

What can I do with a degree in Operations and Supply Chain Management?

Operations and Supply Chain Management.



Career planning: what do I need to know?

Knowledge of yourself is important for career decision making. Start by looking at your personal goals, abilities, values and interests to explore study and career options that are relevant to you. Some of these may change over time, so it is important to self-reflect and evaluate your career on an ongoing basis.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness and teamwork. With technology and globalisation changing the nature of society, skills such as resilience, problem solving and adaptability are valuable at work as well as in life.

How can I develop these skills?

- Some skills are developed through your degree

- Extra-curricular activities can help, for example getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities. Whether it is undertaking an internship, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group — these activities will enhance your employability.

What else should I know?

The career options in this brochure are examples only and the list is not exhaustive. Some careers may require further study beyond a first degree or additional work experience. Some pathways and degrees have a recommended school background. Find more subject details at www.canterbury.ac.nz/subjects/operationsmanagement

If this brochure does not answer your questions, talking to an expert such as a career consultant can help you to identify the next steps in your career decision making journey. www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

What is Operations and Supply Chain Management?

How do you make sure that people, money, materials and buildings are used efficiently across the whole organisation? How can you as a manager ensure that your organisation is successful in achieving its goals? These are big questions and a broad number of skills are involved in such an important business role.

Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSCM) is applicable to most organisations and is concerned with the design, planning and management of all facilities, processes and activities required to transform resources into goods and services. Operational managers control more than 70% of organisational resources used in the production of goods or in providing services. Successful operations managers also need knowledge of marketing, human resource management and finance.



AT A GLANCE

\$100k

is the lower limit that a highly skilled management consultant can expect to earn*

88%

of UC Operations and Supply Chain Management graduates were in their ideal employment or working in a step in the right direction^

A.I.

artificial intelligence or artificial technology, is expected to be a strong trend in supply chain management now and in the future**

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their OSCM degree, graduates develop a valuable set of transferable skills that includes:

- Logical and quantitative thinking
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Ability to solve complex business problems
- Practical application of knowledge
- Ability to measure and evaluate systems and processes
- Business judgement and initiative
- Modelling complex problems for decision making, problem solving and critical thinking
- Oral and written communication.

Opportunities to apply your learning outside the classroom are available in this major through internships and international study tours. These experiences deepen your skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Every organisation, whether a company or a not-for-profit organisation, has some operations function to it, so the skills learnt in OSCM courses are widely applicable. Graduates are often employed by:

- Manufacturing companies
- Management consultancies
- Transport companies
- Telecommunications service providers
- The energy sector
- State-owned enterprises.

Students in other disciplines often find it valuable to include some OSCM courses in their degree programme, as exposure to OSCM has become an assumed part of the training of managers as well as accountants, computer specialists and engineers.

* www.careers.govt.nz

^ 2017, 2018, 2019 UC Graduate Destinations Survey results combined

** www.forbes.com

What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Due to their transferable skills and knowledge of supply chains and business processes, OSCM graduates are able to take on a wide range of roles from logistics to risk management — see some examples below.

Note: Some of the jobs listed may require postgraduate study. See the 'Further study' section.

Operations manager

- Improves ongoing business effectiveness
- Ensures health and safety adhered to
- Builds an engaged and skilled team
- Manages day-to-day operations and budgets

Purchasing officer, procurement analyst

- Manages internal stakeholder and external supplier relationships
- Researches current market trends
- Negotiates beneficial supplier contracts
- Purchases goods and services for a business
- Records all documentation eg, orders, deliveries

Production manager

- Sets production goals, schedules and budgets
- Supervises and assesses the production process
- Maintains equipment

Supply chain / operations consultant

- Analyses an organisation's supply chain operations and processes
- Develops strategies to enhance these processes
- Writes reports of recommendations

Marketing analyst, sales executive

- Collects, analyses and presents market insight
- Builds client relationships
- Makes and executes marketing and sales plans
- Works with others to promote goods or services

Project manager

- Manages a project plan, budget and schedule
- Supervises project progress and manages risks
- Liaises with project staff, contractors, clients

Pricing / retail analyst

- Researches pricing information
- Analyses production costs to set sale prices
- Advises how to lower costs and increase profits

Risk manager

- Identifies and manages strategic, operational and other (eg, credit or regulatory) risks
- Develops risk management policies, procedures
- Oversees staff engagement and compliance

Quality assurance manager

- Sets product quality standards with managers
- Ensures these standards are met
- Develops strategies to prevent/detect deficiency

Entrepreneur & self-employment

Entrepreneurship and innovation are an increasing part of the working landscape. Through generating a business idea, or getting involved in a start-up/business venture, you have the potential to create a work opportunity that aligns with your knowledge, skills, values and risk profile. To get started on how to establish, run and grow a new business, go to Te Pokapū Rakahinonga, Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Canterbury www.canterbury.ac.nz/uce

What professional organisations can I engage with?

Connecting with professional bodies and organisations can help you to establish professional networks and learn more about different career options in your area of interest.

Gaining valuable insight into a profession can assist in making informed career decisions.

- The Association for Operations and Supply Chain Professionals www.nzpics.org.nz
- Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply www.cips.org
- Production and Operations Management Society www.poms.org
- Project Management Institute New Zealand www.pmi.org.nz
- The Institute of Management New Zealand www.imnz.co.nz
- Employers and Manufacturers Association www.ema.co.nz

Having a professional presence on social media networks such as www.linkedin.com and Facebook can help you to keep up to date with important industry developments and trends, networking opportunities, events and job vacancies. Following relevant professional bodies, organisations, companies and thought leaders is a great way to gain a deeper awareness of the industries that interest you. Social media presents an opportunity to build and enhance networks as well as to display your involvement in projects and any academic successes.

Why do further study and what are my options?

Postgraduate study can facilitate career benefits such as specialist skills, entry into a specific occupation, and advanced research capability. It is important to determine which, if any, further study will help you in your future career.

OSCM graduates can progress into postgraduate programmes in Management, including honours, master's and PhD study in that subject. UC also offers conversion programmes in Applied Data Science, Financial Engineering, Business Information Systems, Strategic Communications, Māori and Indigenous Leadership and more. For listings and prerequisites visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

Useful links

- Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers
- Careers New Zealand www.careers.govt.nz



Tanisha



Ngāti Raukawa

Bachelor of Commerce in Operations and Supply Chain Management, Strategy and Entrepreneurship, and Management Graduate Logistics, Mainfreight Ltd

Why did you choose your degree?

I've always been interested in how things go from nothing to something, the processes surrounding this and how they can be improved. I chose my majors so I get an overall picture of the process and could learn more about strategy and innovation in a management context. I wanted to make the world a better place through efficiency and innovation.

What does your job involve?

I am responsible for monitoring all outgoing freight for a large client — I process all incoming orders and ensure they are despatched on time and in full to meet demand, with all the appropriate labels and invoices.

How did your studies prepare you for it?

My studies help me better understand the overall picture and why my job is important as part of the process. It has taught me time management, organisation, efficiency and accuracy are key, as well as adaptability and forward thinking in the supply chain context.

What was one of your favourite experiences at UC?

I was part of the SDS Case Study competitions. It was absolutely awesome and was the cherry on top of my time at UC — the knowledge I gained, the friends I made both nationally and internationally were amazing! Working with some of the biggest businesses in NZ is definitely scary, but worth it for anyone up to the challenge!

What are your career goals?

I would like to progress into an operations or branch manager role, and would be very interested in spending time in IT or Training and Development (or both!). After that I'd like to be a National Manager or even CEO!

Read more online

Read more stories about our students' university experiences online. UC alumni make a difference in varied ways around the globe. To find out where graduates are now visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/getstarted/whyuc/student-profiles

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of print but is subject to change.

More information

UC students seeking study advice.

Department of Management,
Marketing and Entrepreneurship

The Department is one of the leading business departments in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The variety of subject areas allows for an interdisciplinary approach to business education. Our expert staff teach courses dealing with the fundamental ideas of a subject area — our aim is to give students the concepts which they can apply in different situations and industries.

T: +64 3 369 3888

E: studybusiness@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/business/operations-and-supply-chain-management

Anyone seeking careers advice.

Te Rōpū Rapuara | UC Careers

UC offers intending and current students and recent graduates a wide range of services, including individual career guidance, seminars, career resources and student and graduate employment opportunities.

T: +64 3 369 0303

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Prospective students seeking study advice.

Te Rōpū Takawaenga | Student Liaison

The liaison team provide advice to future students who are starting their degree for the first time. They can assist with information on degrees, scholarships, accommodation, and other aspects of university life. We have offices in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington.

Ōtautahi | Christchurch

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: liaison@canterbury.ac.nz

Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland

T: 0800 UCAUCK

E: auckland@canterbury.ac.nz

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison

