

Becoming an Air Traffic Controller

With the busiest airspace in the world, it's crucial that we recruit effectively through a rigorous assessment and selection process.

The Numbers

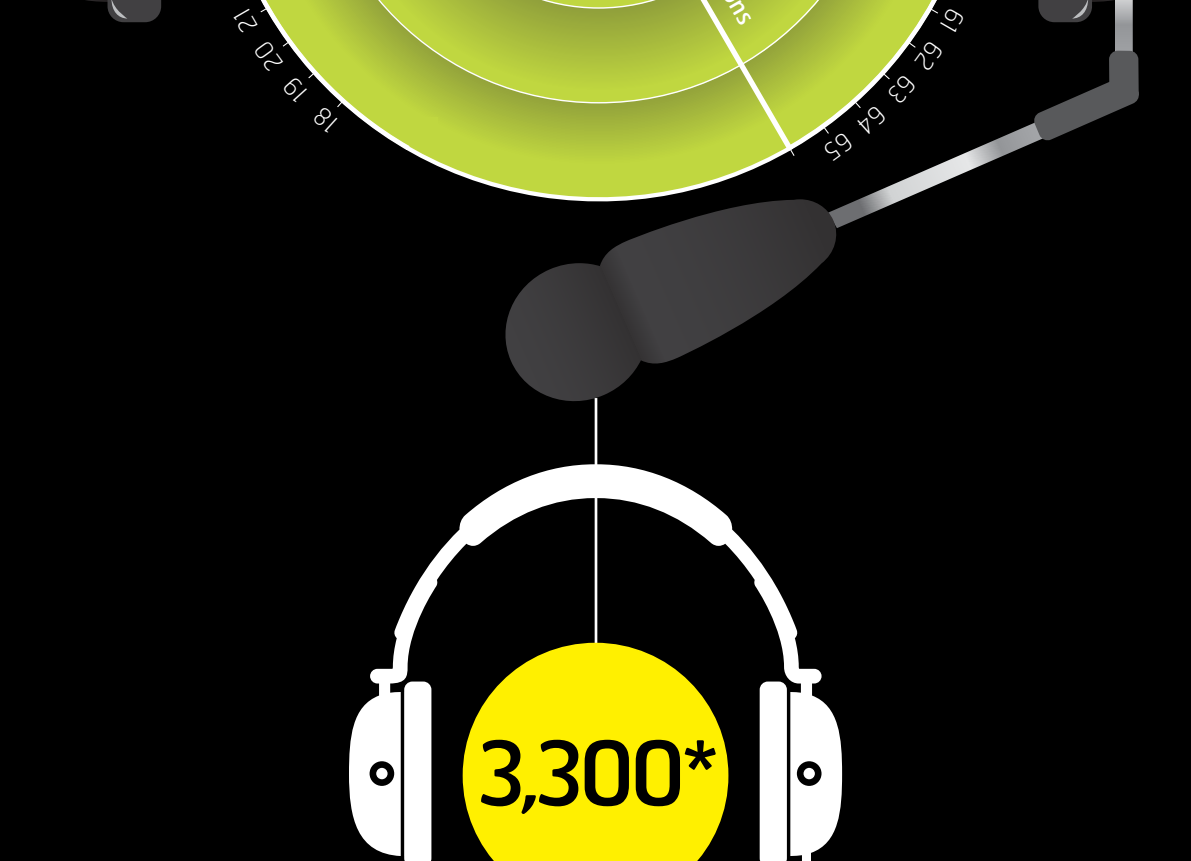
On average we need to assess 3,300 applicants to find 15 Controllers that will validate to work on live airspace. 0.5% of applicants are successful.



The Applicants

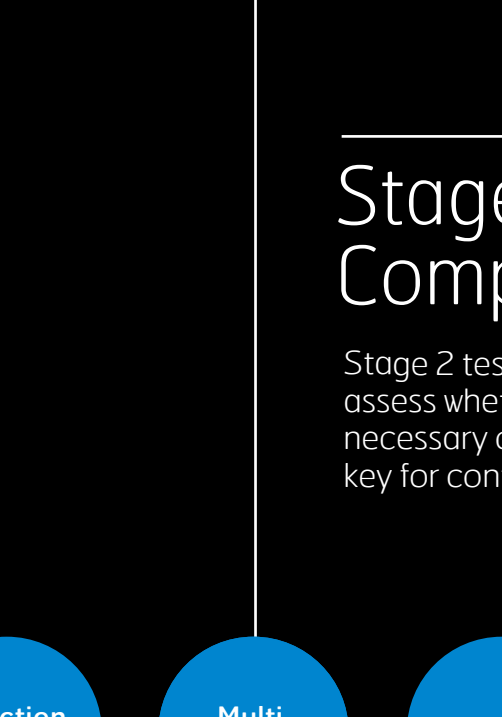
Applicants are aged 18 to 65 and come from a variety of diverse backgrounds. All must have a minimum of 5 GCSE passes to take initial online assessments.

Jenny, 46 Altrincham
 "I wanted to challenge myself, ATC is the ultimate test"



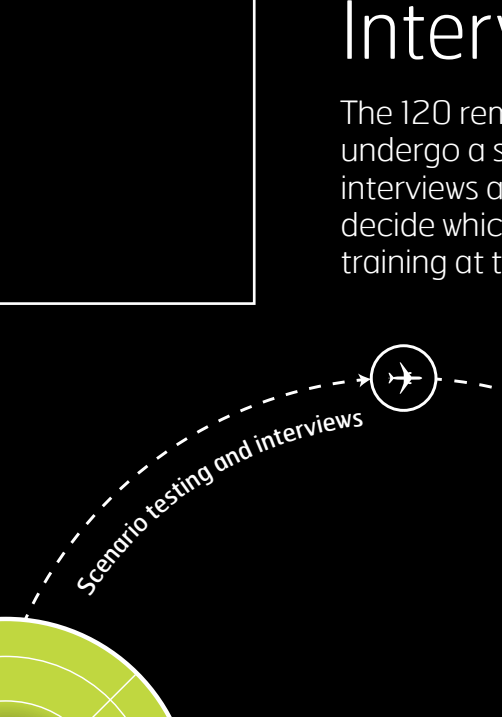
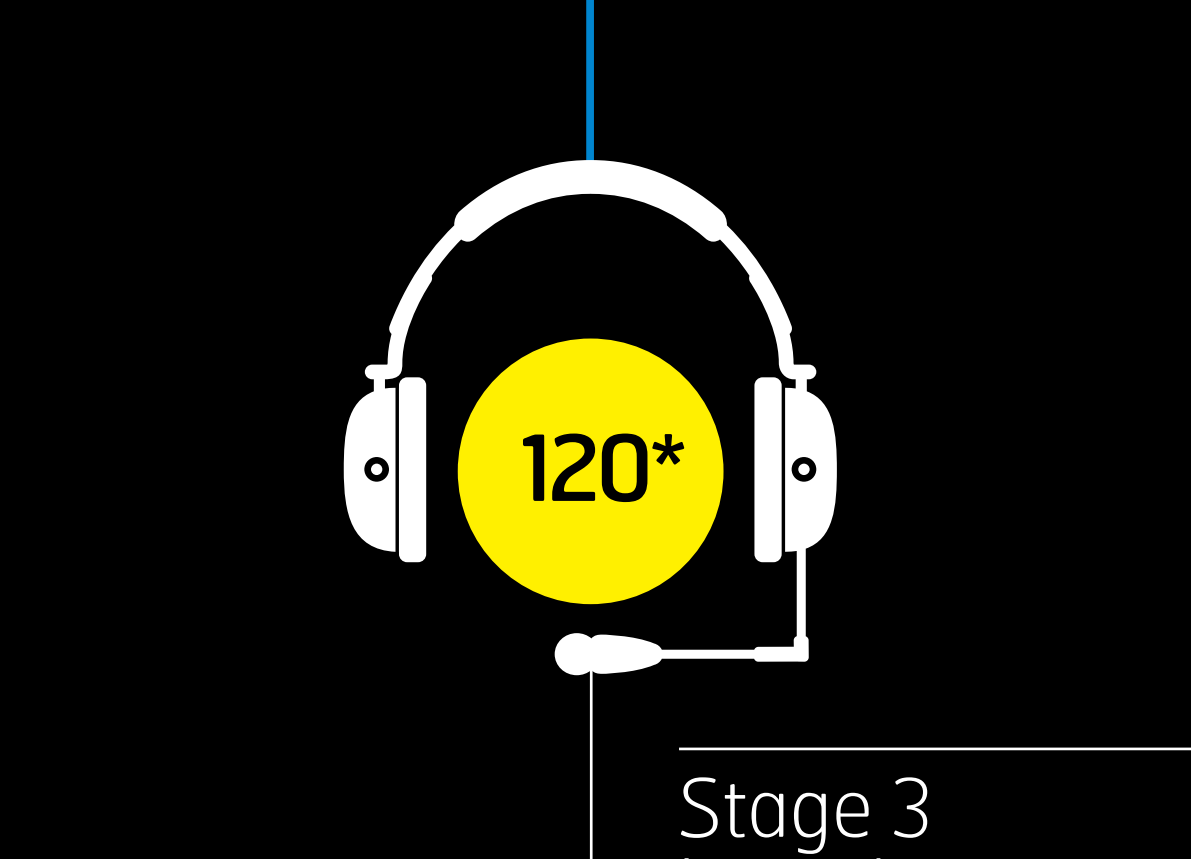
Stage 0+1 Assessments

Initial online assessments are used to determine whether applicants have the basic knowledge and essential skills required.



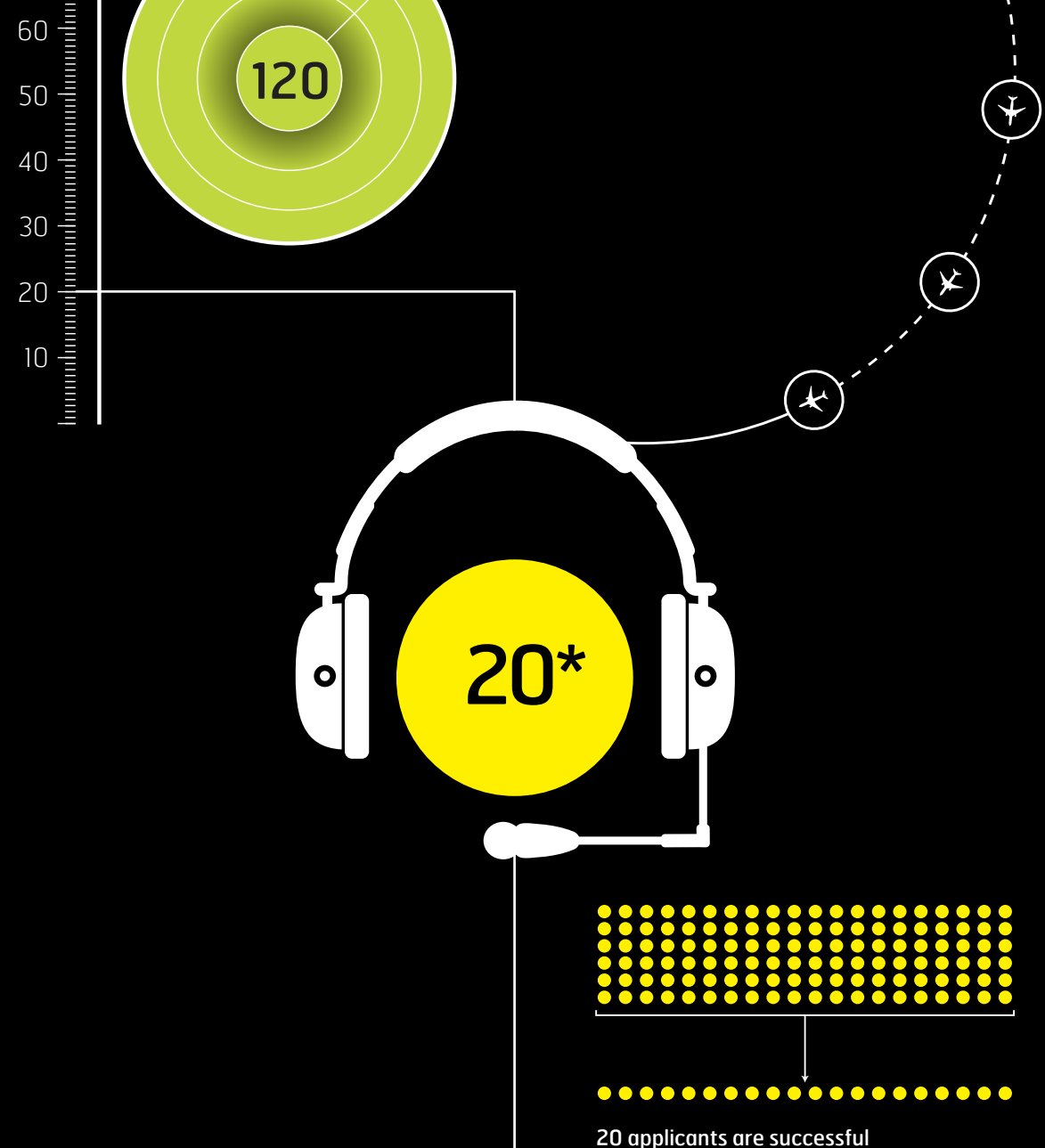
Stage 2 Computer tests

Stage 2 tests probe more deeply to assess whether applicants have the necessary cognitive skills that are key for controllers.



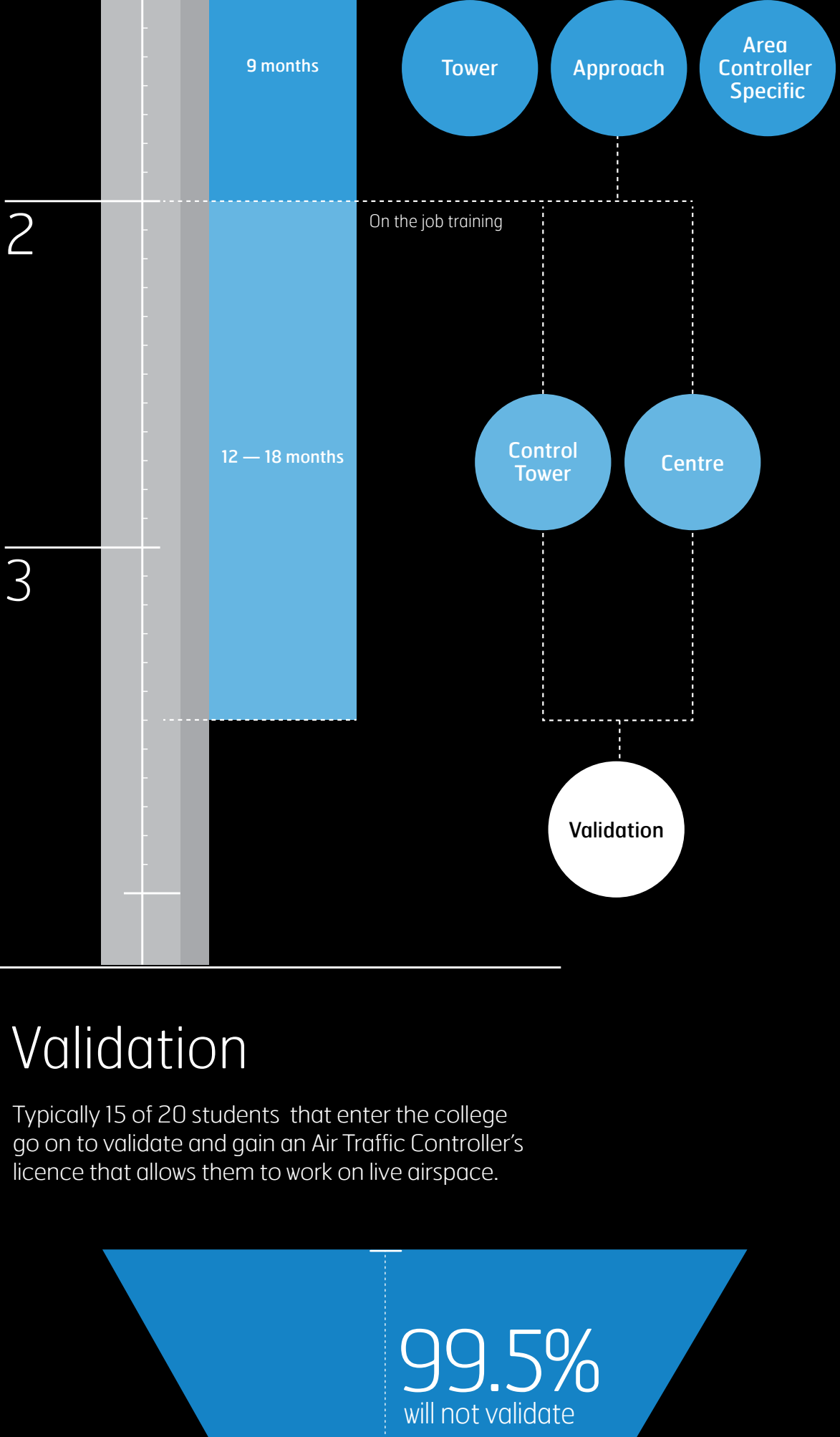
Stage 3 Interviews

The 120 remaining applicants undergo a series of competency interviews and scenario tests to decide which 20 will enter training at the college.



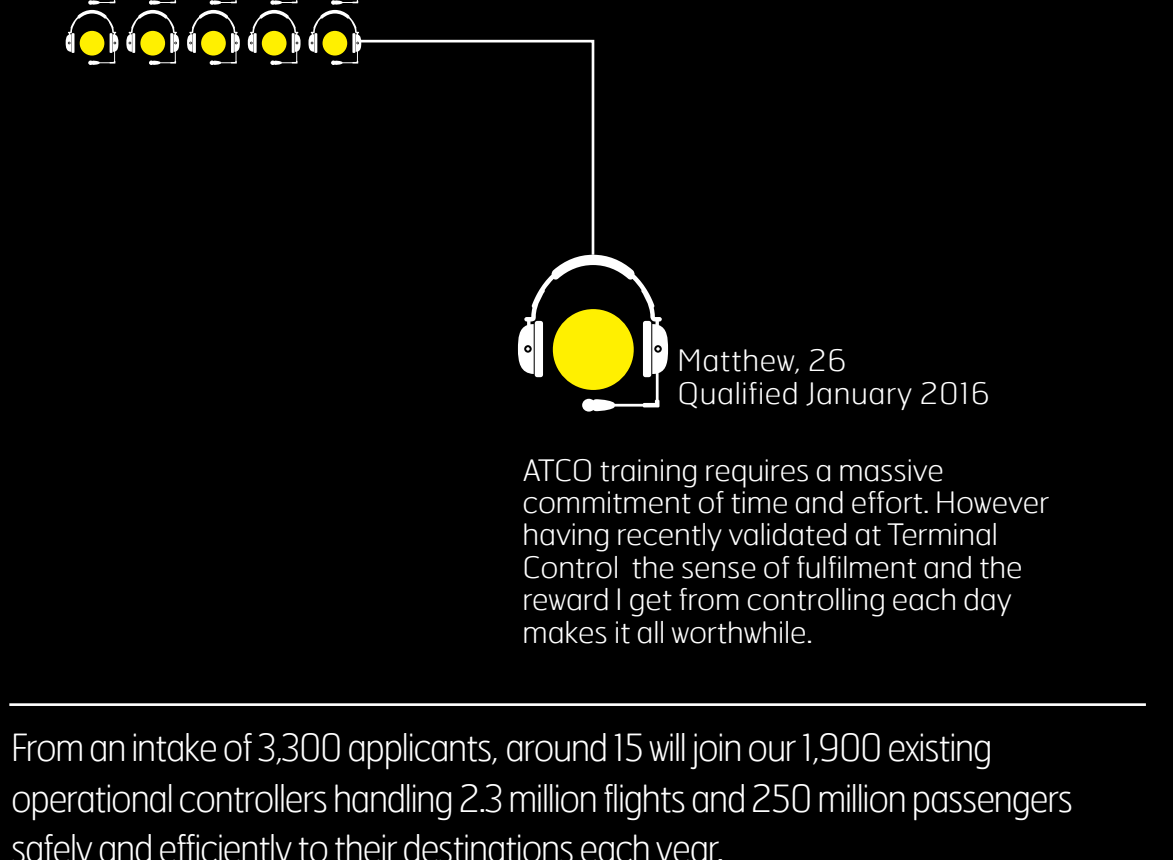
Stage 4 Training

20 successful applicants start a course at the Training College. It often takes three years of college-based and on-the-job training to validate.



Validation

Typically 15 of 20 students that enter the college go on to validate and gain an Air Traffic Controller's licence that allows them to work on live airspace.



From an intake of 3,300 applicants, around 15 will join our 1,900 existing operational controllers handling 2.3 million flights and 250 million passengers safely and efficiently to their destinations each year.

For more specific information about becoming a NATS controller, visit nats.aero/careers

* This number is indicative and illustrates how many people tend to pass each stage based on historical averages.