

# Becoming an Air Traffic Controller in the Middle East

Explore the path to a critical role in aviation, ensuring safe and efficient skies across the region.



# Licensing & Regulations

Air Traffic Controller (ATC) licenses in the Middle East are issued by national civil aviation authorities in each country.

Each state approves training, assesses competence, and issues licenses, adhering to **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** regulations and national requirements.

# The Selection Process

Becoming an ATC in the Middle East requires passing a competitive national selection process, managed by the air navigation service provider or government aviation authority.



## Aptitude & Cognitive Testing

Assessments for critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



## English Language Assessment

Proficiency in English is crucial for international communication.



## Interviews & Assessments

Structured evaluations of communication and decision-making abilities.



## Medical & Security Checks

Ensuring physical and mental fitness, aligned with ICAO standards.

# Medical Requirements

ATCs must meet stringent aviation medical standards, generally adhering to **ICAO Class 3 medical** requirements.

This involves an **aviation medical examination** covering vision, hearing, cardiovascular health, neurological fitness, and psychological suitability.

Medical certificates are issued by approved examiners and must be **renewed regularly** to maintain ATC privileges.

# Education & Language Skills

## English Proficiency

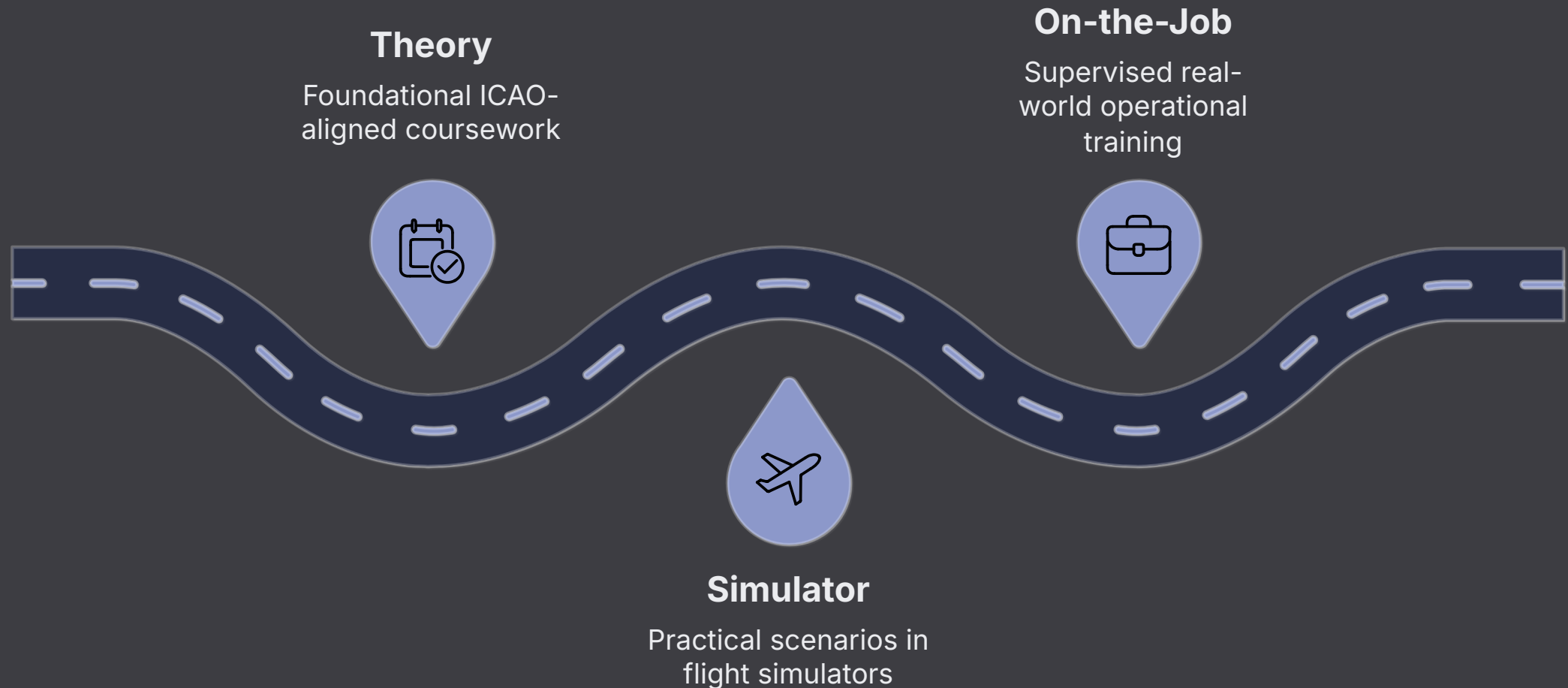
High levels of spoken and written English are mandatory, as it is the operational language of air traffic control.

## Secondary Education

Applicants typically need a high school diploma, with a strong background in mathematics and science preferred.

# Comprehensive Training Program

After selection, trainees undergo a structured program aligned with ICAO standards, provided by national aviation authority-approved organizations.



Successful completion of all phases and examinations is required for licensing and independent work.

# Training Duration



**Air traffic control training is delivered through approved aviation academies and follows a structured progression.**

Examples in the region include:

- Royal Jordanian Air Navigation Services (RJANS) Training Centre – Jordan
- Sheikh Zayed Air Navigation Centre – United Arab Emirates
- SANS Academy – Saudi Arabia

## 1 Theory (3-6 months)

Aviation law, meteorology, navigation, aircraft characteristics, **Airspace Management**.

## 2 Simulation (6-12 months)

Hundreds of hours practicing routine landings and emergency scenarios in 2D/3D simulators.

# Types of ATC Work (Ratings)

ATCs are licensed with specific ratings, defining their authorized control services based on ICAO standards and national regulations.



## **Aerodrome Control**

Tower control at airports, managing ground and air traffic.



## **Approach Control**

Managing aircraft arriving and departing within terminal airspace.



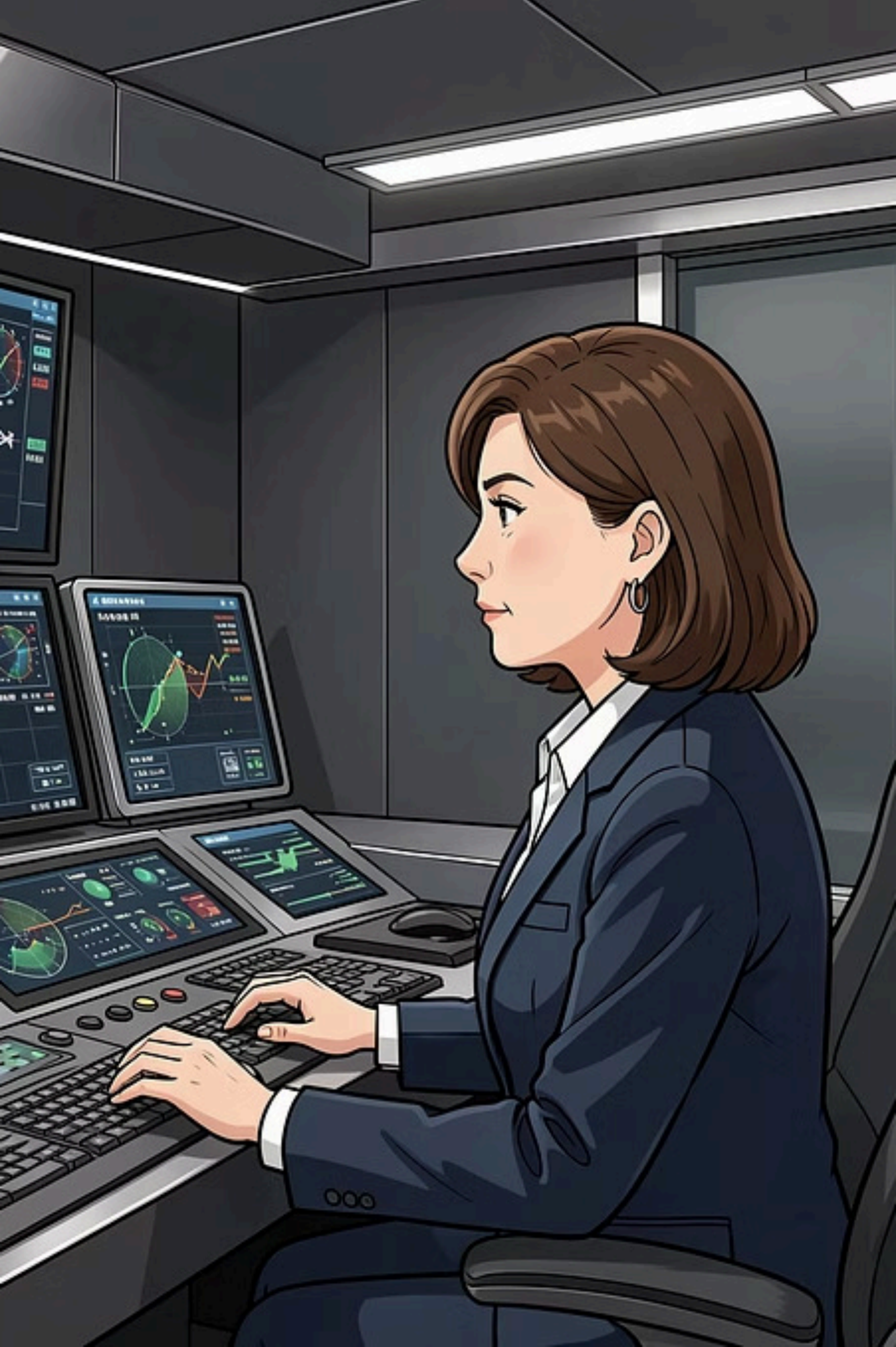
## **Area Control**

En-route control of aircraft cruising between airports.

# Key Requirements Overview

Requirement	UAE (GCAA)	Saudi (GACA)	Oman (CAA)
Entry Age	18-24 years	Defined by ANSP	18+ years
Education	High school / degree	High school / higher	As per CAA rules
Medical	Required (Class III)	Required	Required
English	IELTS / equivalent	IELTS / STEPS / equivalent	IELTS / equivalent

Requirements vary by country but align with ICAO standards.



# A Rewarding Career

Becoming an Air Traffic Controller in the Middle East offers a challenging and vital role in global aviation, with opportunities for growth and impact.

