INSTRUMENT RATINGS / BIR(A)

Basic Instrument Rating

A competency-based introduction to instrument flying for private pilots.



Course summary

The BIR develops practical IFR skills through core aircraft handling, instrument procedures and en-route flying. It has more restrictive operating minima and privileges than a full IR. It is not an ICAO-compliant IR, so international recognition must be checked before use outside the EASA system.

Entry requirements

- Hold at least a PPL(A), an appropriate medical and relevant class privileges.
- A night rating is required to exercise BIR privileges at night.
- An initial discussion and assessment establish your training needs.

Credits available

- A valid third-country ICAO IR(A), together with a Part-FCL PPL or CPL, may give full flight-training credit under FCL.835(h). At least 25 hours IFR as PIC in aeroplanes, the BIR skill test and the specified oral knowledge demonstration remain required. The ATO confirms the applicable theory arrangements.
- For other applicants there is no fixed-hour course against which to deduct hours. Previous instruction and IFR experience inform the competency assessment and training plan.

BIR(A) / TRAINING & NEXT STEPS

Hours

Flight training minimum	Competency-based; no fixed minimum hours
Module 1	Core handling by sole reference to instruments
Modules 2 and 3	IFR departures, holding and approaches; en-route IFR
Club planning guidance	12 / 20 / 8 syllabus hours; guidance only
Ground briefings	Approximately 21 hours in the supplied club outline; guidance only
Completion	BIR skill test in the relevant aeroplane

Module 1 comes first. The later single-engine modules may be completed in either order. Training must include the aeroplane used for the test.

Theoretical knowledge (TK)

Three module examinations cover the required instrument theoretical knowledge. Knowledge is developed alongside the practical modules. Ask us about existing IR theory credits and the examination route that applies to you.

Frequently asked questions

Is a BIR the same as a full IR?

No. Aircraft and operating restrictions apply, including increased approach minima. We will explain the privileges and limitations in training.

Can I progress to a full IR?

Yes. BIR holders have defined routes into a competency-based IR. Required instruction, experience, theory and testing depend on your background.

Does home simulator practice count as credited flight time?

It can support learning, but is not automatically creditable logged instruction. Discuss how to practise usefully with your instructor.

Your next step

Enquire at info@waterfordaeroclub.com. Tell us your goals and flying experience. Training availability, approved scope and individual eligibility are confirmed before enrolment.

Prices are maintained separately on the website pricing page. Contact the club for current pricing.

Reference: FCL.835; supplied BIR course and credit summaries, including TM v1.3. EASA Aircrew rules, November 2025 edition.