

ACCOUNTING

Career Information

Graduate Opportunities

Accounting is one of the most highly regarded careers in the business world today, with every company or organisation from large multi-national corporations to small or medium sized businesses requiring some form of accountant.¹ Accountants analyse, report and give advice about the financial dealings of organisations and individuals, and advise on associated record-keeping and compliance requirements.⁷

Graduate Careers Australia state “Accounting and finance professionals work to ensure that companies or organisations are financially efficient and profitable...Accountants are valued for their commercial know-how, analytical thinking and leadership abilities.”¹



Related Occupations

Some areas Accountants can specialise in after completing further post-graduate study² include:

- Financial Accounting
- Management Accounting
- Governmental Accounting
- Tax Accounting
- Auditing
- Forensic Accounting
- Project Accounting
- Social, or Corporate Social Responsibility Reporting
- Sustainable Accounting

Accounting Positions

The role of an accountant has undergone a shift towards wide-ranging advisory roles including working as the following:^{*2,3}

- Adviser in mergers and acquisitions
- Financial planner
- Investment adviser
- Market analyst
- Treasury banker
- Tax consultant
- Strategic planner

**Some of these roles may require further study after completion of a Bachelor Accounting Degree.*



Accounting Graduate Employers

Australia's most sought after Accounting Graduate Employers, based on a survey of Australian University students, are as follows:⁵

1. Deloitte
2. PwC
3. EY
4. KPMG
5. BDO
6. Pitcher Partners
7. Grant Thornton
8. KordaMentha

Explore Australia's Top 100 Graduate Employers further: <https://gradaustralia.com.au/top-100->

Professional Accounting Associations

Most Bachelor Accounting degrees will offer full accreditation with one of the following professional associations*:

- Certified Practising Accountants Australia (CPA)
- Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ)
- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) – the global body for accountants

**Each professional accounting body may have a set of rules regarding the completion of particular subjects in order to be eligible for accreditation.*

Accounting Graduate Programs

In addition to the Top 8 Accounting Graduate Employers previously presented, the following are examples of large employers, many government, that offer Accounting graduate programs:⁶

- Australian Federal Police
- GE
- Optus
- WA Department of Health
- Macquarie
- Reserve Bank of Australia
- Australian National Audit Office
- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)
- Australian Taxation Office
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Enhancing Your Employment Prospects

Build Your Professional Networks

Join a Professional Accounting Association as a Student Member – There are countless benefits of a student membership with a professional association including access to their newsletters, advertised jobs, conferences and networking events etc. Students usually join at a heavily discounted rate.

Join a Student Mentoring Program

Many professional associations, such as those listed above, offer mentoring programs. If, for example, you took out a student membership with the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) you may be able to participate in some of the mentoring opportunities on offer.

Show Initiative, Get Involved

Employers want to know you can offer more than your educational qualifications alone. Be proactive, get involved and demonstrate your initiative.

- Become involved in community organisations, charities, sporting clubs etc. and think how this experience relates to your future employment in accounting
- Become a **Student Mentor at JCU**
- Become a **JCU Student Ambassador**
- Volunteer at the annual **JCU Careers Fair**

Research Employer Expectations

Checking online job boards provides you with an understanding of various job opportunities plus requirements and expectations for the positions.

You can then work towards improving gaps you may identify in any skills, knowledge or experience, so that you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market. Following are some useful websites:

- [JCU Careerhub](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Unigrad](#)
- [Seek vacancies](#)
- [GoinGlobal \(International opportunities\)](#)



Network via Social Media



Careful use of Social Networking (including LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter) will expand your networks and lead to job opportunities. Not only is social media the ideal way to connect with your profession, it is also now used by employers to recruit staff and research job applicants.

LinkedIn is fast becoming employers' recruitment hunting ground. In addition most employers will google you when considering you for a position.

You need to ensure you maintain a professional online presence – a professional LinkedIn profile is the key way to achieve this. *The JCU Careers and Employment service can assist you with your LinkedIn profile.*

Key Job Search Strategies

- Use a variety of job seeking methods – look further than just checking online job sites
- Develop a list of search terms relevant to the roles common in your industry
- Be proactive – identify organisations you are interested in – check their websites for opportunities, follow their facebook page and Twitter feeds (if available)
- Actively participate on LinkedIn, join relevant groups, connect with professionals, develop an impressive profile
- Network to broaden your contacts and connect with future employers

Volunteering – gain career relevant experience

Gaining experience before you graduate is essential as employers want to know that you have put the skills and knowledge you have been developing into practice. Volunteering is a great way to form professional networks prior to graduating.

Some opportunities to consider include:

- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [My Community Directory](#)
- [Townsville City Council Community Directory](#)
- [Cairns City Council Community Directory](#)



Did you know in Australia there are...

- 186,700 Accountants* (as at November 2016)
- There was 16% growth in the number of employed accountants in a 5 year period (November 2011 - November 2016)
- Men and Women are nearly equally represented in the Accounting field (52 vs 48%)

Source: Australian Jobs 2017⁴

**Includes both full-time and part-time workers*

Considering Postgraduate Study?

- Post-graduate study can provide you with the opportunity to specialise in a particular field and can offer a competitive edge to enhance your employability upon graduation
- Common Masters Degrees completed by students with a Bachelor in Accounting include: Master of Business Administration (MBA) or a Master of Economics however the options are endless.
- Explore the range of Postgraduate courses on offer from JCU: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/course-level/postgraduate>

Professional Development Certificate (PDC)

JCU's Professional Development Certificate (PDC) – *Building Blocks to Graduate Employability*, was introduced in 2017 to new first year Bachelor of Business students. The PDC offers students a unique advantage to get a head start on their career development. It runs parallel with the degree as preparation for core final year Work Integrated Learning (WIL). The PDC, combined with the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) experience in the final year of study, effectively develops essential career development and employability skills for transitioning into professional employment. Students can learn more about the PDC by visiting <https://www.jcu.edu.au/wil/business>.

Final Word

- Graduate success is dependent on your active engagement with your future career throughout all of your degree.
- JCU provide a range of useful Career resources on the Careers and Employment homepage <https://www.jcu.edu.au/careers-and-employment>
- Aim to develop your knowledge, skills, experiences and professional connections during your degree, so that you can meet employer expectations and be ready to maximise opportunities when they arise upon graduation.



References

1. Graduate Careers Australia (2017). *Accounting*. Accessed 13 July 2017. <http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/careerplanningandresources/exploringyourcareeroptions/careerprofiles/accounting/>
2. James Cook University (2017). *Why study Accounting at JCU?* Accessed 13 July 2017. <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/courses/bachelor-of-business-in-accounting>
3. Deakin University (2017). *Accounting Discipline Interest Area*. Accessed 13 July 2017. <http://www.deakin.edu.au/courses/find-a-course/business/accounting>
4. Australian Government Department of Employment (2017). *Australian Jobs 2017*. Accessed 7 July 2017. <https://docs.employment.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/australianjobs2017.pdf>
5. GradAustralia (2017). *Australia's Top 100 Graduate Employers*. Accessed 7 July 2017 <https://gradaustralia.com.au/top-100-employers>
6. Graduate Careers Australia (2017). *Graduate Opportunities: Accountants*. Accessed 13 July 2017. <http://www.graduateopportunities.com/employers/?prog=all°r=Accounting§=all&loca=all&elig=aucit>
7. My Future (2017). *Occupations: Accountant*. Accessed 13 July 2017. <https://www.myfuture.edu.au/occupations/details?id=221111A#/>

Visit our website to jcu.edu.au/careers to explore...

Follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our newsletter

- Follow JCU Careers and Employment on Facebook for the latest news.
- Subscribe to the CareerHub Newsletter to be sent a range of job opportunities and news from JCU Careers.

Individual Support

- Our team supports students with their career planning, decision making and job applications. Contact our office to make an appointment.
- During semester visit our **Drop-in desk** on Level 1 in the Library. You can receive feedback on your resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile or ask us a career related question.
Townsville sessions are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (2 - 3 pm),
Cairns sessions are held on Tuesday and Wednesday (2 - 3 pm)
- Phone and email support is available to external students or students unable to attend an appointment.

Career Action Plan

- The Career Action Plan is a checklist of actions you can take to increase your chances of graduate employment. We have developed specific plans relating to each stage of your student journey.
- The Career Action Plan is available on our website or call into our office for a copy.

CareerHub

- JCU's online job portal. It lists part-time, casual, vacation, volunteer and graduate opportunities. It also lists career events, news and resources.
- Use your JCU username and password to log in.

Career Development Program

- Develop the skills to increase your employability.
- The Program offers a range of self-help career management modules.

Big Interview

- Learn the best interview techniques.
- Practice just about every question you are likely to get in over 20 industries.
- Video your responses and get feedback from your peers.

Develop an Enterprising Mindset – Skills and Attributes for Career Success

- Job markets are becoming more complex and globalized, so employers now target graduates who are innovative thinkers and leaders. This program contains eight self-paced modules to help you gain these key skills and be competitive in the future job market.

Cairns Campus

Phone: (07) 4232 1150

Location: Level 1, Library

Monday to Friday 9 am – 4 pm

Townsville Campus

Phone: (07) 4781 4711

Location: Level 1, Library

Monday to Friday 9 am – 4.30 pm

Email careers@jcu.edu.au

Website jcu.edu.au/careers

