

Build your employability

Career-ready skills and experience



Employability refers to the **knowledge, skills, experiences, achievements, attitudes, behaviours** and **career management skills** that make someone more likely to:

- ✓ Gain employment
- ✓ Be successful in their chosen occupation
- ✓ Contribute meaningfully to their workplace, community and economy.

Employability is not fixed. It is dynamic and shaped through education, experience and reflection. To be most competitive in the job market, it is important to not only achieve strong results in your degree, but also further your knowledge and skills and gain experience in real world contexts.

Here are our top tips to building your employability while you study...

Gain work experience

This might take the form of:

- A part-time job while you study in the industry you hope to work in upon graduation. If this is not possible, working in an unrelated field will still help you develop transferable skills required for your career, such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving abilities. It will also provide you with possible referees who can speak to your commitment in the workplace for your next job application.
- Work Integrated Learning placements, internships, cadetships and vacation programs. These provide the opportunity to put theory into practice and reinforce your academic learning while developing essential employability skills, building your professional networks and gaining referees for your graduate applications. Check your college's Work Integrated Learning or [Placement](#) page to identify opportunities. Additional internship, cadetship and vacation opportunities can be found through online jobs boards such as [JCU CareerHub](#), [Prosple](#) and [SEEK Grad](#).
- Volunteering in the community or at the university. Check out our [Volunteering](#) information sheet for further information and ideas.

Undertake professional development

Gain specific skills to increase your competitiveness or to address any skills gaps you've identified through your job search. Employers will be impressed with your commitment to ongoing professional development.

- Join relevant professional associations to gain access to free or low-cost learning opportunities such as webinars and self-paced modules. Check out our discipline-specific [Career Snapshots](#) to identify organisations relevant to your study area.
- Access over 25,000 online courses free through LinkedIn Learning. Set up your free LinkedIn Learning account through the [JCU Library](#).
- Undertake free online courses (MOOCs) to fill any skill gaps identified. Courses are developed by universities around the world and delivered on major MOOC platforms such as [Coursera](#), [edX](#), [Future Learn](#) or [Udacity](#).

Attend industry career events

Learn about job opportunities, organisations of interest and future career paths associated with your degree. Go to JCU Careers and Employability [Events](#) for more information. Follow relevant professional associations identified through your discipline-specific [Career Snapshots](#) on social media and LinkedIn to discover further opportunities.