

HUMAN FACTORS IN FLIGHT SAFETY

INITIAL TRAINING COURSE



EAAP

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR AVIATION PSYCHOLOGY

SITGES

13-17 APRIL 2026

AN EAAP-RECOGNISED TRAINING COURSE
KINDLY SUPPORTED BY VUELING

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Human Factors in Flight Safety

The 31st EAAP-recognised **Human Factors in Flight Safety** initial course will be held in Sitges, near Barcelona, from **13-17 April 2026**, kindly hosted by **Vueling**.

This popular training course has been conducted on behalf of the European Association for Aviation Psychology (EAAP) since 1999. This will be the 11th time the course is held in Spain, and the ninth time it has been very kindly hosted and supported by **Vueling**.

The course content is regularly reviewed, modified and updated to ensure that it addresses the human factors aspects of current challenges for the global aviation system. The course receives very positive reviews from participants, who represent airlines, ANSPs, aircraft maintenance organisations, aircraft and aerospace manufacturers, the military, aviation regulators and air safety investigation agencies. Course participants are drawn from many countries within Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Asia Pacific region, the UK and North and South America.

Dr Alan Hobbs and Brent Hayward will again lead the course, supported by guest speakers Catarina Cunha and Gunnar Steinhardt.

Course Objective

To provide participants with human factors knowledge and practical tools that can be applied to improve operational safety management, risk management, safety occurrence investigation and reporting, safety culture and staff wellbeing in both civil and military aviation operations.

Course Overview

Operational experience, systemic investigation and applied research confirm that people are the strongest contributors to system safety and system resilience, whether on the flight deck, in the cabin, ATC, the hangar or on the ramp. Simultaneously, human factors at both individual and organisational levels constitute the greatest sources of risk to aviation operations.



The 2026 Human Factors in Flight Safety course will address current and emerging human factors issues and challenges in achieving and sustaining safe and effective operations. This will include the integration of proactive risk management and systemic safety investigation approaches, with an emphasis on practical techniques for application in organisational settings.

The course will promote a focus on humans as our most valuable assets, emphasising the benefits of adopting a systems thinking approach to ensure that we provide our people with the most appropriate training, equipment, work environment and culture to enable them to perform safely and effectively under diverse operational circumstances and conditions.

A systemic approach to safety investigation and safety management produces positive impacts on flight safety and accident prevention programs, on the design of aerospace technology and equipment, standard operating procedures, personnel selection, training, flight standards, SMS and industry regulation.

Similarly, the integration of core human factors knowledge into risk management, safety enhancement, and proactive accident prevention programs is critical to their success.

Ensuring that staff are both physically and psychologically fit for duty is more important than ever, and this course will also provide a focus on current mental health and wellbeing challenges for aviation workers.

A positive safety culture is essential to effective safety management and the course addresses this topic, including practical means of developing, maintaining and enhancing safety culture within an organisation.

The course emphasises the positive contribution that people make every day to system safety and resilience.

In summary, the 2026 Human Factors in Flight Safety course will assist participants to identify and manage current and emerging human factors issues and challenges, with the goal of ensuring safe and effective operations.



Course participants have come from many countries across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Americas and Asia



Sitges, May 2024



Course Content

Content for the EAAP Human Factors in Flight Safety initial training course has been continually revised and updated since its inception in 1999.

The 2026 Human Factors in Flight Safety initial training course will include coverage and discussion of the following topics:

- *Introduction to Aviation Human Factors*
 - Definition of Human Factors
 - History of Aviation Psychology and Human Factors
 - Major accidents and their lessons
 - The evolution of Aviation Human Factors
 - The positive contribution of people to safety
- *Understanding human behaviour*
 - Theories and myths of human error
 - The fallacy of 'accident cause'
 - Error & non-compliance
 - Taking the "crew's shoes" view
- *Introduction to human performance*
- *Contextual influences on human performance*
- *Mental health & wellbeing in the aviation industry*
(Guest speaker: Catarina Cunha)
- *Human factors and systems safety ~ Practical concepts*
- *Operationalising the Swiss Cheese model for safety occurrence investigation and prevention*
 - Including application of James Reason's 'Swiss Cheese' model to a range of illustrative case studies
- *Human factors and risk management*
- *Application of human factors: Barriers & Controls*
- *Emerging Technologies & Concepts in aviation*
- *Safety Culture & Just Culture*
- *Aviation psychology and human factors in practice*
(Guest speaker: Gunnar Steinhardt)
- *A systemic accident: An illustrative case study*
 - Safety I & Safety II perspectives
 - Identifying system improvements
- *Major Exercise / case study featuring application of the PIRATe methodology.*

Participants

Highly relevant to all aviation personnel, the course is aimed at aviation professionals working in or supporting civil or military flight operations, including cabin crew, pilots, ATCOs, maintenance engineers, safety managers, psychologists, human factors managers, trainers, CRM instructors, air safety investigators, aviation regulators and other safety professionals. Participants from other safety-critical domains such as maritime, rail, nuclear power and health care are also most welcome to attend.

The course will also provide newcomers with a broad introduction to the expanding field of applied aviation psychology and human factors.

Course Language

English.

Course Certificate

Participants will receive a certificate on successful completion of the Human Factors in Flight Safety initial training course. To receive the certificate, participants are expected to attend all sessions during the course and actively engage in group discussions, case studies and syndicate exercises.

EAAP Recognition

The Human Factors in Flight Safety initial training course is recognised by EAAP as contributing towards EAAP accreditation as an Aviation Psychologist or Human Factors Specialist.

Further information on joining EAAP and gaining accreditation can be found on the EAAP website: www.eaap.net



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The Course Team

The experienced team of Brent Hayward and Dr Alan Hobbs will lead this applied human factors training course. Alan and Brent each have extensive experience and knowledge in the application of occupational psychology and human factors concepts to enhance operational performance and safety in a range of settings. This includes the investigation of human factors aspects of numerous accidents and incidents, as well as the development and implementation of a wide range of applied human factors solutions and training programs for the aviation and aerospace industries. The course will also feature special guest presentations from clinical and health psychologist Catarina Cunha and aviation psychologist and current EAAP President Gunnar Steinhardt.

Brent Hayward

- Brent is the founder of Dédale Asia Pacific, an aviation psychology, human factors and safety consultancy based in Melbourne, Australia.
- Brent's career spans more than 40 years, working with the RAAF, Australian Airlines, QANTAS and as a consultant to various airlines, ANSPs, aircraft manufacturers, airports and safety regulators.
- He has extensive experience in the investigation of human factors aspects of both military and civil aircraft accidents and safety incidents.
- Brent has developed and delivered training in aviation psychology, human factors, systemic safety investigation, CRM, and safety culture enhancement for organisations across the Asia Pacific region and in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and South America.
- He has consulted on a variety of human factors and safety projects within aviation, as well as in railway operations, maritime, health care, and nuclear safety.
- Brent has developed and produced various aviation safety training media and films, and has written and edited numerous aviation psychology, human factors and safety publications and conference presentations.
- Brent was Founding President of the Australian Aviation Psychology Association (AAvPA) and is a long-standing member of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES), the International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI) and EAAP.
- In 2003 Brent received the Third AAvPA Aviation Human Factors Achievement Award.
- In September 2022 Brent was elected by EAAP members as the 12th Honorary Member of EAAP.
- In December 2024 Brent was awarded the Royal Aeronautical Society's (RAeS) *Roger Green Medal for Human Factors* "for contributions to aviation psychology, human factors and flight safety".

Dr Alan Hobbs

- Alan is a Senior Human Factors Researcher with the San Jose State University Foundation, located at the NASA Ames Research Center in California.
- He has a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of NSW, Sydney, Australia.
- His current areas of interest include human factors in maintenance, human factors of remotely operated aircraft systems, and the implications of human error for the robustness of complex systems. He is an advisor to the ICAO Panel on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS).
- From 1991 to 2001, Alan was a human performance investigator at the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB), and its predecessor organisation, the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation, in Canberra, Australia. In addition to investigation work, he conducted ATSB training courses on safety investigation methods.
- In the 1990s, Alan conducted some of the first systemic investigations of aviation accidents and incidents using James Reason's "Swiss Cheese" Model.
- Alan has published extensively on HF in maintenance, including the book *"Managing Maintenance Error"*, co-authored with Professor James Reason.
- As a consultant, he has produced training material on mishap investigation and human factors for a range of organisations, including the University of Southern California, Airservices Australia, CASA, the Republic of Indonesia, ATSB, NASA, and the mining industry.
- Alan is past president of the Association for Aviation Psychology (USA), and is a Member of the International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI), the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES), and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

Essential Details

Course Dates

The course will run from **08:45** hrs on Monday 13th April through to **17:00** hrs on Friday 17th April 2026.

Course Location

The venue for the course is the *Hotel Calipolis* in *Sitges*, a picturesque Catalan coastal town about 38 km south-west of central Barcelona, and just 25 km from Barcelona El Prat Airport (BCN).

Transport

Sitges can be reached in about 30 minutes by direct bus or taxi from T1 at BCN airport, and is also served by frequent trains to and from central Barcelona.

Hotel Accommodation

The *Hotel Calipolis* is a first-class seafront hotel located on the *Paseo Marítimo* in central Sitges. The hotel is a flat walk of about 10 minutes from the Sitges railway station and two airport bus stops. Participants intending to stay at the *Hotel Calipolis* should make bookings ASAP directly via the hotel website using the code **EAAP2026** to receive a 10% discount on currently available room rates, offering flexible and free cancellation until day of arrival. Joining *Club Calipolis* while booking may provide further benefits.

Contact details for the Hotel Calipolis:

Hotel Calipolis

Avenida Sofia 2-6, Sitges (Barcelona) 08870, Spain
Telephone: +34 938 941 500

E-mail: info@hotelcalipolis.com

Website: <https://www.hotelcalipolis.com/en/>

Please note:

While participants may find it most convenient to stay at the Hotel Calipolis, Sitges offers a wide range of hotel and apartment accommodation that can be accessed through the usual booking services.

It is suggested that participants explore their options and select accommodation in the area according to their preferred booking conditions and budget.

To Make Hotel Calipolis Reservations

Reservations to stay at the Hotel Calipolis can be made directly via the hotel website, using the code **EAAP2026** to obtain a 10% discount on current room rates with flexible free cancellation conditions:

<https://www.hotelcalipolis.com/en/>

Joining the Club Calipolis loyalty scheme while booking may provide further benefits.

Course Registration Fee

EAAP Members: 2,000 EUR. Others: 2,400 EUR.

The course registration fee covers all course materials and tuition, a *Course Welcome* function on the evening of Monday 13th April, a *Course Dinner* on Thursday 16th April, and daily refreshment breaks (not lunch).

Please note: While attendance at evening functions is voluntary, no refund can be made if unable to attend.

SPECIAL NOTE: An **Early Bird discount of 200 EUR** will apply to registrations received by **2nd March 2026**.

Payment of Fees

Fee payment should be made ASAP after registration, by funds transfer to the following Wise Bank account:

Account name: Dedale Asia Pacific Pty Ltd

SWIFT/BIC: TRWIBEB1XXX

IBAN: BE68 9672 6685 3834

Address: WISE, Rue du Trône 100, 3rd Floor
Brussels, 1050, Belgium.

Please include course participant's name and organisation when making payment.

Course Registration Deadline

To guarantee your place on this course, please submit the attached *Registration Form* by 2nd April 2026.

Cancellation Policy

If conditions compel cancellation of the course before commencement, registration fees can be credited toward a future course or refunded. If a refund is requested a small admin fee may be deducted.

Further Information

For further information or details, please contact Brent Hayward: brent@dedale.net.au

EAAP Accreditation & Membership

Completion of this course is recognised by the European Association for Aviation Psychology (EAAP) as contributing toward certification as an *Aviation Psychologist* or *Human Factors Specialist*.

Established in 1956, EAAP is a global, professional, independent, non-profit organisation, dedicated to the promotion of aviation safety and efficiency through the application of aviation psychology. For further information on EAAP membership and accreditation, please visit the EAAP web site: www.eaap.net



COURSE REGISTRATION FORM

“Human Factors in Flight Safety”

13-17 April 2026, Sitges

Please complete and e-mail this form ASAP

to Brent Hayward: brent@dedale.net.au

Participant Details:

First name/s:	Family name:	
Title (Dr/Capt/Mr/Ms/other):	Job function / title:	
Organisation:	EAAP Membership number (if applicable):	
Postal address:		
City:	Postcode:	Country:
Telephone:	Email:	

Registration Fee to be paid: (please select one only)

Early Bird Fee * (pay by 2nd March):	EAAP Member: 1,800 € <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Member: 2,200 € <input type="checkbox"/>
Standard Fee (pay after 2nd March):	EAAP Member: 2,000 € <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Member: 2,400 € <input type="checkbox"/>

* Please note:

1. Payment of the Early Bird fee **must be made by 2nd March 2026.**
2. Please make SEPA electronic funds transfer to our Wise Bank account:

Account name: Dedale Asia Pacific Pty Ltd

SWIFT/BIC code: TRWIBEB1XXX

Account IBAN: BE68 9672 6685 3834

Please provide your name and organisation when making electronic payment.

Hotel Accommodation:

Do you intend to stay at the <i>Hotel Calipolis?</i>	Yes I will make a reservation at Hotel Calipolis <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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This EAAP-recognised training course is kindly sponsored by **Vueling**

