

**Q & A****Student1643 Logout**

Admin








**M.S. Research Project** #63930

What aspects of an M.S. research project do you think are most important for success?





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44 responses from 18 authors





▼ **Scope** (11) Similar to:  
 Feasibility

-  Appropriate scope of the project
-  Appropriately sized project
-  Boundaries around the focused task (no rabbit trails)
-  Clear
-  Clearly defining the scope of the project.
-  Define precise scientific questions to be answered asap
-  Do-able  
-- CIW

success completed  
 length work defining time  
 precise Boundaries  
 Limiting trails sized answered  
 scientific **scope** around must  
 task **project** twoDefine years  
 asap scale  
 focused **Having** rabbit size  
 such Clear Appropriate high  
 questions Appropriately  
 lasts Doable Clearly limited  
 exploratory manageable  
 tractable  
 masters

-  Having a project with a high likelihood of success without much exploratory work.
-  Having a tractable scale for the project
-  <sup>+1</sup> Limiting scope to a manageable project that can be completed in two years.
-  The project must be limited in size such that it only lasts the (time) length of the master's


## ▼ Motivation (5)


-  Engages student interest  
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-  Publishable
-  Student enthusiasm and hard work
-  The student taking ownership of their project.


enthusiasm  
Well Engages ownership  
project **student** taking  
Student  
interest work hard Publishable  
defined


 Well defined  
-- CIW


### ▼ **Project design** (5)

 A well-developed working timeline

 Advancement of the overall research goal of the mentor

 <sup>+1</sup> Designing the project around a clear and testable hypothesis.

 Finish in at most 2.5 years; the product is enough for a manuscript, and the final thesis is close for submission at least


 High likelihood of success (low risk)

High manuscript likelihood  
enough clear around low  
Advancement goal hypothesis  
thesis final timeline welldeveloped project  
testable least mentor working overall product  
close most research Finish risk  
years Designing submission

### ▼ **Basic framework** (3)

 Clear goal

 Limited in scope

 Well thought out timeline with short and long term goals

### ▼ **Structured goal setting** (3)

- ☐ Perform fieldwork and gather samples as soon as possible
- ☐ Well defined goals
- ☐ Well-defined

### ▼ **Student training** (3)

- ☐ Student comes away with improved skills in the lab
- ☐ Student has improved skills in experimental design
- ☐ Student is a stronger science writer.

### ▼ **Supervision** (3)

- ☐ Guidance in how to approach an independent research project
- ☐ Weekly meetings with advisor
- ☐ Writing small chunks of text regularly and discuss them with the supervisor

### ▼ **Broader impacts** (2)

- ☐ It should be something applicable in real life and useful to society.
- ☐ Related to larger research goal  
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### ▼ **Career** (2)

- For an early career faculty member, publication of the thesis is also important.
- Learning both technical and broader scientific skills that transfer directly to the professional workplace.

### ▼ **Organization** (2)

- Short-term goals set in the context of long-term goals
- The scope of the project must be attainable (i.e. highly likely to have a result)

### ▼ **Outcome** (2)

- Be something novel, not having been done too often before
- Student success, leading to strong self confidence as a scientist

### ▼ **Time management** (2)

- Project management timing. two years goes very fast.
- Well-conceived, single field or data collection period/ effort

### ▼ **Supervisor responsibility** (1)

- A cohort of students, so students can teach each other and work together.

