Student Worksheet: 🎓 Masters vs PhD (Decision Matrix)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Step 1: For each statement, rate yourself from 1–5 (1 = not true for me, 5 = very true).  
Step 2: Enter your rating in the appropriate column.  
Step 3: Add up your totals for Masters and PhD.  
Step 4: The higher score shows which path may fit you better currently.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Masters (1–5) | PhD (1–5) |
| Career Goals | Advance in a profession / shift careers [ ] | Academic, researcher, or expert in niche [ ] |
| Knowledge & Learning | Structured learning, applied projects, practical skills [ ] | Open-ended research, deep focus [ ] |
| Time Commitment | Finish in 1–2 years [ ] | Dedicate 3–6+ years [ ] |
| Financial Situation | Self-fund tuition, higher salary after [ ] | Funded/stipend path, modest income [ ] |
| Work Style | Teamwork, group projects, deadlines [ ] | Independent research, self-motivation [ ] |
| Passion | Build expertise without lifelong devotion [ ] | Burning curiosity, push boundaries [ ] |
| Long-Term Vision | Specialist, consultant, industry leader [ ] | Professor, researcher, thought leader [ ] |
| TOTAL | [ ] | [ ] |

Step 5: Evaluate results

✅ Tip 1: If your Masters and PhD scores are close, you might consider completing a Masters first, then re-evaluating your interest in research for a PhD.

✅ Tip 2: If your Masters and PhD scores in TOTAL are less than 17 in each column, you might consider to start working now, and return to the evaluation when ready for career changes or transition