

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAREER SNAPSHOT



BOOST YOUR EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS



Explore your options, clarify your career goals



Build your networks



Gain course relevant experience



Fine tune your job application skills



Show initiative, engage in extra-curricular activities and stand out

For further ideas, access the [JCU Career Action Plan](#)

Graduate Opportunities

JCU Information Technology graduates are in high demand as the industry has been one of the fastest growing and rapidly changing areas of the Australian economy. The range of occupational pathways in Information Technology to expand as technology penetrates more and more aspects of daily life.

When you graduate, you will be ready to work for multi-national corporations, government departments, small to medium enterprises, freelance, startups or your own business. Your Information Technology degree will encourage your thinking and innovation abilities and prepare you for work in Australia or overseas. Source: [JCU Bachelor of Information Technology](#) (Retrieved 6 September 2018)

Information Technology students will gain the latest knowledge and skills in software engineering, networking, multi-media game design and programming.

Students learn:

- Cyber-Security
- Networking
- Interactive Visualisation
- Big Data and Data Mining

- Data Science
- Games Design
- Interactive 2D and 3D graphics
- Web Technologies
- Mobile Technologies
- Programming, Design Thinking

Source: [JCU Bachelor of Information Technology](#) (Retrieved 7 September 2018)

Career Paths

There are a wide variety of positions that your degree in Information Technology will equip you for. These include:

- Information Technology Project Manager
- Network Administrator
- Designer
- Systems Analyst
- Software Developer
- Games Designer / Tester / Reviewer
- Simulation Designer
- Enterprise Architect
- Consultant
- Story Boarder
- Web Designer
- Mobile App Developer

Source: [JCU Bachelor of Information Technology](#) (Retrieved 7 September 2018)

LinkedIn Career Path Data

The [JCU Alumni LinkedIn](#) page provides information on over 3,900 JCU alumni who have listed Information Technology within their **LinkedIn profile**.

Investigate their profiles to identify their career pathways and current and past employers.

The top ten employers listed on the JCU Alumni LinkedIn profiles are:

- James Cook University
- Queensland Health
- Telstra
- Queensland Department of Education
- Glencore
- Townsville City Council
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- BHP

- Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service
- Australian Taxation Office
- Data#3

Source: [James Cook University Alumni LinkedIn](#) (Retrieved 13 September 2018)

ICT Industry

The Deloitte Access Economics ACS Australia's Digital Pulse reports [Policy Priorities to Fuel Australia's Digital Workforce Boom 2017](#) and [Driving Australia's International ICT Competitiveness and Digital Growth 2018](#) (Retrieved 23 October, 2018)

identify the future demand for Information Communications Technology (ICT) workers to be high, with employment growth forecast to be strongest in ICT management and operations occupations. The 2018 report anticipates that the Australian ICT workforce will grow from 663,100 workers in 2017 to 758,700 by 2023.

The top three occupations with the largest number of job advertisements listed in 2017 were project manager, business analyst and business development manager. Technical ICT occupations such as software engineer and developer roles were also identified as in high demand.

[Hays Recruiting Experts Worldwide](#)

recommends that to remain employable Information Technology professionals **stay current with the latest technology trends and develop business knowledge/commercial awareness** as industry demands.

Hays recommends Information Technology professionals maintain their **transferrable skills**, including communication, customer service, management, leadership, adaptability, innovation and critical thinking, plus their technical skills, digital proficiency in new technology relevant to the job and data based decision making skills.

Source: Hays, [Information Technology July – December 2018](#) (Retrieved 7 September 2018)

Job Opportunities

Online job boards, graduate directories and employer websites, Facebook pages, LinkedIn accounts and Twitter feeds all provide information on **job opportunities and employer expectations**.

It is important you work towards gaining the skills, knowledge or experience identified to ensure you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market

Online Job Boards

- [SEEK](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [Hays Recruiting](#)
- [Hudson](#)
- [Indeed](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Public Service Graduate Programs](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)

Graduate Recruitment Directories

The following sites provide information on graduate jobs, graduate programs, internships, vacation programs and job application advice.

- [GradAustralia](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [GradConnection](#)

Tap into online forums e.g.

[Glassdoor](#) and [Whirlpool Forum](#) to view discussions on employers and recruitment experiences.

Identify who are the **thought leaders** in your area of interest and follow them and their friends on **LinkedIn**.

Professional Associations

Graduates are eligible to become Associate Members of the [Australian Computer Society \(ACS\)](#).

Consider applying for **student membership** of the ACS. Membership is discounted for students. The benefits include access to their digital learning assets, latest news, innovations and trends, special interest groups, professional development and networking events.

Membership in a professional organization is a clear signal to employers about commitment to your future profession and ongoing professional development.

Workplace 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.

The **Bachelor of Information Technology Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Placement / Internship** is designed to offer you practical experience to enhance your knowledge and skills, gain exposure to the breadth of services offered by the employer and develop your professional networks.

Make sure you participate in the yearly **JCU Technology Design Thinking Sprint** – network with employers and demonstrate your skills.

To gain a competitive edge, you may seek to undertake additional paid or voluntary work experience during your studies.

Employers offer the following opportunities independently of the JCU WIL placement.

Internships are generally targeted to undergraduate students during their final year of study. They can be full-time or part time, paid or unpaid.

Vacation programs are generally offered to students in the penultimate (second last) year of their degree.

Internships and vacation programs are competitive and applicants need to demonstrate initiative and competence.

Cadetships or employment may also be offered to students to work part or full time while completing their university studies.

Volunteer Programs

Volunteering, particularly in an Information Technology role is a great way to form professional networks, develop work skills, gain referees and stand out from the crowd. Many employers value evidence of volunteer work.

Opportunities are listed on:

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

Graduate Programs

While the majority of graduates will find employment with small or medium size employers, a number will gain entry into **Graduate Programs** offered by large organisations (e.g. OPTUS, IBM, Technology One, Telstra, SAP, Google) or government departments.

Graduate programs are paid structured professional development positions where successful applicants are provided on the job training and mentoring within the organization.

These programs generally **recruit students throughout their final year of study** for commencement in the following year. Applications open as early as March

Graduate programs are competitive so it is important to understand what is expected and work towards ensuring you have the skills, knowledge and experience required.

Stand Out

Employers want to know you can offer more than your educational qualifications.

Be proactive, get involved and demonstrate your **initiative**.

- Attend relevant professional development opportunities. Keep a record of attendance.
- Join the [Australian Computer Society Mentoring Program](#) – the program connects students with industry leaders and experts
- Compete in student Information Technology and/or interdisciplinary related [competitions and challenges](#) to develop skills, show initiative and demonstrate ability to collaborate with students in other discipline areas. The ability to work within an interdisciplinary team is often required in the workplace.
- Become involved in community activities, organisations and events. Employers value community engagement work.
- Become a [JCU Student Mentor](#).
- Volunteer at the annual [JCU Careers Fair](#), network with employers.