Poster paper

Min and Max the O.R. Heroes (minandmax.org.nz)

Nicola Petty, Shane Dye, Andy Philpott John Paynter
Auckland University

The Min and Max posters and pamphlet provide information about Operations Research (OR), how it is used in business and industry and where to study it at New Zealand Universities. The site provides links to further information.

OR seeks to improve a problem situation by supplying decision makers with information and insights gained through problem analysis, often involving mathematical models and computers.

At some Universities operations research is called management science or operational research. It is also taught as part of operations management, systems or logistics. It is taught in the following places: University of Canterbury, Department of Management; University of Auckland, Department of Engineering Science and Department of Information Systems and Operations Management; Victoria University of Wellington, School of Mathematical and Computing Sciences, Victoria Management School; University of Waikato, Department of Management Systems.

Preliminary skills for operations research are taught at high school in the Mathematics curriculum. English is also useful to improve your report writing and communication skills. As a general guideline for what to study at high school if you plan to study operations research at university, take Mathematics or Statistics to Year 13 and English to Year 12.

OR is widely used so you can integrate it with your own strengths and interests. It can be complemented by additional high school subjects such as Mathematics, Economics, Information Technology, Physics, Chemistry, Accounting, Electronics, Geography or Agricultural and Horticultural Science.

You can get an idea of where OR is used in New Zealand business and industry from the affiliations of the members of the New Zealand ORSNZ. The society holds an annual conference as well as branch meetings. Operations research skills can also be used effectively in careers not directly related to operations research. Examples include general management positions, planning, banking, software engineering and manufacturing.

The Min and Max posters and pamphlet were developed to inform high school students about operations research as a career and option for study at University. The information campaign was begun as many students do not find out about operations research until they are well into their University studies and this can limit the options they have for taking the subject further.

Nicola Petty is a lecturer in OR within the Department of Management at the University of Canterbury. Nicola's current research involves evaluating and improving curriculum access for blind students in New Zealand schools.

Shane Dye is a senior lecturer in OR within the Department of Management at the University of Canterbury. His current research involves the development of models and methods for improving decision making under uncertainty.

Andy Philpott teaches in the Department of Engineering Science at the University of Auckland. Andy's research involves the development of models and methods for improving decision making, including situations where decision are being made in an uncertain environment.

At this conference they are supported by the ORSNZ Treasurer, John Paynter of the University of Auckland who uses OR to design and analyse his Software Engineering courses and organisational problems.

Poster 1 and the pamphlet were designed by Nicola Petty, Shane Dye and 360

Design. The artwork on poster 1 and the pamphlet are by 360 Design.