



# Flying High:

## IOA, University of Salford, and industry collaborate to prepare students for aviation noise careers

The IOA, the University of Salford, and industry partners AcSoft and Noise Consultants Limited (NCL), are working together to prepare students for careers in airport noise.

*By David Waddington, Professor in Environmental Acoustics in the Acoustics Research Centre at the University of Salford*

**T**hrough a combination of classroom instruction, hands-on training, and real-world experience, the programme is helping students develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in this exciting field.

The Environmental Noise Measurement and Modelling module (led by the author of this article) is delivered to final year and masters level acoustics students, with the new addition this year of masters students in sustainable aviation.

Above: Svantek Class 1 sound level meters loaned to students



Left: University staff and student at Manchester's Runway Visitor Centre for the field measurements

### Industry collaboration

In a recent class, students had the opportunity to learn from NCL experts James Trow, George Gibbs, and Chris Youdale on the topics of aviation noise and environmental noise measurement and assessment. AcSoft also

loaned the students 10 SV 971A Class 1 sound level meters.

In a separate session, Aidan Hubbard, Aaron Priestley, Jo Hare, and Sibio Ngcobo of Svantek UK visited the university to provide hands-on training on the brand new Assistant Pro App and SVANPC++ software for accessing and analysing data.

Following the training sessions, students completed a practical test before visiting Manchester International Airport to make noise measurements for a scenario where the café at the visitor centre is to be demolished and replaced with apartments. Students worked in groups to produce a consultancy report based on the application of Professional Practice Guidance on Planning and Noise (ProPG) to advise the hypothetical client.

### The importance of acoustical expertise among aviation specialists

Many of the students on this course are already employed in aviation or have secured employment in the acoustics industry. Some students work for or have secured employment with aviation companies based abroad. Others are in their final year of studying acoustics, after completing a year out working in acoustic consultancy.

This programme is a shining example of how academia and industry can successfully collaborate to prepare students for careers in airport noise. Through this partnership, students are gaining the essential skills and experience they need to thrive in this growing field. Additionally, the programme is raising awareness of the importance of acoustical expertise among aviation specialists, which is vital to the industry's survival.

The IOA is proud to support this important initiative and is committed to helping students develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the acoustics industry. The IOA's support for this programme is also helping to foster a culture of collaboration between academia and industry, which can lead to new research and innovation.

The next generation of aviation noise consultants is ready to take flight! 🌍

**Right:**  
AcSoft's  
Aidan Hubbard  
providing students  
with hands-on  
training



**Right:**  
Masterclass by  
George Gibbs  
of NCL



**Right:**  
Salford's  
David Waddington  
and AcSoft's  
Sibio Ngcobo with  
students in class

