

JCU OPEN DAY

Course and Career Decision Making

Careers and Employability

Course and career decision making

Knowing yourself

Making a decision

Exploring your options

Support available

Narrowing your ideas









Step 1:
Know yourself



7 Self-reflection

What is important to me?

e.g. autonomy, respect, authenticity, loyalty, growth, health, wealth, status, relationships, financial security, stability



What are my strengths?

e.g. technical, cognitive and interpersonal skills, abilities or aptitudes gained through studies or experiences



What issues do I feel strongly about?

e.g. the environment, sustainability, justice, equity and inclusion, fairness, cultural preservation



What are my personality tendencies?

e.g. introverted ↔ extroverted
team member ↔ leader
detail-focused ↔ big picture thinker



What do I enjoy learning or doing?

e.g. topics or school subjects, meeting new people, analysing data, understanding how things work, creating or designing



What are my workstyle preferences?

e.g. fast or steady pace, routine or variety, independent or team tasks, location, hours, conditions, lifestyle



What motivates or energises me?

e.g. challenge, adventure, solving problems, creativity, helping others, accountability, getting recognition



What is my decision-making style?

e.g. analytical ↔ intuitive
cautious ↔ spontaneous
collaborative ↔ independent



Online assessments



My career profile

Start your personal career journey. Complete activities to help identify your interests, values and skills and then view results, including suggested occupations, to explore course and career pathways.



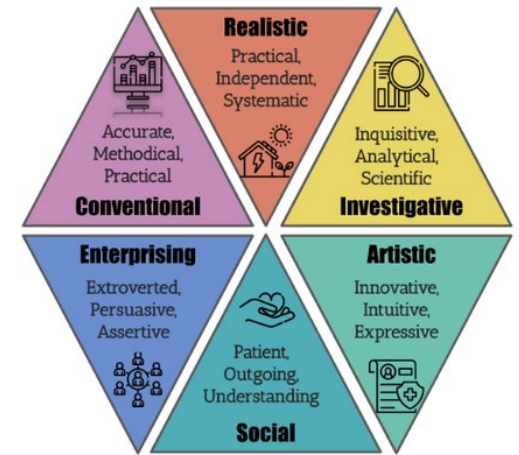
<p>Interests</p> <p>Identifying your interests can be a good starting point for thinking about your career. This may help you identify what type of work you would enjoy.</p> <p>Start →</p>	<p>Skills</p> <p>Different occupations require different skills. Identifying your skills can assist in planning your career pathway.</p> <p>Start →</p>	<p>Education and training</p> <p>Most occupations require some level of education and training. Select the education and training levels that you plan to achieve.</p> <p>Start →</p>
<p>Study</p> <p>Identify subjects that excite, inspire or intrigue you and see how they relate to job choice.</p> <p>Start →</p>	<p>Work conditions</p> <p>Identify work environments and activities that bring out the best in you.</p> <p>Start →</p>	<p>Values</p> <p>Your career values are unique and special to you and can lead to a fulfilling career. Identify what values are most important to you.</p> <p>Start →</p>

www.myfuture.edu.au/get-started

THE 16 MTBI PERSONALITY TYPES

ISTJ	THE LOGISTICIAN Practical and fact-minded individuals, whose reliability cannot be doubted	INTJ	THE ARCHITECT Imaginative and strategic thinkers, with a plan for everything
ISFJ	THE DEFENDER Very dedicated and warm protectors, always ready to defend their loved ones	INFP	THE MEDIATOR Poetic, kind and altruistic people, always eager to help a good cause
ESTJ	THE EXECUTIVE Excellent administrators, unsurpassed at managing people	ENTJ	THE COMMANDER Bold, imaginative and strong-willed leaders, always finding a way - or making one
ESFJ	THE CONSUL Extraordinarily caring, social and popular people, always eager to help	ENFP	THE CAMPAIGNER Enthusiastic, creative and sociable free spirits, who can always find a reason to smile
ISTP	THE VIRTUOSO Bold and practical experimenters, masters of all kinds of tools	INFJ	THE ADVOCATE Quiet and mystical, yet very inspiring and tireless idealists
ISFP	THE ADVENTURER Flexible and charming artists, always ready to explore and experience something new	INFP	THE MEDIATOR Poetic, kind and altruistic people, always eager to help a good cause
ESTP	THE ENTREPRENEUR Smart, energetic and very perceptive people, who truly enjoy living on the edge	ENFJ	THE PROTAGONIST Charismatic and inspiring leaders, able to mesmerize their listeners
ESFP	THE ENTERTAINER Spontaneous, energetic and enthusiastic entertainers - are never boring	ENFP	THE CAMPAIGNER Enthusiastic, creative and sociable free spirits, who can always find a reason to smile

www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test



www.prismatest.com/en/tests/holland



www.bigfivepersonality.me/test

Step 2:
Explore your options

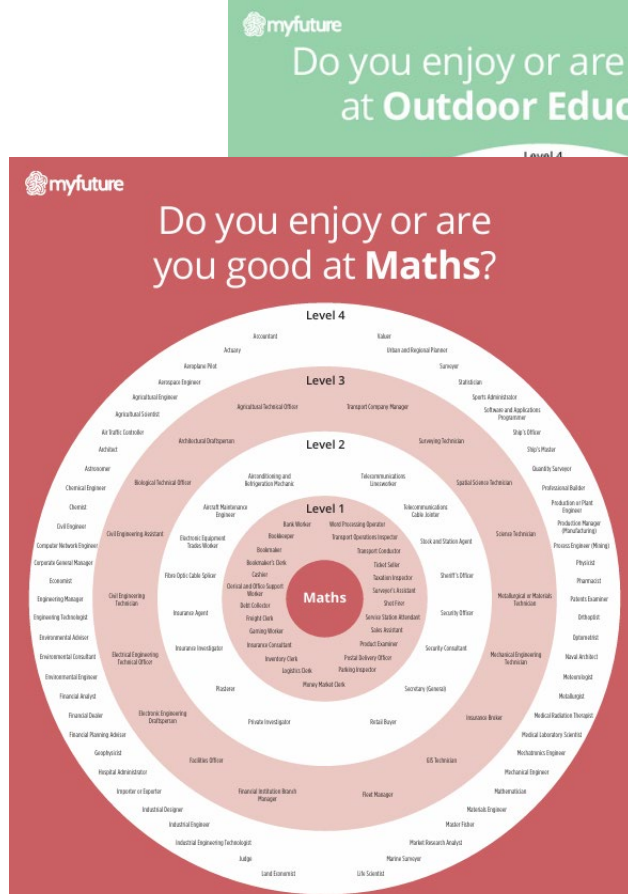




Explore widely,
generating many possibilities



Dive more deeply into what is hidden beneath each option



Career Bullseyes 33 Learning Areas

www.myfuture.edu.au/bullseyes



Occupations

Search and explore hundreds of occupations with information including descriptions of main tasks performed, skill level required, salary and job growth prospects.



Search occupations

Enter a keyword or start exploring below



Explore occupations by interest area

Identifying your interests could be the start of a rewarding career.

 Business You enjoy meeting people, talking, discussing, and leading others.	 Creative You enjoy expressing yourself, including artistic, musical and literary interests.	 Office You enjoy working indoors and clerical tasks including organising and being accurate.	 Outdoor You enjoy working and moving about outside.	 Helping People You like to work with people or you are concerned about their social welfare.	 Practical You like working with tools and equipment, making and fixing things.	 Scientific You like discovering ideas, observing, investigating and experimenting.
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Explore occupations by learning area

Select a learning area that interests you to view related occupations.

Art	Automotive	Biology	Business Studies	Chemistry	Community Services
Computing	Construction	Economics	Electrotechnology	English	Entertainment
Environmental Sciences	Food Studies	Geography	Health	History	Home Economics
Hospitality	Industrial Arts	Languages	Maths	Media Studies	Metal Work and Engineering
Music	Outdoor Education	Performing Arts	Physical Education	Physics	Retail
Rural Studies	Social Sciences	Textiles and Design			

www.myfuture.edu.au/occupations

www.myfuture.edu.au/industries

Social Workers

Weekly pay

\$1,850

Higher than the average

Skill level

Bachelor Degree or higher qualification

Future growth

Strong

Projected employment growth in 5 years



Licensing or registration required

Overview

Social Workers assess the social needs of individuals, families and groups, assist and empower people to develop and use the skills and resources needed to resolve social and other problems, and further human wellbeing and human rights, social justice and social development.

Main tasks

- acting as a facilitator between clients in need and community services
- assessing resources for health, welfare, recreation, housing, employment and other community services
- providing leadership and assistance for the implementation of pilot projects in community development and self-help, and planning and implementing research projects to address client needs, organisation goals and social policy
- cooperating with community organisations, social agencies and voluntary groups to improve services and develop new services
- conducting individual and family case interviews to identify the nature and extent of clients' problems
- assisting clients to understand and resolve problems by providing information, acting as a mediator and referring them to community and self-help agencies
- analysing, developing, promoting and implementing social policies through the use of practice experience, research, analytic frameworks, and negotiation skills to respond to social need through a fair, equitable and effective allocation of social resources
- monitoring the progress of clients by maintaining contact
- compiling case records and reports.

Education, training and skills

Pathways

Either a Bachelor Degree in social work or a Bachelor in a related field followed by a Masters in social work is needed to work as a Social Worker.

Study fields

Study fields related to this occupation include:

Social Work

Other requirements

- ✓ Licensing or registration required



Good Careers Guide 2026

Take the next step in your career journey

gooduniversitiesguide.com.au

Accountant \$1,841 Very high Decline

Accountants analyse, report and give advice about the financial dealings of organisations and individuals, and advise on associated record-keeping and compliance requirements.

Accountants:

- assist with the formulation of budgetary and accounting policies
- prepare financial statements for presentation to boards of directors, management, shareholders and statutory bodies
- conduct financial investigations, undertake audits, prepare reports and advise on such matters as the purchase and sale of businesses, mergers, financing, suspected fraud, insolvency and taxation
- examine the income and expenditure of institutions
- provide assurance about the accuracy of information contained in financial reports and their compliance with statutory requirements
- provide financial and taxation advice about business structures, plans and operations
- liaise with bankers and brokers to establish funds management arrangements
- advise on the selection and application of computer-based accounting systems
- appraise cash flow and financial risk of investment projects.

Accountants may work on their own or with other accountants. Accountants in private practice have a high level of public contact, and some positions involve interstate or overseas travel.

Specialisations

- Auditor
- Budget Accountant
- Bursar

- Cost Accountant
- Finance Manager
- Forensic Accountant
- Investment Analyst
- Liquidator and Receiver
- Systems Accountant
- Taxation Consultant/Taxation Agent
- Treasurer

Personal Requirements

- Good communication skills
- Good presentation skills
- Able to build rapport with clients
- Able to analyse and solve problems
- Good organisational skills
- Discretion when dealing with confidential information
- Professional and ethical
- Able to work as part of a team

Education and Training

To become an accountant you usually have to complete a VET qualification in your chosen institution for further information.

You can also become an accountant by completing a degree in accounting or a related field such as business or commerce with a major in accounting. To get into these courses you usually need to gain your Senior Secondary Certificate of Education. Prerequisite subjects, or assumed knowledge, in one or more of English and mathematics are generally required. Universities have different prerequisites and some have flexible entry requirements or offer external study. Contact the institutions you are interested in for more information.

Additional Information

Graduates of approved courses may qualify for membership or entry to programs for membership or entry to programs offered by Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, CPA Australia or the Institute of Public Accountants. Eligibility for membership varies and may require work experience

Business and Management

The Good Careers Guide 2026

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Electrical Engineers

Electrical Engineers design, develop and supervise the manufacture, installation, operation and maintenance of equipment, machines and systems for the generation, distribution, utilisation and control of electric power.

[Add To Shortlist](#)

What the job involves

- Planning and designing power stations and power generation equipment
- Determining the type and arrangement of circuits, transformers, circuit-breakers, transmission lines and other equipment
- Developing products such as electric motors, components, equipment and appliances
- Interpreting specifications, drawings, standards and regulations relating to electric power equipment and use
- Organising and managing resources used in the supply of electrical components, machines, appliances and equipment
- Establishing delivery and installation schedules for machines, switchgear, cables and fittings
- Supervising the operation and maintenance of power stations, transmission and distribution systems and industrial plants
- Designing and installing control and signalling equipment for road, rail and air traffic
- May specialise in research in areas such as power generation and transmission systems, transformers, switchgear and electric motors, telemetry and control systems

Key values of workers in Electrical Engineers

Working Conditions

Occupations that satisfy this work value offer job security and good working conditions. Corresponding needs are Activity, Compensation, Independence, Security, Variety and Working Conditions.

Recognition

Occupations that satisfy this work value offer advancement, potential for leadership, and are often considered prestigious. Corresponding needs are Advancement, Authority, Recognition and Social Status.

Independence

Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to work on their own and make decisions. Corresponding needs are Creativity, Responsibility and Autonomy.

Relationships

Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment. Corresponding needs are Co-workers, Moral Values and Social Service.

Support

Occupations that satisfy this work value offer supportive management that stands behind employees. Corresponding needs are Company Policies, Supervision: Human Relations and Supervision: Technical.

Top skills required for workers in Electrical Engineers

Reading Comprehension

Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work-related documents.

Critical Thinking

Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems.

Active Listening

Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

Speaking

Talking to others to convey information effectively.

Active Learning

Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.

www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/careers

www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/guide

Discover...

- ① Typical tasks involved in the occupation
- ② Knowledge, skills, personal attributes and values that are important
- ③ Possibilities for advancement or specialisation
- ④ Typical work environment, conditions, locations and salary range
- ⑤ Duration and type of training required
- ⑥ Challenges and constraints of working in that field
- ⑦ Employment opportunities (growing / stable / declining, geographic demand)
- ⑧ How the profession is evolving (e.g. AI automation or augmentation with AI)

Step 3:
Narrow your
ideas

?

Yes

No

Maybe



Further research e.g. training options



Work experience and volunteering



Talk to people e.g. university students and lecturers, people working in the field (informational interview)



Trial a uni subject with JCU NOW
www.jcu.edu.au/jcunow

Informational interviews

Gaining firsthand career insights

Informational interviews offer a simple and effective way of gaining practical advice and information from experienced professionals that is not easily obtained through regular research. Informational interviewing involves engaging with someone at a more advanced level in their career in a focused conversation to receive useful insights about their position, background, career trajectory, the organisation and/or industry they work in and any advice they may have. Well-structured conversations with professionals can assist with exploring career options and clarifying goals by obtaining meaningful career information from firsthand experiences.

Benefits of informational interviewing

Informational interviewing is a powerful way to create new opportunities by connecting with individuals who are either employed in roles you are interested in or are completing study that you may be considering. Benefits include:

- Learn:** Gain valuable insights by speaking to working professionals and getting an inside look at positions of interest. Test any assumptions you may have and even learn about other opportunities that align with your skills and experience. This can support you in exploring career options and clarifying your goals
- Build your network:** While the purpose of the interview is not to gain a job, it can support you in expanding your network by linking in with people you may not have otherwise met.
- Practice interview skills and build your confidence:** Interviewing can be intimidating when you are expected to sell yourself and convince an employer you are worth their investment. Informational interviewing can provide the opportunity to ask insightful questions and practise expressing yourself under less pressure.
- Uncover new opportunities:** Your interviewee may consider offering themselves as a mentor or keep you in mind for future opportunities within their organisation or through their extended networks.

Step 1: Decide what you want to know

Spend some time brainstorming what is it that you want to learn more about:

- Are you exploring a specific occupation and want to know what the job is really like?
- Do you want to understand how the industry works or what it takes to be successful in this field?
- Is there a competitive graduate program you are hoping to apply for and have found someone who was successful in gaining entry into and completing that program?

Once you have identified what it is you hope to learn from the experience, start mapping out your current network. Consider anyone who you think will provide you with a new perspective or good advice. This could be fellow students, alumni (graduates from the university), senior professionals in your area of speciality, or people employed at organisations and in positions that interest you.

Step 2: Reach out to request a meeting.

Once you have identified a suitable person that you would like to learn more from, reach out in a friendly and professional way to ask them for some of their time. It is useful if you have a mutual connection that you can reach out to first and ask for an introduction via email or LinkedIn or another form of communication.

careers@jcu.edu.au

 JCU Careers

www.jcu.edu.au/careers



Ask academics...

- Where can this degree lead?
- How many hours per week for lectures / tutorials?
- How do students learn on campus, online and through opportunities with industry placements?

Ask current students...

- What have you loved about your course so far?
- What are you planning to do when you finish?
- What did you find challenging about transitioning to uni? Any tips for success?

Ask the Future Students team...

- What if I don't meet the entry requirements?
- Are there scholarships I can apply for?
- What help can I get while I study?

Ask the Pathways team...

- Should I try a JCU Prep subject to gain confidence and study experience?
- Which Prep subject/s should I choose?

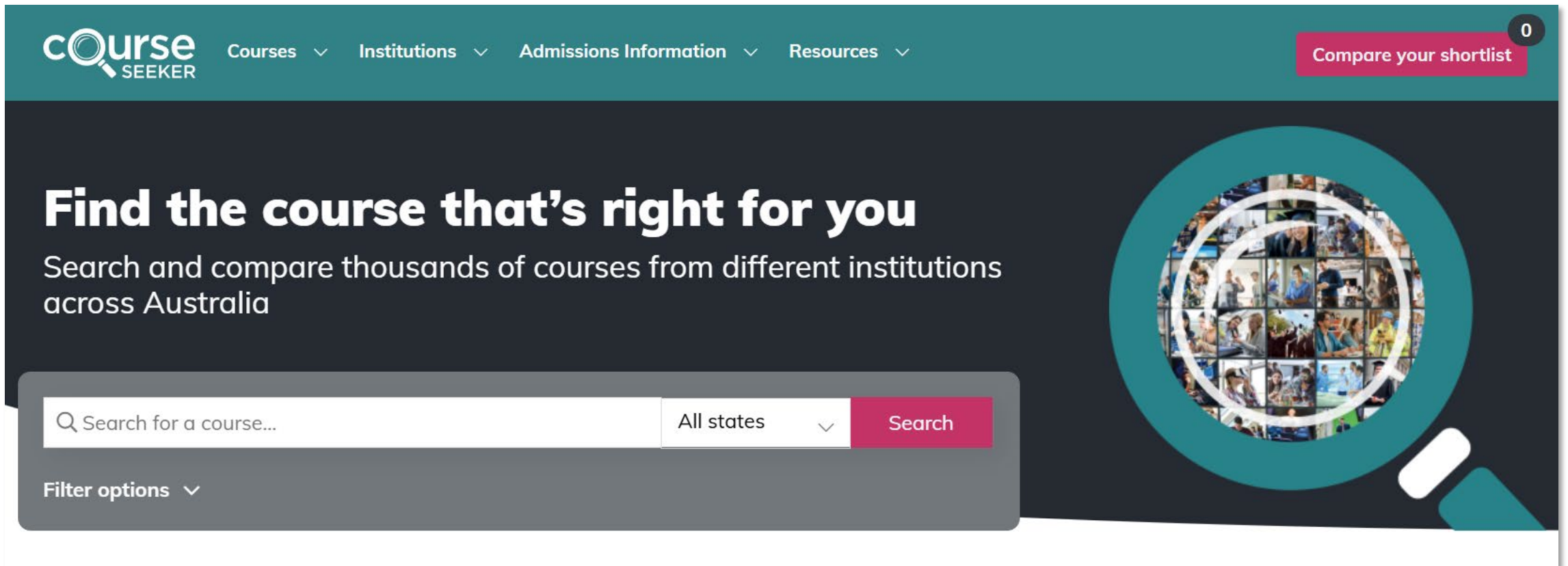
Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre

The screenshot shows the QTAC website's course search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Events, News, ATAR Portal, QTAC Application Portal, and Contact. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for Applying, ATAR, Ways to get in, Institutions, Key Information, a search icon, Apply Now, and Explore Courses. The main content area features a large white box with a red and purple striped background. Inside this box, the text 'FIND A COURSE' is centered above the heading 'Search over 1800 courses'. Below the heading is a search form with a text input field labeled 'Keyword or Course Code', a dropdown menu labeled 'Select Institution', and a red 'Search' button. Underneath the search form, a paragraph states: 'QTAC centralises and helps you navigate the 17 higher education providers in Qld and Northern NSW, to best serve your future-study interests.' Below this text are logos for Griffith University, James Cook University, JMC Academy, QUT, RMIT University, SGC University College, and Southern Cross University. At the bottom of the white box, there is a link: 'Review historic course search listings here'.

- Course fees
- Course duration
- Study modes
- Admissions criteria
 - Subjects
 - ATAR
 - Additional application requirements
 - Timelines

www.qtac.edu.au/course-search/

Course Seeker (Australia-wide)



The screenshot shows the Course Seeker website homepage. At the top left is the 'course SEEKER' logo. To its right are navigation links: 'Courses', 'Institutions', 'Admissions Information', and 'Resources', each with a dropdown arrow. In the top right corner, there is a pink button labeled 'Compare your shortlist' with a '0' in a circle next to it. The main heading reads 'Find the course that's right for you', followed by the subtext 'Search and compare thousands of courses from different institutions across Australia'. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for a course...', a dropdown menu set to 'All states', and a pink 'Search' button. Under the search bar is a 'Filter options' dropdown. On the right side of the page, there is a large circular graphic containing a grid of small images depicting various educational and professional settings.

www.courseseeker.edu.au

Postgraduate Courses: www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/postgraduate

Explore JCU



Future Students

Current Students

Research and Teaching

Partners and Community



[Previous page](#) / [Courses](#) / [Bachelor of Laws](#)

Bachelor of Laws



Examine principles of justice and ethical legal practice with a Bachelor of Laws from JCU. Become skilled at reviewing contracts, arguing a criminal case, negotiating litigation settlements and interpreting matters of constitutional law. Students at JCU Cairns, Nguma-bada campus can hone their practice at North Queensland's first moot court with e-court facilities.

[Share](#)
[Save](#)
[Download brochure](#)

Course detail

What to expect

Career Opportunities

Admissions transparency data

Handbook

Fees and scholarships

Pathways to JCU

How to apply

www.jcu.edu.au/courses/undergraduate
www.jcu.edu.au/courses/postgrad

jcu.edu.au



High school students

Browse our collection of school-leaver specific resources, including guides, webinars, FAQs and more.

www.jcu.edu.au/future-students/high-school-students



Mature students

Upskill, reskill, or start uni—get the support and education to achieve your goals as a mature student.

www.jcu.edu.au/mature-students



International students

Find available courses, understand application and visa requirements, and connect with International Advisors.

www.jcu.edu.au/international-students



Indigenous students

Access tailored support services and connect with the Indigenous Education Research Centre.

www.jcu.edu.au/ierc

Broader planning

- Understanding study options
- Advice for choosing a course and university
- Equity schemes and scholarships
- Paying for your course
- Financial assistance
- Budgeting tools
- Tips for success

www.yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support

www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/guide

Good Universities Guide 2026

Australian Government | Your Career™ National Careers Institute

School Leavers Information Kit

Your guide to education, training and work

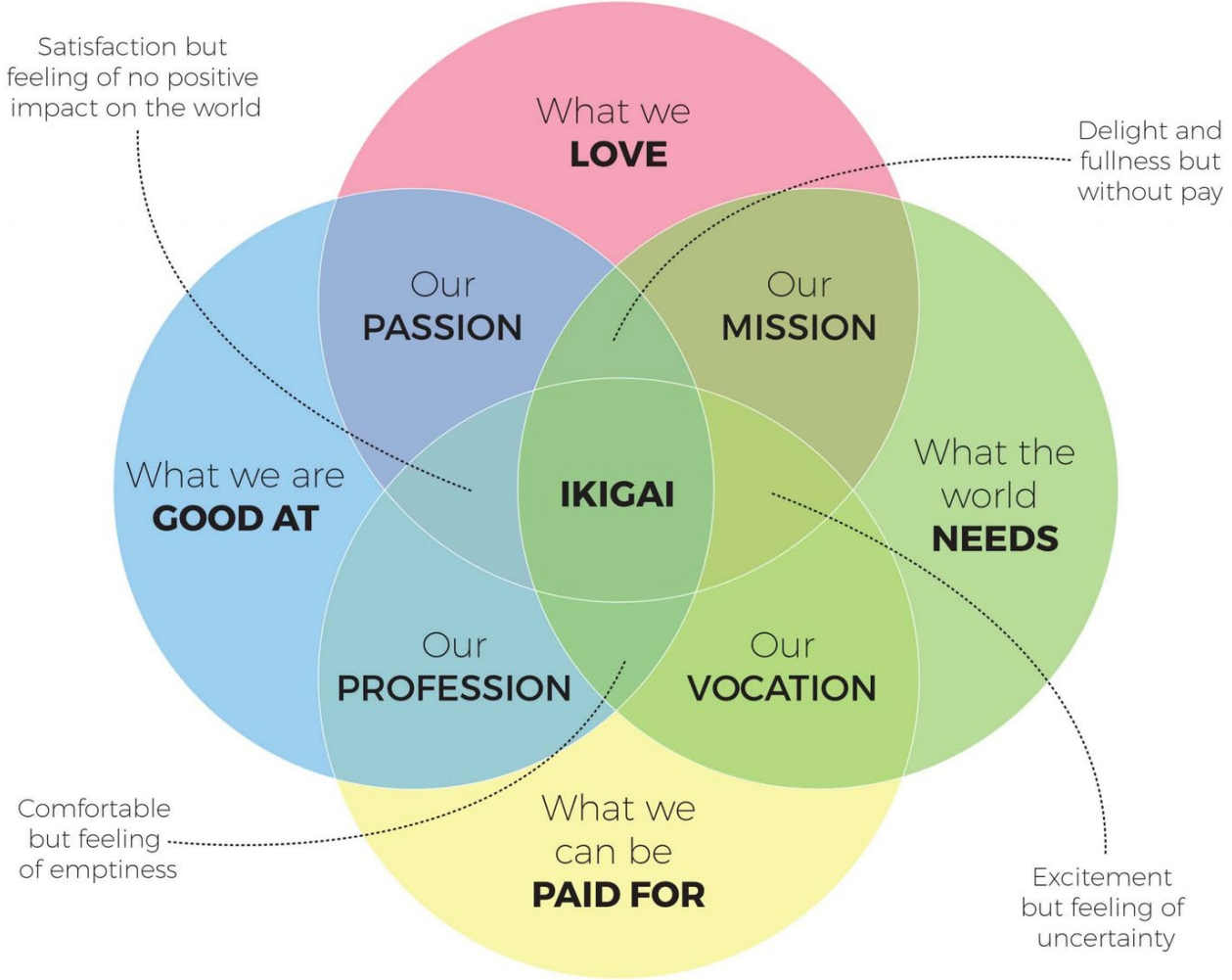
yourcareer.gov.au/schoolleaver

Step 4:
Make a decision



IKIGAI

A Japanese concept meaning 'a reason for being'



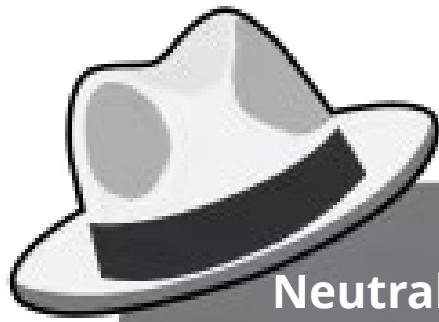
Which decisional factors are most important to me?



What am I willing to compromise on?

Career decision-making matrix

	Nursing	Teaching	Social Work
Satisfaction	4	4	5
Career progression or specialisation	4	4	4
Fit with strengths	3	3	4
Fit with values	4	4	5
Lifestyle	2	4	3
	17	19	21



**Neutrality
and facts**

*What are the facts?
What do I still need
to find out?*



**Benefits and
optimism**

*What are the advantages
and hopes associated
with this option?*



**Emotions and
intuition**

*What are my gut feelings
and instincts associated
with this option?*



Creativity and ideas

*What are alternative
ways of achieving my
career goal? How could
this option open other
doors?*



**Processes and
planning**

*What are the next steps to
move my thinking
forward? What matters
most in my decision-
making process?*



Risks and cautions

*What are the risks,
obstacles, doubts, and
challenges
associated with this
option?*

Support available



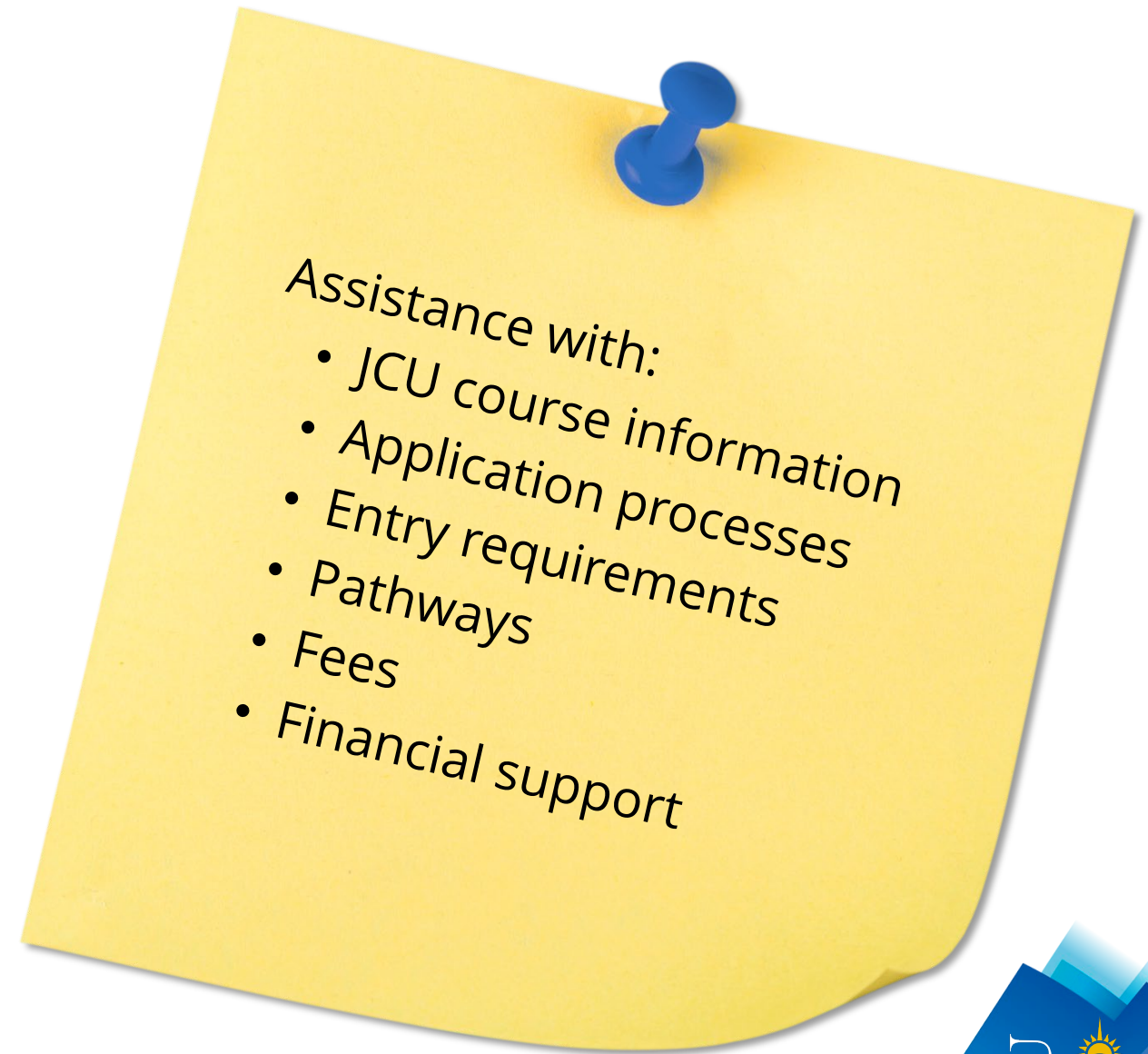


Future Students

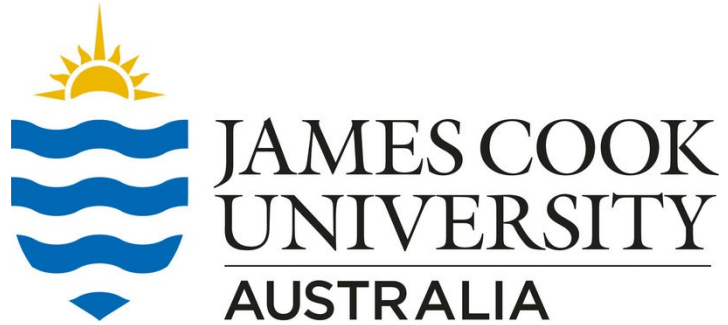
1800 246 446 (option 2)

study@jcu.edu.au

[www.jcu.edu.au/future-students/
contact-us-future-students](http://www.jcu.edu.au/future-students/contact-us-future-students)



- Assistance with:
- JCU course information
 - Application processes
 - Entry requirements
 - Pathways
 - Fees
 - Financial support



Careers and Employability

Prospective student appointments available

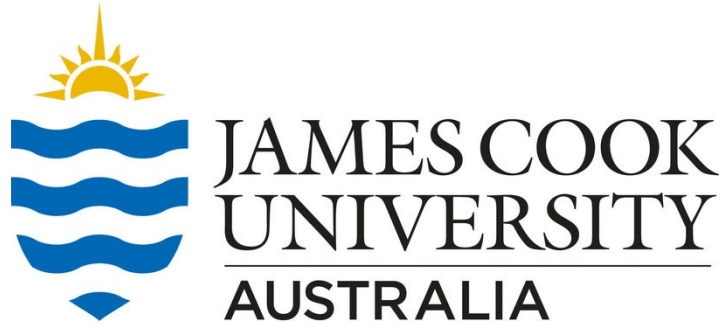
Townsville, Bebegu Yumba campus
or Online (Zoom)

1800 246 446 (option 5)

career@jcu.edu.au

www.jcu.edu.au/careers





Careers and Employability



Course and Career Decision Making

- Career exploration and planning
- Choosing a major
- Thinking about changing degree
- Considering post-graduate study

Employment support

- Part-time, internship and graduate application support
- Resume, cover letter and selection criteria feedback
- Interview coaching
- Networking and LinkedIn advice

