

# Want to start an MS Study?

## Read this first!

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### So, you want to be my MS Student?

**Good!** I like MS Students. But before we start let me clear a few things and summarize some of the common misconceptions among students about an MS study:

1. This is your thesis and it will be your degree, not mine! I already have one. I received it about 12 years ago.
2. My job is only to advise, not to take responsibility of your work or keep motivating you. I can't stress this enough: It is your work and your responsibility!
3. I work in -but not limited to- Flight Mechanics, Controls and Aircraft Design. More specifically, on rotorcraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, adaptive and nonlinear controllers, autopilots, rotor aerodynamics, optimization methods, neural networks, etc. So, if you are not interested in work along those lines, please try someone else. Check my website for more info.

### What is involved?

You are on track to become a "Master" on a certain subject. That means that you fully understand the subject you choose and be a Master. Your thesis should either be a new method or a new application. You can not copy someone else's work and present it as a thesis. A Master study consists of four parts:

1. Taking Classes. You have to successfully pass your classes and keep the required grade point average. Here you will learn the necessary tools to become a Master.
2. Research. This seems to be the best what our students are good at; afterall they are trained for it.
3. Writing a Thesis. Writing a thesis will take a lot of time and effort. It is a scientific document and must be clear, detailed, and self-contained. It is not another term paper!
4. Presenting a Thesis. You must defend your thesis and present your work successfully.

Do not underestimate any of the above! Each will take time and effort. Writing a thesis and presenting it clearly is part of the learning process.

### Suggestions:

I strongly recommend the following:

1. Talk to previous MS students and ask how much work was involved.
2. Look at its cost vs. benefit and then decide if you really want to do it. Otherwise it will be a waste of time for you and for me. Remember: Not everyone has to have an MS degree. There are many successful professionals and engineers who have no MS degree. Don't be a victim of 'but everyone is doing it'; sometimes everyone is wrong!
3. Read at least one MS Thesis and attend at least one MS Thesis Defense in your first year to understand what is expected from you. Later, keep attending defenses and reading scientific papers. Technical competency is only one of the qualities a Master Engineer must have, written and oral communication is another one (being able to think on two feet is yet another.)
4. It is not up to me to pass you. There will be a committee. Therefore, I will advise you to prepare a work that will satisfy the committee; doing it the way I tell is again up to you.

**If you still want to do an MS Study, you're welcome, come on in!...**