

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 [JCU Job Ready](#)

Graduate Opportunities

The Deloitte Access Economics and Australia Computer Society's 'Unlocking the potential of Australia's technology workforce' report identifies Australia had over 772,100 technology workers in 2019 and estimates that despite the impacts of Covid, the technology workforce will grow at 3.1% (double the general labour force) over the next five years to over one million technology workers.

HAYS [Jobs Report January to June 2020 – Information Technology](#) reports the IT industry continues to experience a skills shortage and identifies the top five skills in demand nationally as: Cloud Engineers and Cloud Architects; Project Managers; Network Engineers; Security GRC Specialists; and End User Support professionals.

JCU Information Technology students gain the latest knowledge and skills in gamification and games design, information security and data mining. Students can choose optional areas of specialisation including the Internet of Things (IoT), Computer Science and Networking, Human-Computer

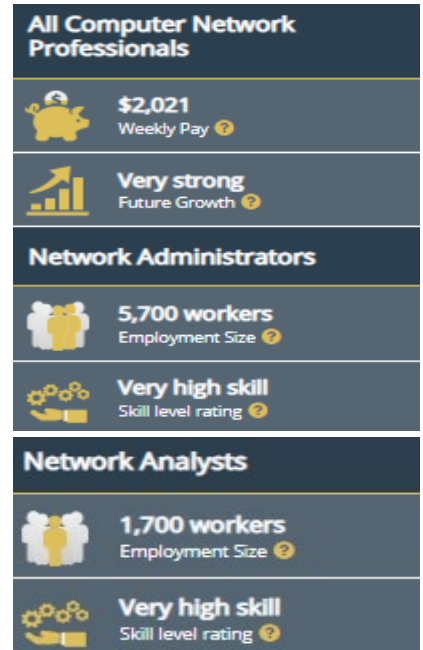
Interaction and Games Design, and Education Curriculum. Graduates may work for multi-national corporations, government departments, small to medium sized enterprises (SME), freelance, start-ups or your own business in Australia or overseas.

There are a wide variety of positions that your degree in Information Technology will equip you for, including:

- Network Administrator
- Designer
- Systems Analyst
- Software Developer

Source: [JCU Bachelor of Information Technology](#) (Retrieved 10 November, 2020).

The Australian Government [Job Outlook](#) site provides information on key duties, knowledge and skills required, pathways, weekly salaries and employment projections on many careers stemming from the Bachelor of Information Technology. The following 'Fast Facts' were accessed from the Job Outlook site (Retrieved 9 November 2020).



LinkedIn Career Path Data

The [JCU LinkedIn](#) page provides information on over 6,000 JCU alumni who have listed Information Technology within their **LinkedIn profile**.

You can drill down to alumni with your major. Investigate their profiles to identify their career paths, including job titles and current and past employers.

Key employers of JCU IT graduates on LinkedIn include James Cook University; Queensland Health; Queensland Department of Education; Telstra; The University of Queensland; Glencore; Griffith University; Townsville Hospital and Health Service; Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service; and University of Tasmania.

The top five fields JCU IT graduates on LinkedIn are employed in are: Information Technology, Business Development, Engineering, Operations, and Education.

Source: [James Cook University LinkedIn](#) (Retrieved 9 November, 2020)

Identifying Job Opportunities

Online job boards, graduate directories and employer websites and social media accounts, all provide information on job opportunities and employer expectations.

Job vacancy listings will also give you an understanding of employer expectations for various positions.

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](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [Hays Recruiting](#)
- [Hudson – IT & Technology Recruitment](#)
- [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](#)
- [GradConnection](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Government Graduate Programs](#)

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. 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

Employers value evidence of relevant experience and often prefer to recruit someone they know, have seen perform or has been strongly recommended.

Employers want to know that you have put the skills and knowledge you have been developing into practice. Prioritize gaining as much career relevant experience as is possible.

The Bachelor of Information Technology final year **Work Integrated Learning (WIL)** subjects including the **Professional Internship, Multidisciplinary Project or Independent Project** are designed to enable you to put theory into practice as part of your degree to reinforce your academic learning while developing essential employability skills.

Additional workplace opportunities include:

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

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

NOTE - Check with your College if any of these options can be recognised as your WIL experience.

Volunteering, particularly in an Information Technology role is a great way to form professional networks, develop work skills and gain referees. Volunteering Opportunities are listed on:

- [SEEK Volunteer – IT & Web Development](#)
- [Go Volunteer - IT & Web Development](#)
- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)

Graduate Programs

While the majority of graduates will find employment with small or medium size employers, a number will enter **Graduate Programs** offered by large organisations (e.g. OPTUS, IBM,

Technology One, Telstra, 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 organisations generally **recruit students throughout their final year of study** for commencement of employment in the following year. Applications open as early as March

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 on your LinkedIn profile and resume.
- Investigate joining 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](#) such as the **JCU Technology Design Thinking Sprint**, to develop skills, show initiative and demonstrate ability to collaborate with students in other discipline areas.
- Become involved in community activities, organisations, and events. Employers value community engagement work.
- Gain leadership skills, become a [JCU Student Mentor](#).

Starting a Business

If you are interested in establishing your own business venture the Australian and State governments have grants, programs and other forms of support to help business to innovate, compete and grow.

- [Australian Government New Business Assistance](#)
- [Australian Government Entrepreneurs' Programme](#)
- [QLD Government Starting a Business](#)
- [Social Enterprise Grants Program](#)