful learning log is more useful than presenting hobby gaming as automatic professional competence.

Prepare for an interview

Reflection prompts only, not questions claimed to be used by an employer.

- Preparation prompt: how would you explain the difference between supporting an exercise and being responsible for the trainee's assessment? Describe how you would establish boundaries with the instructor.
- Prepare a real example of remaining accurate when instructions changed. Explain how you checked understanding, acknowledged a mistake and returned to the agreed task without inventing aviation experience.

Investigate possible next roles

Investigate exercise preparation, senior simulation support or training-technology roles. Becoming an ATCO or a flight instructor requires its own entry, training and authorization process; simulation-support experience does not automatically transfer those privileges.

Sources and scope

[EMP1] [SAIC AVP Remote Pilot Operator \(2618164\)](#)

Active vacancy when checked. United States. Checked 2026-10-27.

[EMP2] [Airservices Australia Simulator Support Officer \(502953\)](#)

Active vacancy when checked. Australia. Checked 2026-10-27.

[REF1] [FAA En Route Integration and Interoperability Facility - Laboratory Capabilities](#)

Official description of pilot-in-the-loop simulation and voice-equipped simulation-pilot positions. Facility context only, not an employment qualification or personal licensing standard; updated 22 April 2025. Checked 2026-10-27.

Educational reference. Verify current requirements with the relevant authority and employer. Examples are selected employer conditions, not an exhaustive application checklist or worldwide eligibility rules. Verify the current notice before acting. Learning exercises are not operational training, assessment or evidence of professional authorization. No job guarantee.