

THE ORBEL AWARD: WIN A 2000 EURO FOR THE BEST OPERATIONS RESEARCH THESIS!

Every year, the Belgian Operations Research Society hands out the ORBEL Award to the best student's thesis on Operations Research. The prize is 2000 euro, and is sponsored by OMP. The deadline for submission is November 1, 2026.

Orbel Award Rules

1. This award, organised by ORBEL, the Belgian OR-society (SOGESCI-B.V.W.B.), is bestowed on the author(s) of a scientifically oriented student's thesis with the exception of PhD theses. The criteria for judgement are based on the efficiency and effectivity of the scientific approach applied to solve the problem under study. The author(s) should put emphasis on the application of existing methods in new areas or on the application of new solution methods for models recognised as useful for solving real-life operations research and management problems. One of the criteria will be, therefore, the actual collaboration with industry during the thesis elaboration.
2. The award is sponsored by OMP, a software and consulting company specialised in the development and implementation of supply chain planning solutions. The award is named: ORBEL Award (with indication of the current year in which it is delivered), Sponsored by OMP.
3. The amount of the award will be fixed every academic year in agreement with OMP. The amount is set to 2000 EUR.
4. The thesis shall be written either in Dutch, French or English. Its text should preferably not be longer than 80 pages. The thesis, when authored by multiple individuals, will be treated as a single work. It must be submitted in 3 copies or preferably by e-mail in PDF-format to the place indicated on the invitation poster on the ORBEL site before November 1 of the current year. This date can be revised if necessary.
5. The candidates in the short-list established as in 9) will be invited by the jury to give a half-hour presentation about their work. This presentation is a prerequisite for obtaining the award.
6. The authors should be a citizen of Belgium or Luxemburg or should have followed their studies completely or partially at an institute based in Belgium or Luxemburg.
7. Members of the Administration Board of ORBEL (SOGESCI-B.V.W.B.) are not allowed to participate.
8. The jury is set up by the ORBEL (SOGESCI-B.V.W.B.) and consists of five members. The Board approves the selection of the chairman. The jury members (academics and industrials) come on an equal basis from both language communities (chairman not included). In addition, none of the jury members shall be connected in any way with the candidate, either academically or socially.
9. The jury prepares a short-list of candidates invited to make a presentation to the jury. In case several candidates have the same promoter, the latter will be consulted prior to the establishment of the short-list. The candidates who are not present at the time indicated by the jury in the invitation letter for presenting their work are eliminated without further deliberation.
10. The jury members take part in the deliberations organised by the chairman. Decisions made by the jury are only valid if at least two thirds (chairman included) of the members participate in the deliberation. The award is presented to the candidate achieving a clear majority of the votes. Abstention votes are not allowed.
11. The jury members convene on the invitation of the chairman for the presentations of the short-listed candidates. The jury has the right not to award the prize or to divide it among several authors. The minutes of the meeting, signed by all jury members present are put

forward to the president of ORBEL (SOGESCI-B.V.W.B.) These minutes are made available to OMP.

12. The results of the award are made public during the next ORBEL-conference, during which the award winner will present his work. OMP will publish the results of the award deliberation in their OMP publications.
13. The Administration Board of ORBEL (SOGESCI-B.V.W.B) shall settle all disputes with regard to this set of articles (as accepted by the ORBEL Administration Board in Brussels on May 31, 2026)