

UAS flight test engineer

A UAS flight test engineer helps turn a development question into controlled evidence about an aircraft or system. Some posts combine engineering, test coordination and piloting; others separate them. The examples demonstrate that even employers using the same title may expect very different education and experience. This guide describes a career, not how to plan or conduct a flight test.

Other titles to compare: Uncrewed aircraft flight test engineer. Titles alone do not establish equivalent duties.

What the role does

- Prepare and review test evidence within the organisation's approved process.
- Coordinate with engineering and operations colleagues.
- Analyse recorded results and document limitations.
- Communicate findings to the responsible reviewers.

Where the work happens

Development offices and controlled test sites. The examples are a California field-oriented role and a senior German certification role.

Employer example 1

Pyka • United States • Flight Test Engineer - Multiple Levels

Vacancy status unconfirmed not an offer • Checked 2026-10-27 [EMP1]

Category	What this employer states
Essential in this source	UAV/model flying, ground-control software, mechanical/electrical troubleshooting, data-log analysis and aircraft knowledge. Linux/git familiarity, high-voltage safety knowledge, Portuguese or Spanish, communication and detail.
Desirable in this source	Part 61 pilot certificate.
Other stated conditions	Engineering degree explicitly not required; employer welcomes imperfect matches. Location, travel and export-access conditions apply.

One employer and role, not worldwide eligibility. Closed or undated examples do not establish current hiring.

Employer example 2

Wingcopter • Germany • Senior Certification Flight Test Engineer

Vacancy status unconfirmed not an offer • Checked 2026-10-27 [EMP2]

Category	What this employer states
Essential in this source	Relevant master degree; eight years flight-testing experience and direct aviation-authority experience. UAS systems/testing skills; A1/A3 credential, EU Class B driving licence, fluent English and intermediate German.
Other stated conditions	Senior certification role; no reliable posting or closing date shown.

One employer and role, not worldwide eligibility. Closed or undated examples do not establish current hiring.

Desirable requirements are not separately classified here; do not infer that none apply.

PREPARE AND VERIFY

Separate requirements from preparation

United States - aircraft and operation approval: FAA describes aircraft certification routes including experimental purposes. Employment as an engineer does not itself approve an aircraft or authorise a test operation. [REG1]

EASA framework - credential terminology: Wingcopter calls A1/A3 a licence. EASA describes the relevant open-category training/examination evidence; it is not a blanket flight-test authorisation. [REG2, EMP2]

Still to verify: Two independent employers are verified; current hiring status is unconfirmed. Full test-authorisation and export-control eligibility assessments are outside this guide.

Explore a realistic entry route

- Compare the duty split before choosing a training route. A hands-on field test role and a senior certification engineering post can share a title while requiring quite different preparation. Keep the two examples separate in your comparison.
- Build foundations in engineering reasoning, data analysis, technical writing and disciplined teamwork. Look for supervised projects where you must define a question, record evidence and explain what a result can and cannot demonstrate.
- If a post includes flying, verify the pilot competence and operational framework separately from the engineering criteria. Do not assume that an engineering degree or a recreational flying background grants professional test privileges.
- For a beginner route, investigate relevant study, internships and supervised laboratory or test-support work. The senior example's experience requirement is not the minimum for every first job in aircraft testing.

Build evidence of your skills

- Design a harmless classroom experiment using a non-flying object. Write an objective, a measurement plan, acceptance questions and a results note. Label assumptions and uncertainty; do not adapt it into an aircraft test procedure.
- Analyse invented data with a clearly documented method. Include a surprising result and explain how you would check for measurement or transcription problems before concluding that a design has succeeded.
- Practise reviewing a peer's fictional report for traceability: can each conclusion be linked to evidence, and are unresolved questions visible? Avoid writing safety or certification approvals you are not authorised to make.

Prepare for an interview

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

- Prepare an example of revising a conclusion after reviewing evidence. Show how you separated personal confidence from a result that another person could verify.
- Ask about test supervision, review authority, the engineering-versus-pilot split and support for learning the applicable framework. These are preparation prompts, not actual employer questions or test instructions.

Investigate possible next roles

Possible directions include test analysis, integration, certification support or test leadership. Progression depends on experience, competence and local authorisations; one employer's flexibility does not remove another employer's stated requirements.

Sources and scope

[EMP1] [Pyka Flight Test Engineer - Multiple Levels](#)

Vacancy status unconfirmed not an offer. United States. Checked 2026-10-27.

[EMP2] [Wingcopter Senior Certification Flight Test Engineer](#)

Vacancy status unconfirmed not an offer. Germany. Checked 2026-10-27.

[REG1] [Federal Aviation Administration UAS Certification](#)

Aircraft certification routes, including experimental purposes. Aircraft approval is different from a personal engineering qualification; not permission for a specific test. Checked 2026-10-27.

[REG2] [European Union Aviation Safety Agency Training requirements in the open category](#)

Explains A1/A3 training and theoretical examination evidence. Open-category competence does not by itself authorise every developmental or certification flight. Checked 2026-10-27.

Educational requirements guide, not operational instructions, professional approval or an employment guarantee. Verify current requirements with the relevant authority and employer. Examples are selective and date-specific. Check the full current vacancy and competent authority before choosing paid training or assessing eligibility. No personal medical, nationality or immigration assessment is made here. No job guarantee.