

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Career Information



Graduate Opportunities

JCU IT graduates are in high demand as the industry has been one of the fastest-growing and rapidly changing areas of the Australian economy.¹ The range of occupational pathways in IT or Information Communications Technology (ICT) continues 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... or start your own business! There will be jobs too, that no one has yet thought of. Only about a dozen years ago, there was no such thing as a mobile app developer and now that industry is massive. Your IT degree will encourage your thinking and innovation abilities and prepare you for work in Australia or overseas.²

A trend recently noted by Hays Recruiting³ is the "ongoing convergence of IT into other areas of business such as marketing and finance...this has driven the demand for commercially-minded technology professionals." The report also notes the trend for employers to recruit IT contractors, as opposed to permanent staff.

Diversity of Disciplines and Skills

Information Technology students may be trained in various disciplines or areas such as⁴:

- Artificial intelligence
- Information systems
- Cyber security
- Networking and network security
- Interactive visualisation or media design
- Big data and data mining
- Data science and analytics
- Computer science
- Games design and development
- Interactive 2D and 3D graphics
- Web technologies
- Mobile technologies incl. app development
- Programming
- Virtual reality

The IT Skills Shortage Explained

The Australian Computer Society (ACS) contracts Deloitte Access Economics to produce the annual publication 'Australia's Digital Pulse: Policy Priorities to fuel Australia's digital workforce boom.'⁵ The 2017 report explains that the future demand for ICT workers is expected to be high, with employment growth forecast to be strongest in ICT management and operations occupations. The report also outlines relatively high growth for ICT technical and professional occupations.

When combined with management and operational positions, these four areas of ICT will comprise almost 70% of the total jobs growth forecast for the ICT workforce in the next six years. It is anticipated that 640,846 professionals in 2016 will increase to 721,886 professionals by 2022. Additionally, there is a global shortage of cyber security professionals, with a quite severe shortage predicted for the next few years.⁶

Australian IT Graduate Employers

Australia's most sought after IT and Communications Graduate Employers, based on a survey of Australian University students², are:

1. Google Australia
2. Apple
3. Microsoft
4. Facebook
5. IBM
6. Telstra
7. Atlassian
8. Cisco
9. Optus
10. IMC

Explore Australia's Top 100 sought after Graduate Employers further by visiting:⁸

<https://gradaustralia.com.au/top-100-employers>

Information Technology Positions

There is a really wide variety of positions that a degree in IT will equip you for.⁷ Examples include:

- Project manager
- Network administrator
- Systems analyst
- Software developer/programmer
- Games designer/tester
- Simulation designer
- Enterprise architect
- Consultant
- Web designer/developer
- Multimedia specialist
- Mobile application developer
- IT support engineer

Did you know in Australia there are ...

- 58,400 ICT Managers
 - 56,400 ICT Support Technicians
 - 97,800 Software and Application Programmers
 - 38,600 Database and Systems Administrators and ICT Security Specialists
- *Correct as of November 2016⁷*

The Australian Government offers an ICT Graduate Program*. More information is available at: <http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/jobs-and-workplace/australian-government-jobs/ict-entry-level-program/ict-1> **Correct as of 7 July 2017*

Enhancing Your Employment Prospects

Professional Associations

Graduates are eligible to become Associate Members of the Australian Computer Society (ACS). Some associations also offer student memberships, including:

- Information Technology Professionals Association (ITPA)
- IT Professionals Australia
- Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP)
- Australasian Association for Information Systems
- Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association

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.

- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [Graduate Opportunities](#)
- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Australian Public Service recruitment](#)
- [Unigrad](#)
- [Seek vacancies](#)



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 jobs 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.

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 feed (if available)
- Actively participate on LinkedIn by joining relevant groups, connecting with professionals and developing an impressive profile
- Network to broaden your contacts – 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](#)

Show Initiative, Be Involved

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

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

For further ideas go to [JCU Careers and Employment Connecting with Professionals](#).

Build Your Professional Networks

Join a Mentoring Program

Many professional associations, such as those listed above, offer mentoring programs. The Australian Computer Society offers a Mentor program which will mentees in touch with industry leaders and experts. See the following website for more information:

<https://www.acs.org.au/branches/queensland/acs-mentoring-program.html>

Considering Postgraduate Study?

- Postgraduate 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
- JCU offers the Master of Information Technology (MIT) or the joint MIT-Master of Business Administration. Students choose to enter these Masters degrees upon recognising that *“there is worldwide demand for graduates with the critical business skills and acumen to fully leverage these technical skills into profitable products and services.”*⁹
- The following are some examples of other Masters degrees that students with a Bachelor of IT degree may undertake*: Business Informatics, Computing and Networking, Interactive Technologies and Games Design, Cybersecurity, Telecommunications and Network Engineering, Information Management and Systems and Software Engineering.
- Explore the range of postgraduate courses on offer at JCU: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and-study/course-level/postgraduate>

*Not all of these degrees are on offer at JCU

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 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 so that you can meet employer expectations and be ready to maximise opportunities when they arise

References

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3. Hays – Recruiting Experts Worldwide (2017). *Information Technology. July - September 2017 Trends*. Accessed 26 September 2017. <https://www.hays.com.au/report/information-technology-16659>
4. Deakin University (2017). *Information Technology Interest Area*. Accessed 6 July 2017. <http://www.deakin.edu.au/courses/find-a-course/information-technology>
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6. Lewis, D (2017). Cybersecurity skills shortage putting public, private sectors at risk, experts say. ABC News. Accessed 26 September 2017. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-09/cybersecurity-skills-shortage-putting-australia-at-risk-expert/8601426>
7. Australian Government Department of Employment (2017). *Australian Jobs 2017*. Accessed 7 July 2017. <https://docs.employment.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/australianjobs2017.pdf>
8. GradAustralia (2017). *Australia’s Top 100 Graduate Employers*. Accessed 7 July 2017 <https://gradaustralia.com.au/top-100-employers>
9. James Cook University (2017). Master of Information Technology – Master of Business Administration. Accessed 26 September 2017. <http://www.jcub.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/mit-mba.aspx>

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

