Airline Network Planning and Schedule Management Training Course



16 - 20 Nov 2026

Rome

5800 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive course provides an in-depth exploration of the critical functions of airline network planning and flight schedule management, the twin pillars that determine an airline's profitability and market position. In an industry characterized by intense competition and thin margins, the ability to design efficient networks and construct robust, profitable schedules is paramount. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, moves beyond theoretical concepts to deliver practical, actionable insights. We will delve into the core principles that govern route development, capacity planning, and frequency determination, drawing upon foundational knowledge from leading academics like Peter Belobaba. Participants will explore concepts discussed in seminal texts such as "The Global Airline Industry," understanding how strategic decisions in network design directly impact operational feasibility and revenue generation. This course is meticulously designed to equip professionals with the skills to analyze market demand, evaluate route performance, and optimize schedules to maximize connectivity and resource utilization, ensuring their airline remains competitive and resilient in the dynamic global aviation landscape.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airline Network Planners and Analysts.
- Flight Schedule Managers and Coordinators.
- Route Development and Strategy Managers.
- Revenue Management and Pricing Analysts.
- Fleet Planning and Aircraft Acquisition Specialists.
- Airline Operations and Control Center Staff.
- Commercial Directors and Aviation Consultants.
- Airport and Civil Aviation Authority Officials.
- Air Cargo Network and Schedule Planners.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Commercial Passenger Airlines.
- Low-Cost and Ultra-Low-Cost Carriers.
- Regional and Commuter Airlines.
- Air Cargo and Freight Operators.
- Charter and ACMI Lease Operators.
- Airport Authorities and Operators.
- Civil Aviation Authorities and Regulatory Bodies.
- Aviation Consulting and Financial Firms.
- Governmental bodies and transportation ministries.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Network Planning and Strategy.
- Scheduling and Operations Planning.
- Commercial and Sales Departments.
- Revenue Management and Pricing.
- Fleet Management and Acquisition.
- Flight Operations and Operations Control Centers.
- Corporate Strategy and Business Development.
- Finance and Performance Analysis.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop and evaluate different airline network models like hub-and-spoke and point-to-point.
- Conduct comprehensive route profitability analysis to support strategic decisions.
- Design and construct commercially viable and operationally robust flight schedules.
- Master the principles of fleet assignment and aircraft routing for optimal utilization.
- Understand and navigate the complexities of airport slot allocation and IATA scheduling guidelines.
- Apply demand forecasting techniques to inform capacity planning and frequency decisions.
- Analyze the competitive landscape and its impact on network and schedule strategy.
- Integrate network planning with revenue management and fleet planning functions.
- Evaluate the financial and operational impact of scheduling and network adjustments.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, immersive, and focused on practical application. We believe that adult learning is most effective when it connects theory to real-world challenges. Therefore, this course moves beyond traditional lectures to incorporate a blended learning approach. A significant portion of the training will be dedicated to hands-on workshops, simulation exercises, and in-depth case studies of both successful and unsuccessful airline network strategies. Participants will work in teams to solve complex scheduling problems, analyze market data, and present their strategic recommendations. This collaborative environment encourages peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of diverse perspectives. Our expert instructors facilitate dynamic discussions, providing personalized feedback and guiding participants through the intricacies of network optimization and schedule design. The methodology ensures that attendees do not just learn the concepts but also develop the confidence and competence to apply them effectively within their own organizations immediately upon completion of the course.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Airline Network and Schedule Planning

- Introduction to the airline business model and economics.
- The strategic role of network and schedule planning.
- Understanding key industry terminology and metrics.
- Overview of different network structures: Hub-and-Spoke, Point-to-Point, and Hybrid models.
- The relationship between network, fleet, and market strategy.
- Introduction to regulatory frameworks and bilateral air service agreements.
- The lifecycle of a flight schedule from planning to operation.

Unit Two: Strategic Network Design and Route Analysis

- Market research and passenger demand forecasting techniques.
- Competitive analysis and airline positioning.
- Evaluating new market opportunities and route feasibility.
- Route profitability analysis: cost drivers and revenue potential.
- The role of airline alliances and codesharing in network expansion.
- Network planning for low-cost carriers versus full-service carriers.
- Case studies in successful network development and restructuring.

Unit Three: The Art and Science of Flight Scheduling

- Principles of schedule design and construction.
- Developing a flight schedule: frequency and timing decisions.
- Ensuring schedule connectivity and building passenger banks.
- The IATA scheduling seasons and coordination process.
- Understanding and managing airport slot constraints.
- Schedule publication, distribution, and the role of OAG and Cirium.
- Measuring schedule quality and reliability.

Unit Four: Fleet Assignment, Optimization, and Constraints

- The fleet assignment model: matching aircraft to routes.
- Optimizing aircraft utilization and minimizing ground time.
- Aircraft routing and maintenance planning considerations.
- Managing operational constraints: curfews, crew limitations, and airspace.
- The impact of schedule perturbations and disruption management.
- Introduction to scheduling software and optimization tools.
- Balancing commercial objectives with operational realities.

Unit Five: Advanced Scheduling Strategies and Future Trends

- Integrating scheduling with revenue management and pricing.
- Schedule planning for cargo and mixed-configuration aircraft.
- The impact of sustainability and environmental regulations on network planning.
- Future trends: new aircraft technology, urban air mobility, and evolving passenger preferences.
- Developing schedule robustness and operational resilience.
- Long-term strategic network and fleet planning.
- Course review, final project presentations, and action planning.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

How might the rise of sustainable aviation fuels and new aircraft technologies fundamentally reshape traditional hub-and-spoke network models in the next decade?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by offering a holistic and commercially-driven perspective on network planning and scheduling, moving beyond the purely technical aspects of the discipline. While many programs focus solely on the mechanics of schedule construction, our curriculum deeply integrates strategic business objectives, financial analysis, and market dynamics into every module. We emphasize the "why" behind every decision, teaching participants how to build networks and schedules that are not only operationally feasible but also maximally profitable and resilient. The content is grounded in rigorous academic principles yet delivered through a practical lens, utilizing real-world case studies that reflect the current challenges and opportunities in the global aviation industry. Furthermore, the course fosters a unique learning environment that encourages critical thinking about future trends, from sustainability mandates to disruptive technologies, ensuring that participants leave not just with a mastery of current best practices but also with a forward-looking mindset to lead their organizations into the future of air travel.