

My experience in the Dragon Aviation Certificate Programme (DACP)

Rex Chau (AOAL student)



I am Rex Chau, a year-2 student studying the Associate of Science in Airport Operation and Aviation Logistic (AOAL) at the Community College of City University. 2012 was an auspicious year as I had been selected to be 1 of the 24 participants of the Dragonair Aviation Certificate Programme 2012 (DACP).

DACP is organized by Dragonair. It aims to cultivate youths who are passionate about aviation. Throughout this eight-month programme, we were given countless eyes-opening opportunities and valuable experiences in the aviation world. In order to familiarize us with the industry, the programme offers numerous visits to more than 14 different aviation organizations. They range from governmental departments such as Government Flying Service, Civil Aviation Department, and a variety of ground handling companies to different corporate departments of Dragonair. We also had the opportunities to experience aerobatics, such as loops and inverted flying, in a Mudry Cap 10 aerobatic aircraft in Shek Kong Airport. Furthermore, we gained hands on experience in the state-of-the-art A330 simulator at the Cathay Pacific Flight Training Center where most local pilots are trained.



The visits

Apart from these quantitative experiences, it is the one-to-one mentorship with an incumbent Captain of Dragonair that makes DACP an ultimate aviation programme. During the eight-month period, I had been mentored by a current A330 captain of Dragonair who enriched my knowledge in aviation and shared his attitude toward his aviation career with me through regular monthly meetings. Last August, I had a cockpit observation ride to Beijing with my mentor. That once-in-a-life time experience allows me to have a first-hand observation of the daily operation of an airline pilot. The stunning night views from the cockpit are absolutely incomparable to anything I have ever seen.



My flying experience

As an aviation enthusiast who has a dream of becoming a commercial pilot since I was a child, DACP is definitely the turning point of my life. I am very grateful to Captain Marcus de Santis, founder of the DACP, who has always been the motivator and leads us to believe that we can achieve anything as long as we preserve and work hard for it. One of the best things I have gained from DACP is certainly the friendship that I have developed with my mentor, Captain Tim Simpson. Throughout the whole programme, Tim has given me unconditional guidance and support, which is very significant to my personal and career development. It is my dearest wish to become a pilot with great virtues in the near future, one that resembles Tim.



The Graduation Ceremony