

Matthew Skiffington

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Achievements

- » Bachelor of Science (Data Analytics & Psychology)
- » Summer Research Scholarship (Statistics New Zealand & The University of Waikato)
- » Research Assistant (Crime Science), Sessional Assistant (Statistics)
- » Half Marathon PR: 1 hr 27 mins, Round the Bridges PR: 47 mins
- » Preparing to enter a MSCS (Masters of Security and Crime Science)
- » Developing a demography journal article with a professor in economics

Skills and Strengths

R (statistical computation)

Visualization

Minimal, extensible graphics using ggplot2 and mapping in R (using shapefiles and data layers), developed on summer research

Statistical modelling

Used in assignments across statistics and psychology (strong theoretical background from advanced statistics papers)

R programming

Applied functionals, conditionals, recursion and scripting, during computer science and statistics papers. I also know some SQL and C#

R Markdown

Used dynamic reproducible report generation for summer research (Knitr, R markdown with latex)

Data Analysis

Exploratory analysis

Exploring various SQL tables on Statistics New Zealand IDI. I imported, linked and summarised millions of records to guide the project

Extraction & wrangling

Data collection during psychology experiments as well as fetching and coding geographic data during summer research

Confidentialisation

Worked with unit record data from Government agencies and confidentialised output so it could be released from a secure environment

Communication

Attended weekly meetings with supervisors, currently tutoring university statistics and tutored high school subjects, wrote summer research report and many assignments, supervising employees

Other statistical software

Excel, Minitab & SPSS

Respectively; I tutor this to first year students, used minitab in industrial statistics and used SPSS psychology - I am eager to learn new tools (learning QGIS)

Research

Literature reviews, interviewing, evaluation, ethics

Used in qualitative and quantitative psychology papers and necessary during summer research

Relevant Experience

Research Assistant (Crime Science) – University of Waikato

July 2018 - Present

I have recently started working for Dr. Justin Kurland, a senior lecturer with the newly established *Institute for Security and Crime Science* at Waikato. We are in the developmental stages for investigating his adjunct hypothesis to the security hypothesis, which explores the generalised crime drop from the 1980s to the present.

Responsibilities;

- » Attending and contributing to research team meetings
- » Improving skills in GIS and R to contribute to future research

Sessional Assistant (Statistics) – University of Waikato

July 2018 – Present

I am a sessional assistant for *STATS111-18B (HAM) "Statistics for Science"*. I help run the laboratories which make up the practical component of the paper.

Responsibilities;

- » Marking assignments and preparation work
- » Giving feedback and instructing class
- » Helping students with academic content and statistical software (excel)

Summer Research Intern – University of Waikato

Nov 2017 – Feb 2018

I worked full time for ten weeks on a feasibility project. This was funded by Statistics NZ and the University of Waikato. The core goal was to assess the feasibility of using the IDI (Integrated Data Infrastructure) developed by Statistics New Zealand to provide estimates of international migration by ethnicity.

Responsibilities;

- » Weekly meetings with my supervisors from the Economics department and Statistics NZ
- » Production of R scripts and code for data analysis and visualisation
- » Report chronicling progress inc. background, summary tables, insights and modelling outputs
- » Research poster summarising and displaying research

Qualifications

Bachelor of Science (Data Analytics, Psychology)

University of Waikato | Completion - Nov 2018

- » Recent course work includes computational bayesian statistics, advanced data analysis, research methods, databases, survey sampling, design of experiments, statistical process control, applied cognitive psychology, behaviour analysis
- » Papers covered a broad range of fields and topics – gained various skills and developed in-depth domain knowledge
- » Currently in my final semester, with a high second and third year GPA of 7 (A-)

National Certificate in Business (First Line Management) (Level 3)

ATC | 2016

- » 10 day course over 10 weeks involving team exercises and applying learning to the workplace
- » Started and maintained a new system to track and reduce wastage in the department by \$1000 per month