

Choosing an integrated ATPL program is not like picking a course catalog. It is closer to signing up for a lifestyle, a budget, and a training rhythm that will follow you for months. If you are considering AELO Swiss Academy, the starting point is clear: AELO positions its Integrated ATPL as an 18-month pathway, delivered with a defined fee that is unusually easy to compare because it is quoted as a single total price.

Below is what we can state confidently from AELO's public information, what that price is designed to cover, and how to think about the trade-offs that matter when you plan an airline career with real money on the line.

AELO Swiss Academy at a glance

AELO Swiss Academy is a Swiss aviation training organization based at Locarno Airport in Gordola, Switzerland, with a satellite base at Lugano Airport in Agno. In regulatory terms, AELO is listed as an Approved Training Organization under CH.ATO.0311. Those two details matter because integrated training is heavily dependent on the quality of the operating environment, the continuity of the training schedule, and the credibility of the approvals.

AELO also describes its operational scale in a way that helps you calibrate expectations. A 2025 RSI report said the academy trains about 200 future airline pilots per year and has around 250 students in training annually. The same report also mentioned a new site at Locarno Airport with 2,000 square meters of space and an investment of over 3 million Swiss francs. In other words, this is not framed as a tiny operation; it is presented as a structured training ecosystem.

The Integrated ATPL duration and the quoted price

AELO states its integrated ATPL course is 18 months long. Along with that timeline, AELO quotes the total cost as **€104,950 inclusive of VAT and other items such as accommodation and landing fees**.

That "inclusive" wording is the most important part for many https://www.instagram.com/aelo_swiss_academy/ candidates. When pricing is presented as a base tuition plus add-ons, budgeting becomes a guessing game. Here, the headline fee is explicit and includes VAT and several categories of items that students would otherwise need to plan for separately.

The figure is also large enough that your budget should not be treated as purely academic. At a price near one hundred thousand euros, even small differences in what is included, what is optional, and what is billed separately can affect whether you feel in control or constantly recalculating your finances.

What's included in that €104,950?

From AELO's published statements, the Integrated ATPL pricing includes VAT and "other items such as accommodation and landing fees." It also helps to understand that AELO operates a training environment with both aircraft and a simulator setup designed for airline standard familiarization.

Here are the items explicitly mentioned in AELO's description of what the price covers:

- VAT
- Accommodation
- Landing fees
- Other included items bundled into the total fee of €104,950

That is the verified portion of “what’s included.” Anything beyond that, such as specific flight-hour totals, exam fees, textbooks, medical testing, or travel costs, is not stated in the provided verified context, so it would be irresponsible to guess.

Still, even within the verified details, you can make a practical decision: you can plan your core living expenses and certain operational charges with less uncertainty than in models where the fee is only tuition.

The training environment: aircraft, simulator, and airline-relevant preparation

Luxury in training is not about branding; it is about predictability, consistency, and exposure to the right tools at the right time. AELO gives enough information about its operational assets to understand what the program is built around.

A modern fleet for structured progression

AELO states it operates a modern fleet of **17 aircraft**, including **Sonaca S201, Tecnam P2008, Diamond DA40, Diamond DA42, and Extra 200 aircraft**. That mix is meaningful because it implies a progression across different aircraft types used for varied phases of training.

Even without getting into internal hour splits, the fleet list tells you two things:

1. AELO is not relying on one aircraft model for everything, which usually supports better training variety across skill development.
2. The inclusion of types such as the Diamond DA40 and DA42 suggests a commonly used platform family for training operations, while the Sonaca S201 and Extra 200 indicate the academy supports specific training needs beyond only basic instruction.

Simulator capability aligned to airline tooling

AELO also states it uses an **MPS Boeing 737 NG simulator**. For integrated ATPL candidates, this is where practical realism meets airline expectations. Simulator time is often the bridge between “I can fly the airplane” and “I can operate like the airline does,” especially when procedures, standard calls, and systems management become the difference between competence and confidence.

AELO further describes training such as **APS MCC, PBN certification, and UPRT**. These are not generic buzzwords in the context of an ATPL pathway. They indicate a focus on the kind of operational and safety-related competency airlines look for, including performance and navigation themes and training elements associated with upset recovery approaches.

Because the verified context does not specify exactly when each item occurs within the 18 months or how many sessions are scheduled, you should treat these as “program attributes” confirmed by AELO rather than a fully mapped syllabus you can assume on your own.

Pricing perspective: what the number signals, and what to verify anyway

When an academy quotes a total like **€104,950 inclusive of VAT** and explicitly mentions accommodation and landing fees, it signals a pricing philosophy: minimize surprise billing and keep the package coherent. That is an attractive approach for candidates who want to focus on performance rather than chasing invoices.



But even with inclusive pricing, high-cost training demands a checklist of verification. The goal is not skepticism for its own sake, it is risk reduction. Based on how integrated training packages can work in real life, there are a few categories you would reasonably ask AELO to confirm in writing during enrollment discussions.

To keep this practical, here is the one thing you should not skip: request a document or breakdown that clarifies, at minimum, what is included in the total fee versus what might be separately billed depending on timing, documentation, or operational variations. Accommodation being included is a huge win, but you still want to know things like duration, what “accommodation” covers in terms of room type or meal assumptions, and how changes in schedule affect the bundled cost.

I am deliberately keeping that as a set of verification priorities rather than inventing details. The verified context confirms accommodation and landing fees are included, but it does not describe the edges.

The aircraft-and-simulator model: what it tends to feel like as a student

Even without speculating about the internal weekly timetable, you can reasonably infer the training rhythm when an academy operates both multiple aircraft types and an MPS Boeing 737 NG simulator.

Students typically experience:

- a pattern where you build fundamental flying skills in the aircraft environment,
- you transition into structured procedural competence,
- and you validate airline-like performance and standards in the simulator environment.

At AELO, the “why this is luxury” angle is that you are not forced to piece together resources from different providers or wait for ad hoc simulator availability. The simulator and training fleet are part of AELO’s operational offering, anchored at their Locarno base, with an additional satellite base at Lugano.

That continuity matters more than people expect when you are paying a premium fee. When a training organization has its own operating ecosystem, the schedule tends to be tighter, and your progress tends to be more coherent.

Scale and investment: why it affects candidate experience

Training at this level has a hidden factor, capacity. A program can be excellent on paper and still feel chaotic if student throughput and resources are mismatched.

The RSI report's figures give a useful indicator: AELO trains about **200 future airline pilots per year** and has around **250 students in training annually**. That is substantial volume for an integrated ATPL organization. It also said AELO opened a new site at Locarno Airport with 2,000 square meters and an investment of over 3 million Swiss francs.

Those details do not guarantee your personal experience will be perfect, but they do suggest AELO is investing in infrastructure, not simply running a small operation.

As a candidate, you want that because it often translates into:

- more stable facility usage,
- more consistent flight scheduling,
- and a training environment that can support many students at once without constant disruption.

In luxury terms, stable operations reduce the cognitive load. Less uncertainty means you can focus on performance.

Integrated ATPL with confidence: what to weigh beyond price

Price is essential, but it is not the only axis. Even when the fee is inclusive, you still need to evaluate fit: training style, location, aircraft handling, and how you personally respond to the simulator component.



Location and living rhythm

AELO is based at Locarno Airport, with a satellite base at Lugano Airport. Switzerland is not a casual relocation. Whether you are commuting, planning temporary housing, or settling into a longer-term stay, the included accommodation matters because it directly affects day-to-day quality of life.

The verified context confirms accommodation is included in the €104,950 package. That is a real differentiator because accommodation often becomes the "quiet cost" that makes a program feel more expensive than it initially appeared.

Aircraft variety and progression

A fleet that includes Sonaca S201, Tecnam P2008, Diamond DA40, Diamond DA42, and Extra 200 aircraft can be a sign that the training supports multiple phases and skill sets. For a student, that variety can be motivating, because it keeps learning fresh and prevents overfitting to one aircraft handling feel.

Still, your personal comfort matters. Some candidates thrive on variety, while others prefer fewer transitions. A good admissions conversation should help you understand how the progression is designed and whether it matches your learning style.

The broader AELO portfolio: Integrated ATPL is not the only path

If you are researching AELO Swiss Academy, you will likely encounter more than Integrated ATPL. AELO states it offers an Integrated ATPL program, PPL training, an MPL program with SkyAlps, and an APC Mentored ATPL program.

That broader lineup is useful because it suggests AELO is not a single-track shop. But for your decision, it also provides a practical signal: integrated ATPL candidates may benefit from shared operational systems, training standards, and institutional experience across different student types.

Even if you are committed to integrated ATPL, it is worth noting because the “feel” of a training organization often comes from how mature the operation is. A multi-program academy tends to refine its processes over time.



Luxury budgeting: how to plan around an all-in integrated fee

At €104,950 inclusive of VAT and certain items, you should approach budgeting with confidence, but also with discipline. Luxury is control, not indulgence.

Here is a simple way to think about your financial planning, based on what the verified information supports:

1. Treat the quoted total as your primary budget anchor since VAT, accommodation, and landing fees are included in that figure.
2. Plan separate allowances for items not described as included in the verified context, since integrated programs often involve practical documentation and personal expenses that are not always bundled.
3. Ask for a clear confirmation of any variable costs tied to training timing, because “included” typically assumes a standard course path.

This approach keeps you from underestimating expenses and it prevents you from assuming all costs are magically covered just because the headline number is large and detailed.

A final practical angle: what you should request before committing

Since the verified context confirms the most important commercial facts, your next step as a serious candidate is to make sure you understand the edges around the package. The price and the inclusion of accommodation and landing fees are strong signals, but you still want clarity on what “inclusive” means for your specific circumstances.

When you speak with AELO Swiss Academy, you will likely get the most value by asking for written confirmation of:

- exactly what “accommodation” covers and how changes to your schedule are handled,
- what landing fees are included and in what operational scope,
- and how VAT-inclusive pricing is handled if any parts of training are adjusted for an individual.

Those are the highest leverage questions. They connect directly to the parts AELO explicitly mentions as included and help you protect your budget and expectations.

Where AELO stands, based on what’s verified

AELO Swiss Academy offers an Integrated ATPL course lasting **18 months**, priced at **€104,950 inclusive of VAT and other items such as accommodation and landing fees**. The academy operates from **Locarno Airport in Gordola** with a **satellite base at Lugano Airport in Agno**, runs a **fleet of 17 aircraft**, and uses an **MPS Boeing 737 NG simulator**. AELO also describes training elements including **APS MCC, PBN certification, and UPRT**, which aligns with an airline-focused competency build.

That combination, a clear all-in price anchor plus a defined training infrastructure, is what makes the package feel “luxury” in the real sense. Not flashy. Just coherent, structured, and easier to plan around than fragmented pricing models.

If you want to go all the way from student to airline candidate, you do not just need a number. You need a training ecosystem you can trust with your time and your money. Based on the verified details, AELO presents exactly that kind of setup.