



STUDENTS

A common misconception amongst the flying instructor fraternity is the relative ease of teaching students who have been through a rigorous screening and selection process when compared to students who have merely demonstrated the financial means to buy flying lessons.

The former category of students will be within a fairly restricted young age bracket, meet the highest medical standards, have a minimum education standard and passed all other selection criteria. However, on average half of these candidates will fail to graduate if they are part of a military system. Such a high failure rate puts obvious pressure on the students but also places extremely high demands on their flying instructors.

Much has been written about 'types' of student pilots over the years, generally categorizing them into broad groups such as:

- Over confident
- Under confident
- Forgetful
- Lazy
- Uncoordinated

However, in real life each student is very much unique, with every student providing special challenges to ensure they graduate.

There is no test or series of tests that a potential student pilot can undertake which will guarantee success in flying training. Such tests are more likely to indicate that a student may have problems with certain aspects of the training course. However, whilst the golden rules of purchasing real estate is said to boil down to three specific factors, namely **location, location and location** a similar rule applies to student pilots. Amongst all the attributes that a student pilot must possess the three greatest are in rank order **enthusiasm, enthusiasm and enthusiasm**.

There is a significant number of students that learn to fly who have no genuine desire to do so. Consequently, these students can be difficult to teach because they may have an associated lack of motivation.

Should a student suddenly or even progressively show signs of deteriorating performance over one or two flights (or more) the instructor needs to use non intrusive questioning to see what is troubling the student. If the problem stems from antipathy between the student and instructor it may be prudent for the student to fly with a different instructor.

Instructors need to remember that what appears to be an inane question from a student, especially in the early stages of training, needs to be answered if at all possible in order to reduce the student's stress level.